



Newsletter

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Introduction

The 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 Programme of the International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.

The GLADNET Association was established in 1997. GLADNET continues to work in close collaboration with the ILO Skills and Employability Department. GLADNET is registered in Switzerland as an international not-for-profit organization and its administrative offices are in Ithaca, New York, USA.

Board of GLADNET

Since the election of the board in November 2012 the members are:

Michael Kamp, Chair, Netherlands

Fabrizio Fea, Vice-Chair, Italy

Thomas P Golden, Secretary-Treasurer, United States of America

Mary Barros-Bailey, Board member, United States of America

Susanne M Bruyère, Extraordinary Board member, United States of America

Nicholas Buys, Extraordinary Board member, Australia

Edwin de Vos, Extraordinary Board member, Netherlands

Lynda R Matthews, Board member, Australia

Donal Mcananey, Past Chair, Ireland

Sophie Mitra, Board member, United States of America

Barbara Murray, Ex officio Board member, Switzerland

Aldred H Neufeld, Extra ordinary Board member, Canada

Mathilde Niehaus, Board member, Germany

Trevor R Parmenter, Board member, Australia

John Selander, Board member, Sweden

Gary Shaheen, Board member, United States of America

Jun Yaeda, Board member, Japan

Ilene Zeitner, Membership Chair, Brasil

Objective of GLADNET

The objective of Association is to promote disability policy and program reform with emphasis on integrated training and employment options for working age persons with disabilities. These objectives are achieved through collaborative applied research projects and by the global exchange of information via the Internet.

The GLADNET website provides a public medium where stakeholders can gather to share ideas and information on a global scale in order to arrive at joint approaches to common problems.

Membership in the GLADNET Association connects you and your organization to a global effort to promote employment and training for persons with disabilities. Benefits include:

- * Acces to new publication alerts from the GLADNET Infobase, a collection of indered documents such as reports, government documents, external websites and project descriptions relating to employment and training for people with disabilities.

See: <http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/gladnetcollect>.

- * GLADNET resources on the UN Convention (Article 27 and related others): GLADNET was funded by the International Labour Organization to support the implementation of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This effort provides a repository of practical user-friendly materials on different aspects of disability, training and work/employment which have been developed in different countries around the world for use by organizations and asgencies dealing with disability issues.

Un Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

GLADNET is taking a lead in making sure that the implications of the Convention are made close to those national and international agencies with responsibility for promoting the implementation of the Convention in the areas of employment and training.

The Convention places through Article 27 a heavy emphasis on the reintegration of persons with disabilities following on set of a disability condition as well as improved access to broader employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Many countries have signed and ratified the Convention. For persons with disabilities it is important that the Convention will be fully implemented globally.

Different international organizations which have the objective to promote the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities see an active role in promoting the implementation of the UN Convention and are following developments in this area.

Based on mutual interest GLADNET is aware of the importance of collaboration with other international organisations.

Cooperation with International Organizations

In 2012 GLADNET has signed agreements of cooperation with:

- * The European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
- * Rehabilitation International



Signed Agreement GLADNET - RI

- * The Global Alliance on Accessible Technology & Environments (GAATES)

Further GLADNET is already cooperating with:

- International Rehabilitation Counseling Association (IRCA)
- International Forum on Disability Management (IFDM)
- Disabled Persons International (DPI).

Researchers in the field of Disability Management Research have formed a Research Network (IDMN) under the umbrella of GLADNET.

GLADNET has the intention to extend the cooperation with other international organizations.

Elements of the cooperation are:

- Exchange relevant information and models of good practice with regards to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- To work on a research agenda in cooperation with universities, research centers etc.

Cooperative agreements with other organizations make it possible to combine the work of the organization led by and on behalf of persons with disabilities with meaningful research. It also creates a platform for (early career) interested researchers to get involved and embrace the employment and disability research agenda. For that reason the board of GLADNET has introduced a membership fee for students. The platform is also of interest for universities to get involved and to work on joint research agendas, collaborative course development, and collaborative scholarly journal publications.

Research Agenda

GLADNET has the intention to work more concertedly on the development Research Agenda. This Agenda will be an on going item for the board meetings.

To achieve progress the following activities are planned:

1. Collecting ideas for research from (international) organizations and members and disseminate ideas through GLADMAIL and LinkedIn;
2. Disseminate research findings through GLADMAIL;
3. Publishing research reports through GLADNETs' website(database);
4. Forming and facilitating Research Networks (e.g. IDMRN, and new initiatives: Research Network on Supported Employment; Disability Studies etc.;

5. Cooperation on/ with joined research - if applicable - with international organizations, universities etc.
6. Providing input for research questions through e.g. LinkedIn, GLADMAIL;
7. Encouraging young researchers/ students to form a research platform under the umbrella of GLADNET in cooperation with international organizations, universities, research centers etc.
8. Organizing (across association joint) webinars, based on research findings in cooperation with international organizations, research networks, platforms, universities etc.;
9. Information updates through GLADNET Newsletter disseminated through GLADMAIL and dissemination channels of cooperation partners, networks and members;
10. Forming a database of researchers with cv, who can carry out research on demand;
11. Identify research initiatives especially relevant to developing economies;
12. Identify gaps in integrated employment research to inform the development of the Research Agenda;
13. Other items decided by the board of GLADNET (e.g. spreading information through leaflets during conferences to which the board members are participating).

Research Networks

As mentioned above an important aspect is to establish Research Networks in certain specific areas. Organisations who are interested in specific research can become a member of GLADNET and form with others a Research Network. The total number for a Research Network at International level is about 20 persons. The network can work on the research agenda, can stimulate attention for specific research items, can collaborate in research projects/programs, can identify subject for students etc. etc. Available data can be used in the GLADNET database, but can also be used for input/ information for policy decisions.

Initiatives to form Research Networks, beside the Research Network on Disability Management, are a Research Network on Supported Employment and a Research Network on Disability Studies with a specific attention for employment. Other Research Networks can be developed, depending on the interest among researchers. One example is transition from sheltered employment to the open labour market.

Joining GLADNET

It is easy to become a member of GLADNET and to be part of the international world of research. Combining expertise can help to make progress to achieve possibilities for persons with disabilities to become an active participant on the open labour market.

GLADNET has beside individual and organization memberships also collective memberships for groups of different sizes. Students can also become a member of GLADNET at a reduced rate.

The cooperation with international organizations and GLADNET can give an extra dimension to necessary developments and creates also opportunities to provide input for those organizations from research findings.

To join GLADNET follow the instructions at the website of GLADNET: www.gladnet.org