



# How to Establish a National Association



BUILD A DEAF  
ORGANISATION

# WHY ESTABLISH?

- Opportunity to meet other deaf people
- Offer information to deaf people
- Improve the situation of the deaf

# BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATION TO MEMBERS

- Can provide training and other educational opportunities
- Programs and services
- Information, research, statistics
- Standards, code of ethics, certification (i.e. sign language interpreting)
- A place to discuss common problems and solutions
- Providing a community of interest
- Representation at the government level



# BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATION TO MEMBERS

- Can provide assistance to people at the national, state, and local levels
- Promotes awareness and acceptance of diversity
- Helps other groups with similar needs in advocacy and lobbying activities
- Provides training and educational opportunities to the general public (i.e. sign language classes)
- Supplements services that are not provided



# TWO SCENARIOS

No association  
and  
no deaf clubs

No national  
association

But have local deaf clubs

# DEAF ASSOCIATIONS

- Many of them started by formed students of deaf school
- Deaf people want to keep in contact



# ESTABLISHING AN ASSOCIATION

- A long and slow process that may take years
- Factors influencing
  - Level of education and awareness of deaf people
  - Opportunity to meet often
  - Availability of funds



# HOW TO START?





1. Locate members

2. Establish contact with deaf people and their families

3. Organise the first public meeting

4. Get support

5. Official registration of the organisation

6. Set goals and objectives, create statutes

7. Provide organisational, management and leadership training

8. Organise annual general meeting

9. Set up branches and clubs

# 1. LOCATE MEMBERS

- Look for deaf people
- Contact health center, rehabilitation workers, community development workers, organisations of people with disabilities, teachers → they may know where deaf people are

## 2. CONTACT WITH DEAF PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

- When you know where they are, talk to them and their families
- Explain the purpose of meeting with other people
- Inform families about the aim of meetings
  - Get together
  - Exchange experience
  - Share information



# 3. ORGANISE THE PUBLIC MEETING

- All deaf people should be invited to attend
- Purpose: Discuss problems, possible solutions
- Discuss: National association or local deaf club?
- Include all people in the meeting
- Pick up time and date where people can attend
- Get venue: Can you get it free or must pay?
- Choose a chairperson and secretary
- Present a model / idea of forming the association
- Elect a board (by vote)
- Discuss goals and objectives of organisation

## 4. GET SUPPORT

- WFD regional secretariat
- Your neighbor country: How they established their organisation and how they solved the problem of getting started
- Other groups of persons with disabilities, local government officials, NGOs

## 5. OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AS NGO

- Benefit: Maybe can receive government grants or funds from organisations
- In some countries, an organisation must operate at least one year before registering
- Contact government agency to find out requirements and procedures
- Some require constitution of the organisation, minutes of the meetings

## 6. SET GOALS, OBJECTIVES, MAKE STATUTES

- Board should discuss goals and objectives
- Notes from the first meeting, recommendations from WFD
- Decision must be done by members
- The constitution:
  - Name, address, purpose of the organisation
  - Membership rights + duties
  - Structure of organisation: General Assembly, board, auditor, responsibility of different bodies / committees

# 7. PROVIDE TRAINING

- Provide members, board, staff knowledge and skills
- Topic examples: Structure of organisation, decision-making procedure, rights and duties
- Not good to have dependency on few people



