

Recommended agreement from meeting 2011-02-21

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
EDbN and EDBU

European Deafblind Network (hereinafter referred to as "EDbN" which term shall mean and include its office bearers)

and

European DeafBlind Union (hereinafter referred to as "EDBU" which term shall mean and include the members of its Executive Council)

Whereas EDbN is representing persons (including children) with deafblindness, not being able to represent themselves, their family members and professionals. Whereas EDBU is representing representative organisations of persons with deafblindness speaking for themselves. EDBU is the voice of persons with deafblindness in Europe.

Therefore EDbN and EDBU agree that, although we are two separate organisations with two distinct identities, by the strength of our common endeavours we achieve more than we achieve alone. Accordingly through this Memorandum of Understanding EDbN and EDBU agree to collaborate on matters relating to the awareness of the rights and needs of persons with deafblindness and the establishment, development and promotion of services to all persons with deafblindness under the following mutually understood conditions:

1. EDbN and EDBU will actively share information on a regular basis and submit an annual report of their respective activities to each others Councils on 1 July each year. All information will be in accessible formats.
2. EDbN and EDBU will actively spread knowledge and information of each others organisations and promote understanding of their work.
3. The Chair person of EDbN and the President of EDBU shall communicate with each other on a regular basis in order to forge closer working relationships and mutual understanding.
4. EDbN and EDBU agree to work collaboratively on campaigning issues and policy development.
5. EDbN and EDBU will create links to each others websites and ensure that they communicate timely and up to date information on matters of mutual interest.

6. EDbN and EDBU will offer each other a standing agenda item at each others Council or Officers' meetings. The Chair person of the EDbN and the President of the EDBU may be invited to attend each others board meetings as appropriate.

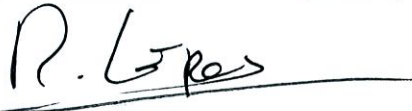
7. EDbN and EDBU will co-ordinate their respective events in order to avoid clashes in the calendar.

8. EDbN and EDBU will offer a standing invitation to the leaders of the respective organisations to attend each others conferences and events.

9. This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in effect from the date of signature for a period of 4 years or until either party decides to terminate it by providing the other with ninety days prior notice in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have hereto executed these presents on the date below.

1. for European Deafblind Network (EDbN)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chair person

2. for European DeafBlind Union (EDBU)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. P. ...". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the word "President".

President

Date: 21.05.2012

Explanatory Notes to accompany MOU points

1. This point was seen as being helpful in ensuring specific regularity and detail of reporting.
2. EDBU always refers people to the existence of EDbN in talking to new audiences. This point is aimed at achieving reciprocity.
3. Self explanatory.
4. It is accepted that we agree to work together on campaigns and policy development. However there will still be room for different opinions in terms of priorities for action and detailed content.
5. This point is intended to ensure that websites are sufficiently co-ordinated on a regular basis and do not carry conflicting or contradictory messages.
6. The point recognises that it may not always be the case where it is appropriate or advisable for one leader to attend the others Council meetings, if there are matters of particular internal delicacy under discussion.
7. Self explanatory. However EDBU are clear that piggy-backing Council meetings to the other organisations conferences would not work well for EDBU, as few of their members would wish to attend an EDbN event and the cost of doing so would be prohibitive. Similarly the complex task of organising EDBU events would render the additional work of accommodating an EDbN Council meeting too onerous.
8. Self explanatory.
9. Self explanatory.

End of document.