



NETWORKS

Guidelines for Networks

Networks are recognized as one of the core activities of DbI. In the constitution, one of the stated objects of DbI is to stimulate the development of networks of specialized professionals collaborating to benefit deafblind people and their families.

Networks are international groups of individual members and or organizations, schools and institutions approved by the Board from at least three countries that are mutually connected by language, culture, geographic location or objects and satisfy criteria to be determined by the Board. Members of a network should not gain financially from the activities of the network, any funds should be put back into the activities of the network or DbI in general.

Networks encourage discussion and debate around relevant issues but do not need DbI to endorse all the activities and work they are involved with.

Networks are encouraged to be an active part of DbI by having a presence at DbI events and DbI will support network events.

Some networks become members of the DbI Board via the nominations process and are represented by their Chair or other approved representative.

Becoming a Network

To become a network of DbI a group of people representing at least 3 countries needs to get together. The group needs to decide on the purpose of the network, making sure it fits in with the vision, purpose and strategic goals of DbI. It is also important to ensure that there is not another network with the same purpose. The group also needs to decide how they are going to communicate with each other, some initial plans and choose a contact person.

The group needs to fill in an application form and return it to the Networks Co-ordinator, Henriette Hermann Olesen at henriette.hermann.olesen@rn.dk.

The Networks Co-ordinator will present the application to the Management Committee and Board of DbI for approval. Once the application has been approved the network

will sign a contract with Dbl, so that both sides are clear about what to expect of one another.

Requirements of networks

1. All networks are required to report to the Dbl Management Committee annually. A form will be sent round by the Networks Co-ordinator asking for this report.
2. All networks are required to report on their activities in Dbl Review at least once a year.
3. Provide details of the Network Chair who must be a paid individual member of Dbl.

Criteria for deciding when a network is no longer effectively functioning as a network

When to make a decision

If networks are no longer able to fulfil the definition and requirements of a network the Networks Co-ordinator needs to advise the Management Committee of the situation. The Management Committee then needs to make a decision on whether the network should continue to exist. The network will then be informed of their decision.

Questions to be asked by the Networks Co-ordinator and the Management Committee

1. Does the network have active members from at least three different countries?
2. Is the network leading discussion and debate around the issues in their chosen area?
3. Is the network organising events and/or activities around the issues in their chosen area?
4. Is the network taking part in the activities of Dbl?
5. Is the network reporting regularly to Dbl?

If the Management Committee determine the network is no longer effectively functioning following possible support to the network, a recommendation will be put forward to the Board for disbanding the network.

Funding possibility

Dbl has a small fund available for networks. Networks can apply for some of this funding if there are specific activities, publications or events they would like to be involved in. A form is available from the Networks Co-ordinator, Henriette Hermann Olesen at henriette.hermann.olesen@rn.dk