

DBNSK

The Deafblind Nordic Cooperation Committee



“Today not all people with deafblindness have the right to full participation, equality, autonomy and self-determination. We want to change that!”

DBNSK

The Deafblind Nordic Cooperation Committee (DBNSK) is an organization that works on issues related to people with deafblindness in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Based on the principle of equal worth of all people, DBNSK works for the right to full participation, equality, autonomy and self-determination for people with deafblindness in all areas of life in the Nordic countries.

DBNSK is also working for the Nordic countries to live up to what is stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Purpose

- Through cooperation to improve the living conditions of all people with deafblindness in all Nordic countries.
- To exchange information about development and changes in the member countries.
- Through projects in each organization to support people with deafblindness in developing countries.

Representation

DBNSK consists of representatives from the national Nordic organizations of the deafblind. Each national organization is represented by two members from the BOD typically the chairman and the vice chairman.

Through grants from the Nordic Council of Ministers DBNSK organizes a yearly meeting in one of the Nordic countries. The organizations take turns hosting the meetings. In between meetings the contact is primarily through e-mail.

History

The first contact between people with deafblindness in the Nordic countries took place in connection with a Nordic conference in Sweden in 1974. The conference was organized by the national organizations of the blind in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Since 1984 the cooperation between the Nordic organizations has expanded. Until 2002 it was called Nordic Cooperation Meeting and subsequently renamed Deafblind Nordic Cooperation Committee (DBNSK).

Nordic definition of deafblindness:

Deafblindness is a distinct disability. Deafblindness is a combined vision and hearing disability. It limits activities of a person and restricts full participation in society to such a degree that society is required to facilitate specific services, environmental alterations and/or technology.

The 5 member organizations in DBNSK

Denmark: Foreningen Danske DøvBlinde (FDDB) www.fddb.dk

Finland: Föreningen Finlands Dövblinda rf www.kuurosokeat.fi

Iceland: Deafblind Association of Iceland (DBFI) E-post daufblin@ismennt.is

Norway: Foreningen Norges døvblinde (FNDB) www.fndb.no

Sweden: Förbundet Sveriges Dövblinda (FSDB) www.fsdb.org