## Annex 1 – Project planning document

**Project Brief:**

To collect good practice in the area of Braille teaching as well as evidence of the importance of Braille literacy.

**Project Name**:

Training and propagation of Braille

**Project leader:**John Heilbrunn, VP, DAB

**Date of brief:**26 th February 2016

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**1. Overview**

**1.1 Project objective(s)**

* The objectives are to map out existing best practices for efficient and qualitatively rewarding braille training.
* How cross-learning may lead to a catalogue of best practice approaches on how to make blind and severely partially sighted children and youths proficient braille readers, writers and/or users.
* How to promote the availability of braille in all relevant situations and environments in society including the educational sector and to enhance accessibility through the presence of labelling, signage etc.

**1.2 Benefits / Outcomes**

* Increased knowledge about various methods and tools to stimulate children and youths to understand and master the reading and writing of braille both on paper and on electronic devices.
* Ways to ensure equal performance and opportunities in educational and leisure settings by using braille in communication, games, practical notetaking etc.
* Obtain an overview of how to ensure that there are conversant and professional trainers and instructors in braille reading, writing and therewise usage of braille in the central educational settings, in the mainstream school (special needs departments) and at special resource centers.

**2. Scheduling/Phasing**

The project is phased into two parts, one first phase focusing on experience in Denmark and Nordic countries (2016) and the second involving 2-3 other European countries to obtain a diverse and differentiated picture of various ways to address challenges to obtain the set objectives through various methods, tools and settings.

The project will include the following activities:

2016:

* A two day workshop with participation from the Nordic countries where various pedagogic approaches on braille training for diverse groups will be analyzed and strengths and drawbacks will be identified
* Design of a questionnaire directed towards blind braille readers and users (preferably various groups age wise) to acquire concrete knowledge about practice and user assessments
* Desk study and search into literature from around the world that together with the workshop results will serve as the basis for recommendations on improved training and teaching

2017:

* Collection through email correspondence and on the spot visits to institutions in 3-5 European countries to collect knowledge, applied practices and experience on braille training and production of teaching materials in the field of braille usage.
* All the above will result in a framework for a multi-faceted and updated set of recommendations that might also include such tools as remote (long distance) braille training applying ICT technology which will be tested in the field with a group of persons that are blind in selected countries
* A final report with findings and recommendations be submitted within the Nordic countries and to the EBU - if feasible at a EBU conference

**3. Who is involved and project costs**

Total cost of project is estimated at 90.463,78 euros.

Resource person from ICEVI (Finland), desk officer from Swedish organization of the Blind (SRF), Cecilie Ekstrand, one participant from  third EBU organization (e.g. Marcus wolf, Austria) will be involved as part of steering group.

Besides, resource persons from organizations of the blind and schools / resource centres with special knowledge about visually impaired children and their needs will contribute to the collection of practices.

In the preliminary desk study, research from scientific and practical tests and analyses will be included.

**3.1 Cost of project**

90.463,78 euros.

**3.2. Teams and Partners Contributing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Euros / € |
| We expect EBU REC contribution per year amounting to € 4000 per year. | 8.000,00 |
| Funding from DAB available so far | 35.000,00 |
| External funding | 5.000,00 |
| Contribution in kind from involved organizations in Nordic countries  | 7.500,00 |
| Outside Nordic countries  | 7.500,00 |
| *Further funding to be identified by DAB* | *27.463,78* |
|  |  |
|  | **90.463,78** |

**4. Relationship to other EBU projects and activities**

The project is part of the EBU strategic plan Objective 1

**5. What might go wrong?**

There is a risk that it is difficult to obtain sufficient precise information and that the decentralization of responsibilities and implementation might offer some challenges as regards a specialized overview.

**6. Other relevant information**

ICEVI will be involved, as parts of the main issue are tightly related to the educational system.