



Invitation to join the Research Network on Supported Employment

Background

The Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network on Employment and Training (GLADNET) and the World Association for Supported Employment (WASE) are collaborating in promoting opportunities for paid work on the open labour market for persons with disabilities through data collection, presentations around the world, information dissemination and exchange of experiences. The new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 27, is in line with the Supported Employment approach.

GLADNET

GLADNET was established in 1997 and continues to work in close collaboration with the International Labour Organization (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.

GLADNET brings together research centers, universities, enterprises, government departments, trade unions, and organizations of and for persons with disabilities with the common goal of advancing competitive employment and training opportunities for persons with disabilities. GLADNET began as an initiative of the Disability and Work Program of ILO, a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Objectives

GLADNET's objective 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.

WASE

The mission of United Nations Resolution 48/96 is to stimulate the quality of life by supporting the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

The mission of WASE within the scope of the UN's Resolution is to promote the vocational integration of people (using the principle and technology of Supported Employment) throughout the world.

WASE is a network of persons and organizations aimed at promoting supported employment across the globe. WASE began promoting supported employment in 1995. In 2003 a special CD Rom and Handbook was created in conjunction with the ILO for

developing countries and organizations interested in starting Supported Employment. Since that time, WASE has provided information and presentations in countries throughout the world promoting the implementation of Supported Employment.

Focus on Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

GLADNET and WASE have a strong focus on the implementation of the new UN Convention, particularly Article 27. The new UN Convention provides an opportunity to spotlight Supported Employment as a strong instrument in achieving the goals mentioned in Article 27. Data collection, research outcomes, and examples of good practices can help decision makers throughout the world place priority on Supported Employment. Other important aspects include developing research agendas, exchanging information, and encouraging researchers to develop their skills in Supported Employment research.

Forming a Supported Employment Research Network

GLADNET is a research network with strong stakeholders including the ILO and the UN, links to many international organizations including Rehabilitation International (RI) and the European Association for Service Providers (EASPD), and members from universities all over the world. Currently, GLADNET is working on building cooperative agreements with international organizations to help promote the implementation of the new UN Convention and provide insight into problems and practicalities that need attention. Cooperative agreements have already been signed with RI and the EASPD and others are in progress. GLADNET's special network of researchers in the field of Disability Management regularly exchange information and organize a research meeting every two years.

Based on input from members of GLADNET and other researchers in the field of Supported Employment, a Supported Employment Researchers Network has been developed as part of GLADNET. The Supported Employment Researchers Network can operate from its own agenda and be facilitated for specific meetings through webinars and Skype. Information can be disseminated from the network, and input for the network can come through the GLADNET contacts and cooperative links with international organizations.

The Supported Employment Researchers Network is still in a developmental phase. Interested researchers are very welcome to join the Research Network as part of GLADNET under the GLADNET conditions. Researchers can participate as individual members or as part of a group. More details are available at the GLADNET website, www.GLADNET.org.

For questions please contact: mkamp@ziggo.nl



Michael Kamp, Chair of GLADNET