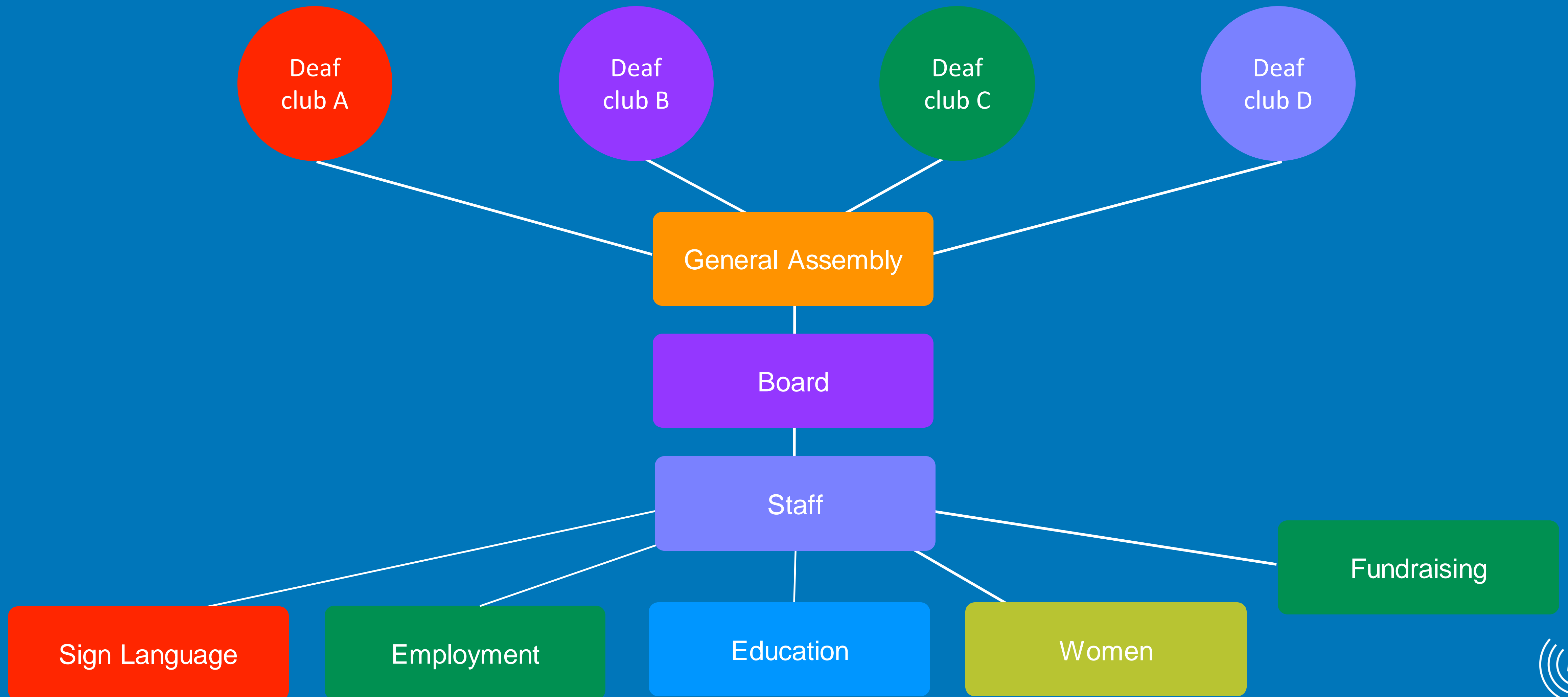
# 8. ORGANISE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- GA: Supreme decision-making body of association
- Acceptance of annual report of year's work
- Annual financial report
- Plan of action and budget for the next year
- Election of president and board members (following statutes)

## 9. SET UP BRANCHES AND CLUBS

- Branches / clubs work at local level
- Provide a space for deaf people to meet regularly

# MODEL EXAMPLE: ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



# CASE STUDY: KOSOVO DEAF ASSOCIATION

After the Kosovo war, there was no association representing the deaf community in Kosovo. There were few fragmented local deaf clubs, mostly led by hearing people, and no much cooperation took place between the clubs.



