

DOC-BOARD-19-11-09

Report from the Membership and Credential Committee

Document for information and decision

Purpose of this item

Two complete membership applications have been received and analysed by the Membership & Credential Committee, organisations that will be presented below. The board will vote on these applications.

The process of Membership Review has started and the organisations foreseen to be reviewed during the first phase happened. Below more details will be provided.

Membership applications

- [AGILE CH The organization of Persons with disabilities- Applying to be associate member](#)

AGILE.CH is the national umbrella organization of Switzerland's disability movement. It was founded in 1951. It stands up for the inclusion, equality and livelihood of persons with disabilities and represents the interests of their 41 member organisations according to a national disability policy. AGILE.CH's member organisations represent persons with all kinds of disabilities and their relatives.

It considers itself as a political force, fighting for the right of persons with disabilities to determine their own life and to be part of our society. Furthermore, they are active in the fields of social insurances, social and financial policy, work, vocational integration, education and public transport.

Its central secretariat is in Bern ran by persons with disabilities and close relatives of persons with disabilities. Their board that consists of ten people is also run by persons with disabilities. Its annual budget is about 1 million CHF (around 75%

provided by the Swiss Federal Office for Social Insurances and 25% provided by a combination of membership fees, projects and donors).

More information about the organisation is available on their website: www.agile.ch (in German and French)

The Swiss National Council would like to join EDF to stay connected with the EU disability movement and to share their experiences. They would like to join EDF also to contribute to the improvement of the rights of persons with disabilities. They would like to become associate member.

○ Sightsavers

Sightsavers is an EU based organisation which has been working for nearly 70 years in the fields of the rights of persons with disabilities and healthcare. The organization works in more than thirty countries with a middle or low income from Africa and Asia. At the heart of Sightsavers' strategy is an inclusive and rights-based approach. They promote the equality of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, with a particular focus on political participation, education, employment and healthcare and they are committed to strengthening health systems with a particular focus on eye health and neglected tropical diseases. They achieve their strategic objectives by supporting programmes of government, DPO and NGO partners, by building the evidence base on what works and why these issues are important and through policy advocacy and campaigning for change.

Sightsavers are strongly supportive of the work EDF does and its mandate, aims and objectives and feel that membership of EDF as an Associate, will enable better cooperation and coordination between our activities.

They are an active member of the IDDC network, including holding the current Chair position, and feel that being a member of both networks, as with some other IDDC members, will help to foster closer collaboration between the two.

They have a strong and strategic relationship with IDA at the global level and, as an EU based organisation, feel it is a logical step to also develop direct links with the IDA member covering their home region. We are partnering already in a common project called: Building Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals: Empowering Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (India)
The organization requests to become an Associate member.

Membership Review

The first 16 organisations planned for the first phase have been reviewed. On July 17, all of them have been informed about the review and received two months to send the requested documents and answer some questions.

The answers and documents have been analyzed by the secretariat and the Membership & Credential Committee. There were no important elements in the analyses process to bring to the attention of the board. Therefore, the committee recommends to accept the reviews and the reviewed members to be accepted within the membership category they are in at present.

National Councils

1. [Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CERMI) (ES)
2. [The National Confederation of Disabled People Greece \(ESAEA\)](#) (GR)
3. [The Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations](#) (SUSTENTO) (LV)
4. [French Council of Disabled People for European Affairs](#) (CFHE) (FR)
5. [Finish Disability Forum](#) (FDF) (FI)
6. [Disability Federation Ireland](#) (DFI) (IE)
7. [The Austrian Disability Council \(Der Österreichische Behindertenrat\)](#) (AT)
8. [German Disability Council](#) (DBR) (DE)

European NGOs full members

1. [European Down Syndrome Association \(EDSA\)](#)
2. [Inclusion Europe](#)
3. [European Union of the Deaf \(EUD\)](#)
4. [European Blind Union \(EBU/Union européenne des Aveugles \(UEA\)\)](#)
5. [European Network on Independent Living \(ENIL\)](#)
6. [Autism-Europe](#)
7. [European Federation of Hard of Hearing \(EFHOH\)](#)
8. [International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus \(IF\)](#)