

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfill their purpose.  
(See the AAIDD *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.)

<b>Interest Network:</b>	<b>International Interest Network</b>
<b>Lead Contact Person(s):</b> Chair: Hatice Uyanik ( <a href="mailto:hatice.uy@gmail.com">hatice.uy@gmail.com</a> ) Vice-chair: Renata Ticha ( <a href="mailto:tich0018@umn.edu">tich0018@umn.edu</a> ) Former Chair (until June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2024): Alice Bacherini ( <a href="mailto:alice.bacherini@unipg.it">alice.bacherini@unipg.it</a> )	
<b>Next Scheduled Election &amp; Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination:</b> 2025/Q1 – Hatice will retire from the leadership position at the end of the next term (June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025) after the election for providing diversity within the IIN network. If no nominations will be made (a minor possibility), she might serve one more year, based on the shared decision with Renata and members to share responsibilities with Renata for a steady operation of the IIN.	
<b>2023-2024 Report</b> For the year that <b>just ended</b> (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.  <b>Past project (2024):</b> The original initiative of the AAIDD International IN's (IIN) members was the project "Healthcare for people with IDD around the globe". This project aimed to provide an overview of the healthcare systems, practices and resources used in different countries to improve awareness and spreading good/better/best strategies. To do so, previous co-chairs (Alice & Hatice) prepared an online survey and shared it with the IIN members via email and Facebook group. The survey consisted multiple-choice and open-ended questions (22 overall) to investigate multiple aspects regarding the healthcare systems for people with IDD, including following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Policy: presence of specific laws concerning the healthcare and support provision,</li><li>2. Practice/Service: presence of institutionalization/deinstitutionalization</li><li>3. Practice/Service: presence of public/private support available</li><li>4. Practice/Service: presence of specific healthcare services provided to people with IDD</li><li>5. Practice/Service: presence of services specifically intended for life stages (i.e., infancy or elderly)</li><li>6. Professional Training: presence of IDD training for healthcare providers</li><li>7. Accessible Resources: specifically for health and healthcare of IDD community</li></ol> This project was prepared as an alternate to the previous translation projects based on the interest of the IIN members. There were 6 responses from 4 countries including Canada, Italy, Türkiye, and United States. Although we take the suggestion from our members and planned another style for the project than previous years, there was little attendance. Thus, we are open to suggestions for gathering more participation for upcoming projects so that we can collectively better represent our members who are coming from Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America.  The proposal of the project was accepted as a concurrent session (first time since previous years we presented IIN projects as posters). Shortly before the project, Renata Ticha accepted leadership position in the IIN and presented the contribution on behalf of Hatice and Alice, who could not attend the	

Due September4, 2024

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

conference. Besides the presentation in the concurrent session, Renata also represented IIN during the 2024 AAIDD Annual Meeting in the Assembly of Interest Network Meeting and SECP Lunch Meeting to present IIN award to the awardee and led the IIN Business Meeting. Presentation PPT is available upon request to Renata.

## **Funds:**

One “Merit Award” of a \$100 stipend and a SECP luncheon ticket (\$50) was awarded during the conference through International IN available funds this year (\$ 160). The selection process was done by blind-review of both the previous co-chairs (Alice & Hatice) and their mutual approval of the abstracts that were accepted by the AAIDD prior the review of the co-chairs. Also, co-chairs removed their personal abstracts voluntarily for the ethical behavior and avoid any possible conflict of interest. The recipient was André Oliveira (University of Minho, Portugal) with the title of “The role of educational attainment in mediating the relationship between self-determination and community integration of Portuguese adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and the influence of supported decision-making”. The award was presented during the SECP Luncheon of the Annual Meeting.

The goal of the International IN is to expand the AAIDD and IDD-related news and work outreach and dissemination in general to international community. To do so, past and current co-chairs continue to do multiple activities, including presentation preparation (posters, concurrent session or other presentations) for the conferences, member meetings, online and social media outreach to members. As leadership team, we value to informed participatory decision-making, so members are asked, valued, celebrated, and taken into consideration with their opinions and perspective prior any decisions made final by the leadership team. Thus, these activities enhance the meaningful participation, diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice for everybody.

## **2024-2025 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies**

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

### **Future projects:**

The International IN will continue to work on understanding different IDD systems across the globe and disseminate relevant information. Thus, it will continue to do various activities in this sense:

- Next year’s group project: a survey to determine the new topic will be disseminated to International IN’s members around October/November 2024 so the leadership team will be able to submit a presentation proposal for the upcoming 2025 Annual Meeting to increase IIN visibility. Upon possible approval of the presentation proposal, the leadership team will work on the project for its presentation at the 2025 Annual Meeting, with the planned processes of participation of the IIN members.
- The leadership team will recycle one idea from the previous year, that is, the preparation to co-host a webinar series with SECP and AAIDD. The topic is about the emergency preparation and risk assessment before, during, and after emergencies for people with IDD. Details are to be determined.
- The leadership team will recycle the 2023 original presentation topic (advocacy theme) as a possible special issue with a peer-reviewed journal for international disability community. Details are to be determined.

## AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

### **Proposed expenditure of funds:**

If enough funds are available, the leadership team would like to sponsor a viable award for the next year's AAIDD Annual Meeting. As this past year, the leadership team will review the abstract proposals independently and will choose the best one using the Scoring Rubric for AAIDD Conference Proposals and consistent with the following criteria: (a) be a non-US citizen or conduct research that has international relevance (i.e., outside of the USA) who is a student or early career professionals (under three years), (b) has a poster/oral presentation accepted for the annual meeting, and (c) has confirmed registration for the conference with the indication of consideration for the International Interest Network award.

If enough funds will be not available based on the fund balance credited in early 2025, the International IN might partner with other INs to provide an award during the conference.

As previously specified, our past, present, future activities, projects, and goals are carried out supporting the international IDD community, thus enhancing and valuing diversity, equity in an inclusive and socially just paradigm.