# ESTABLISHING KOSOVAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

2002 - 2005



- Surveys
- Reports
- Meetings and minutes
- Trainings
- Presentations in local deaf clubs

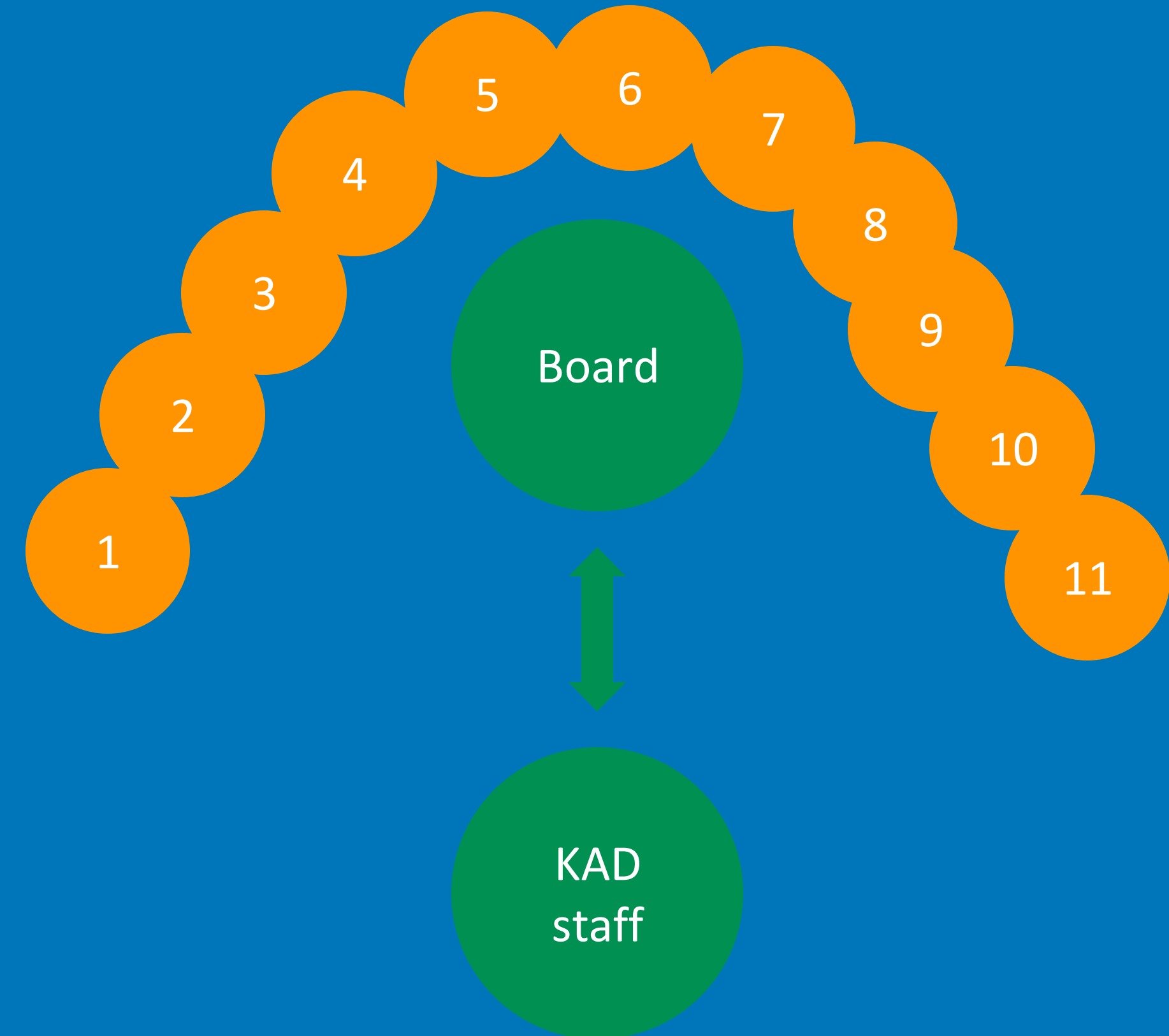
Steering committee, 11 persons:

- Reporting
- Annual meetings and minutes
- Training at annual meeting
- Developing of local association and KAD statutes
- Logo

