



## ***Newsletter***

**Volume 1, nr. 2, November 2013**

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of GLADNET is scheduled for November 25th, 2013 at 8.00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. Members can log in with their computer by using the link which is send to the members. On the agenda are:

- Report 2013
- Election of GLADNET board members
- GLADNET 2014 activities

Persons who are interested to join GLADNET can go to the GLADNET website at [www.GLADNET.org](http://www.GLADNET.org) and follow the instructions on the membership link.

### Working on a Global Research Agenda

Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network (GLADNET) brings together research centers, universities, enterprises, government departments, trade unions, and organizations of and for persons with disabilities. Our common goal is to advance competitive employment and training opportunities for persons with disabilities.

GLADNET began as an initiative of the Disability and Work Program of the International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Since its establishment GLADNET continues to work in close collaboration with the ILO Skills and Employability Department and is cooperating with other international organizations (e.g. Rehabilitation International RI), International Forum on Disability Management (IFDM), Disabled Persons International (DPI), International Rehabilitation Counseling Association (IRCA), the Global Alliance on Accessible Technology & Environments (GAATES), European Association of Service Providers (EASPD). The common goal is to advance opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Currently GLADNET is working on a Global Research Agenda and is establishing Global Research Network in specific fields (e.g. Disability Management, Supported Employment, Disability Studies). All activities are mainly linked with employment. It is the intention to work closely with international organizations, universities and research centers to identify relevant research questions.

Universities and research centers can carry out research based on the research questions. Students from universities can be involved to finalize their thesis or PhD. The research outcomes can be used by international organizations for recommendations/ policy advising etc. Much can be done related to the New Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Through this cooperation win-win situations can be created for all involved. For universities: this cooperation gives opportunities for further quality development and international participation. For international organizations: relevant input for decision making.

### Active involvement of GLADNET members

The activities can only be carried out through active involvement of GLADNET members. Members can participate in the Research Networks and work together on a research agenda. Through the networks information can be disseminated. Members can group together to cooperate on specific research.

The application form for membership of GLADNET shall include the area of interest member are/ like to be involved. This information can be used as input for the Research Networks.

The use of new technologies make it easy to communicate and to meet through web technology. Information exchange is easy. Further it creates opportunities for active involvement. GLADNET is working on extending the use of modern technology.

The database of GLADNET shall remain as an important information channel.

### Involvement of students

GLADNET has opened possibilities for a student membership. The value of this membership shall increase through the activities related to the Global Research Agenda. A clustering of membership from one university as a group membership is possible. This also can create opportunities for active involvement in e.g. research. For students also a possibility for active participation at international level.

## Scientific Publications

GLADNET has the opportunity to work on a thematic base with a scientific publisher. This means that thematic issues can be released. This can for example be the result of joint cooperation from the Research Networks.

## Improving opportunities for persons with disabilities

As mentioned above the goal is to advance opportunities for persons with disabilities. Many countries have ratified the New UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. By ratifying the UN Convention countries made a promise to implement the Convention articles in national laws, regulations and/ or programs. The UN Convention has no legal binding status. Many international organizations are focusing on the implementation of the UN Convention by countries. The Global Research Agenda can help in this process. Many persons with a disability are still living in poverty and are unemployed. The cooperation between all involved can create opportunities for persons with a disability. GLADNET likes to have all universities worldwide on board who are involved in research related to employment and disability.