

Annual report from the Nordic Network on “*Nordic network for psychologists working on deafblindness*” to the Nordic Leader Forum of Deafblindness, 2024/2025

Coordinator:

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Members:

Norway	Jude Nicholas Karoline Johansen Ana Maria Navarro Melendro Anja Helene Hansen
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Denmark	Ulrik Skov Hansen Rasmus Hougaard Pedersen Emilie Esmann Bang Struntze
Finland	Emmi Toumi Riikka Lindström Maija Seppänen

Aim and purpose for the network:

To benefit deafblind persons, their families, and professionals through application of psychological knowledge, theory, methods, and practice.

- Translate psychological knowledge to the deafblind field
- Spread relevant psychological knowledge
- Make psychological knowledge understandable and available
- Develop and Qualify practice
- Extend relevance to other areas
- Attract interest from other professionals

In summary we aspire to build bridges, enhance visibility and collectively contribute to the well-being of individuals with deafblindness. According to the Nordic definition of deafblindness, there is a high risk that physical and psychological health, as well as social life will be affected. The aim of this network links to this aspect of the Nordic definition.

Meetings:

Dato	Agenda	Outcomes
September 9 th , 2024 Virtual meeting	Welcome and introduction Brief round Course-request in 2025 Brainstorming ideas Other	We created af working list of ideas for topics to work on
November 11 th , 2024 Virtual meeting	Welcome and introduction Brief round Follow-up on topics Decide on webinar or physical course Other	Decides to host a webinar in 2025 Topics for the webinar will be psychological health and deafblindness / How does deafblindness affect psychological health? The webinar will include: 1) Psychological health and deafblindness from a scientific point of view. 2) Psychological health and deafblindness from a first-person perspective and 3) Psychological health from a practical professional point of view.
January 28 th , 2025 Virtual meeting	Welcome and introduction Text for the webinar Further planning the webinar News from members Other	The webinar will air October 22, 2025 The network will make the text for the webinar and send it to Göran before May 26, 2025. Göran needs the recording and overview of order of the clips before September 9, 2025. Coordination of who does what: Jude will work on the introduction by defining the concept psychological health. Rasmus, Sofia and others will work on what the literature says about psychological health and deafblindness. Ulrik will contact Jackie Lehmann, chair of "Døvblinde Danmark" to discuss a possible collaboration regarding first person perspective The network use a shared Google Drive to coordinate and share progress.
April 29, 2025 Virtual meeting	Welcome and introduction Update on parts for the webinar Landing on text for the webinar Other	

Activities (courses, publications, webinars, other):

We are a new network. Therefore, we have not yet arranged courses, publications, webinars or other such activities. Instead, we have focused on meeting together in the network to discuss and reach consensus on the aim of the network.

Plans and activities for the future:

We are currently working on a webinar, which will air October 2025. The webinar covers

psychological health and deafblindness. In the webinar we will discuss the concept of psychological health. Link it to deafblindness and discuss how deafblindness affects psychological health. We will investigate research regarding this topic plus collaborate with the organization “Døvblinde Danmark” and/or “DBNSK” to include the perspective of people with deafblindness themselves.