2005



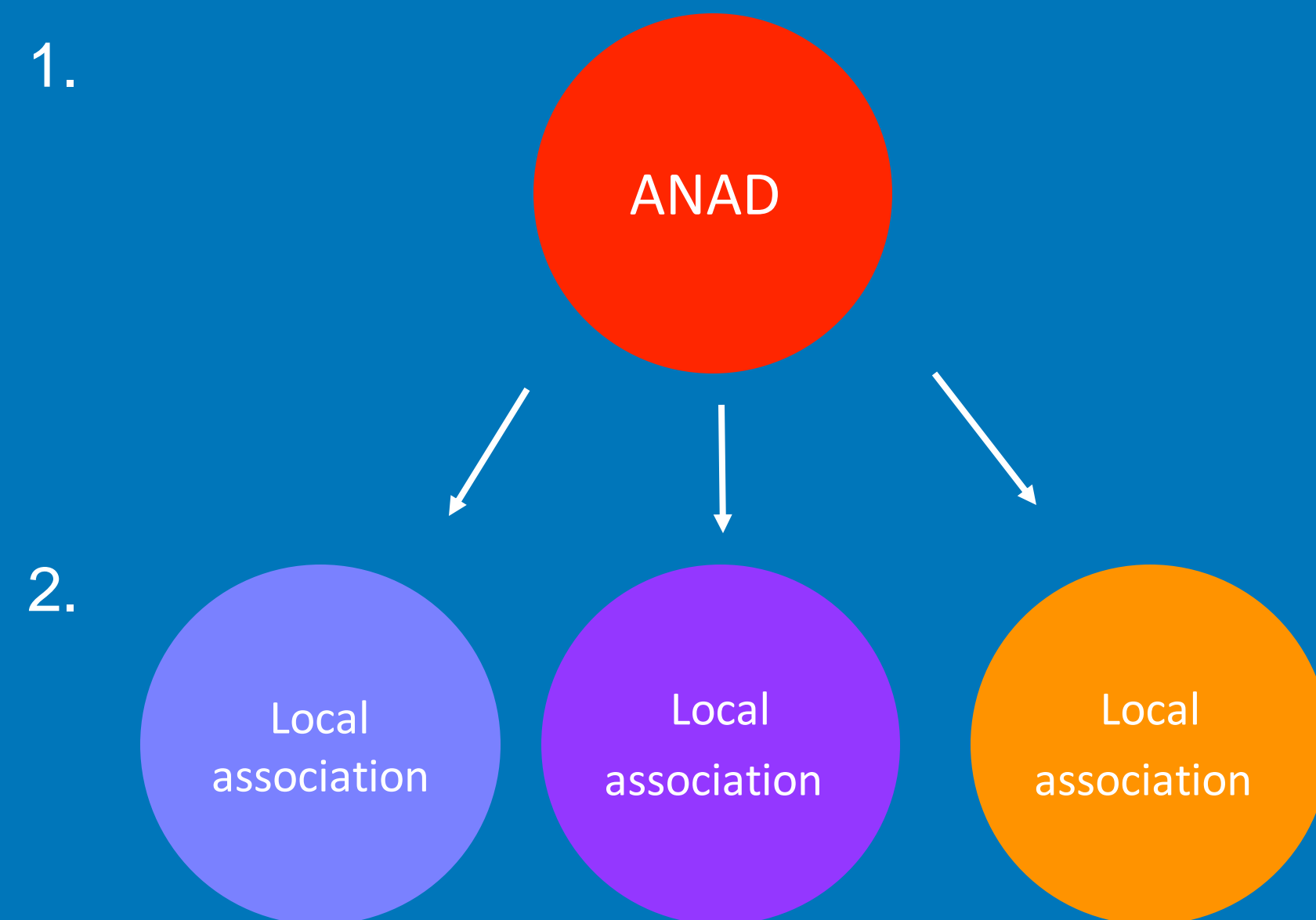
2006 - 2007



- 2006 Local associations adopted the statutes
- 2007 KAD statutes adopted, first election meeting, first KAD Board elected

