# Proposal for future arrangement of Nordic meetings

Hello Nordic friends and thank you for an inspiring meeting in Finland last year. The Norwegian Braille Authority have discussed arrangements for future meetings. Here is a proposal that has been designed on the basis of what was presented in the plenary session last year. We ask for input from you and hope that together we can come up with a model that takes care of both the needs for digital and physical meetings.

## Future meetings of the braille authorities in the Nordic countries

Annual meetings between the Nordic countries have been organized since the beginning of the 2000s. The purpose is for the countries to exchange experiences and update each other on topics within braille.

The meetings have mostly been set up as physical meetings, but in recent years there have been opportunities for digital participation. In the meeting in Finland, it was discussed how we would like this to be organized in the future.

At the meeting, it was agreed that Norway should draft this as a written proposal that will be sent out to the mailing list for consultation.

## An alternation between digital and physical meetings

The proposal is that the Nordic meeting is still organized every year. One year it is organized as a physical meeting, while the second year a fully digital meeting is held:

- Physical meeting is arranged as a workshop. It gives us opportunities to work actively with topics within Braille

- Digital meeting is arranged as a fully digital meeting with presentations that are suitable for this medium, i.e. topics where we do not need to meet physically

## Event manager

The physical meeting is organized by one of the Nordic countries. Content is discussed with the other countries as we already have a tradition for.

Which country is the host country is decided, as has been the practice until today.

The digital meetings are organized by a working group. We suggest that a group be set up with a representative from each country whose task is to plan the theme and scheme for the digital meetings. The working group works between meetings and keeps in touch with the braille community via the mailing list. In this way, you can help to ensure that the topic is focused and that topics that are suitable for physical and digital meetings are correctly placed.

## What do we achieve with the new model?

We believe that the model will contribute to raising the professional level. By making a clear distinction between digital and physical meetings, we will be able to focus on topics depending on the form of the meeting. Digital meetings presumably provide more opportunities to participate and save economical resources. By also ensuring regular physical meetings where we work together on braille, we can raise cohesion and contribute to the positive strengthening of the field.

## Proposal for further work

We hope each country will discuss our proposal and comment on it. Perhaps we can come to negosiation and implement new rutines for the future Nordic meetings. Let’s put it on the agenda for this year’s meeting in Malmö.

Astrid, 28/10/2024.