**7.4 BRIDGE FOR ALL**

Social Development and Inclusion

We have seen, up close, how children and youth with disabilities have been subject to mobbing and discrimination by their peers and grown-ups. This is why we talk about a sport where a physically disabled person can participate on equal terms. For most sports, where physically disabled competitors participate, there are categories or special events, such as, for example, the Paralympics.

In bridge, however, everyone can participate under the same conditions. Thus, bridge is a unique tool for bringing together youth with different abilities around a common interest, and to help increase the understanding for each other. Bridge is a pairs or team sport, where the players have to learn to cooperate and respect each other.

There is also a need to create places where people with and without different disabilities can meet. These are meetings that will create insights about possibilities and competencies, which otherwise may not be seen so easily. Someone with physical disabilities is often met with prejudice. A bridge project can help to change this situation.

So far, the financing has exceeded expectations. Thus, there is now a unique possibility to give extra funding to bridge clubs that work actively with school bridge in general, and also want to include anyone with some kind of functional disability.