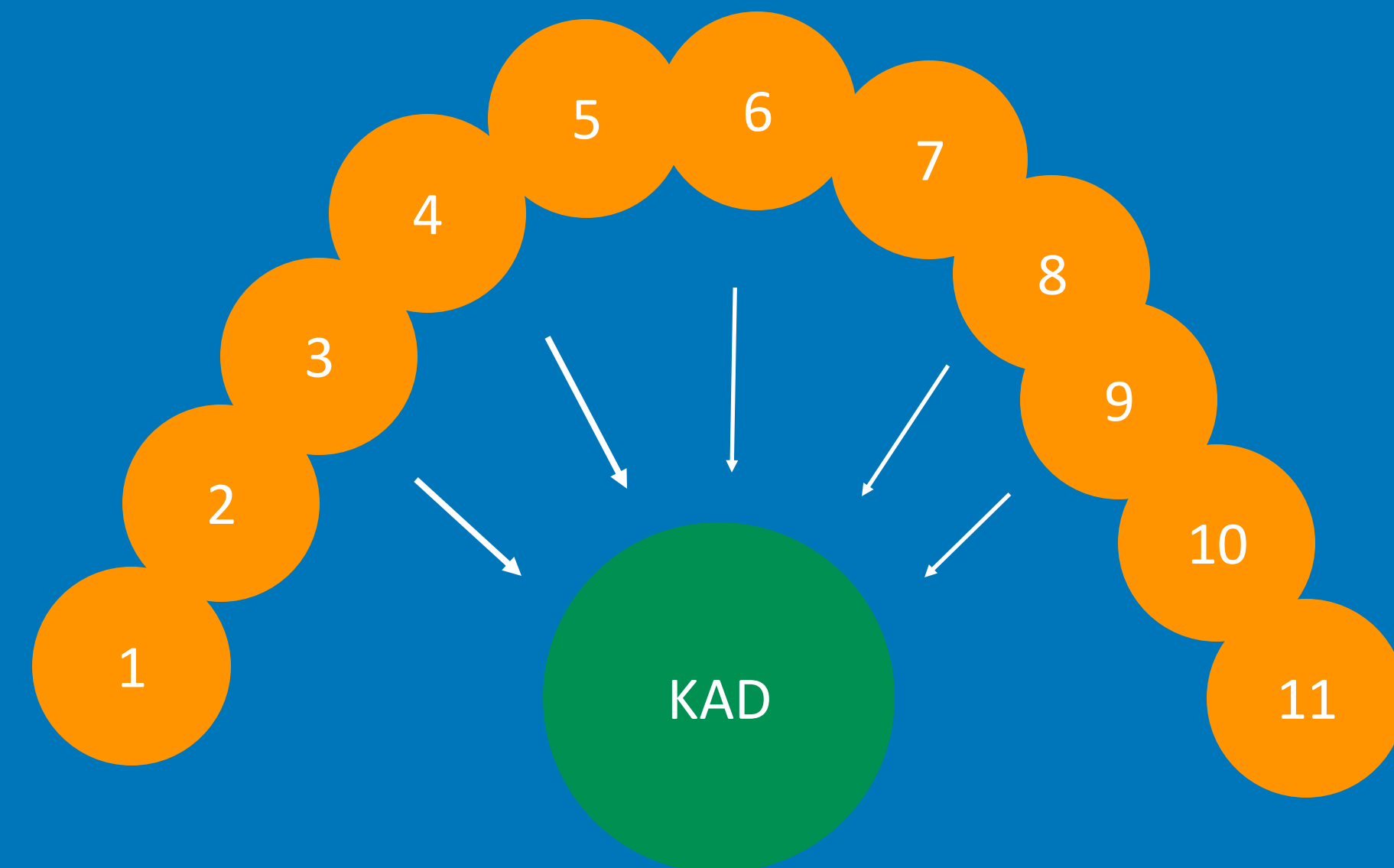
# DIFFERENT WAYS

## Albania National Association of the Deaf (ANAD)



Albania had a national association (ANAD), but no local branches/deaf clubs.

## Kosovar Association of the Deaf (KAD)



There were local branches in Kosovo, but no national association.

# 2002-2005: GROUP WORK OF KOSOVAR DEAF PERSONS

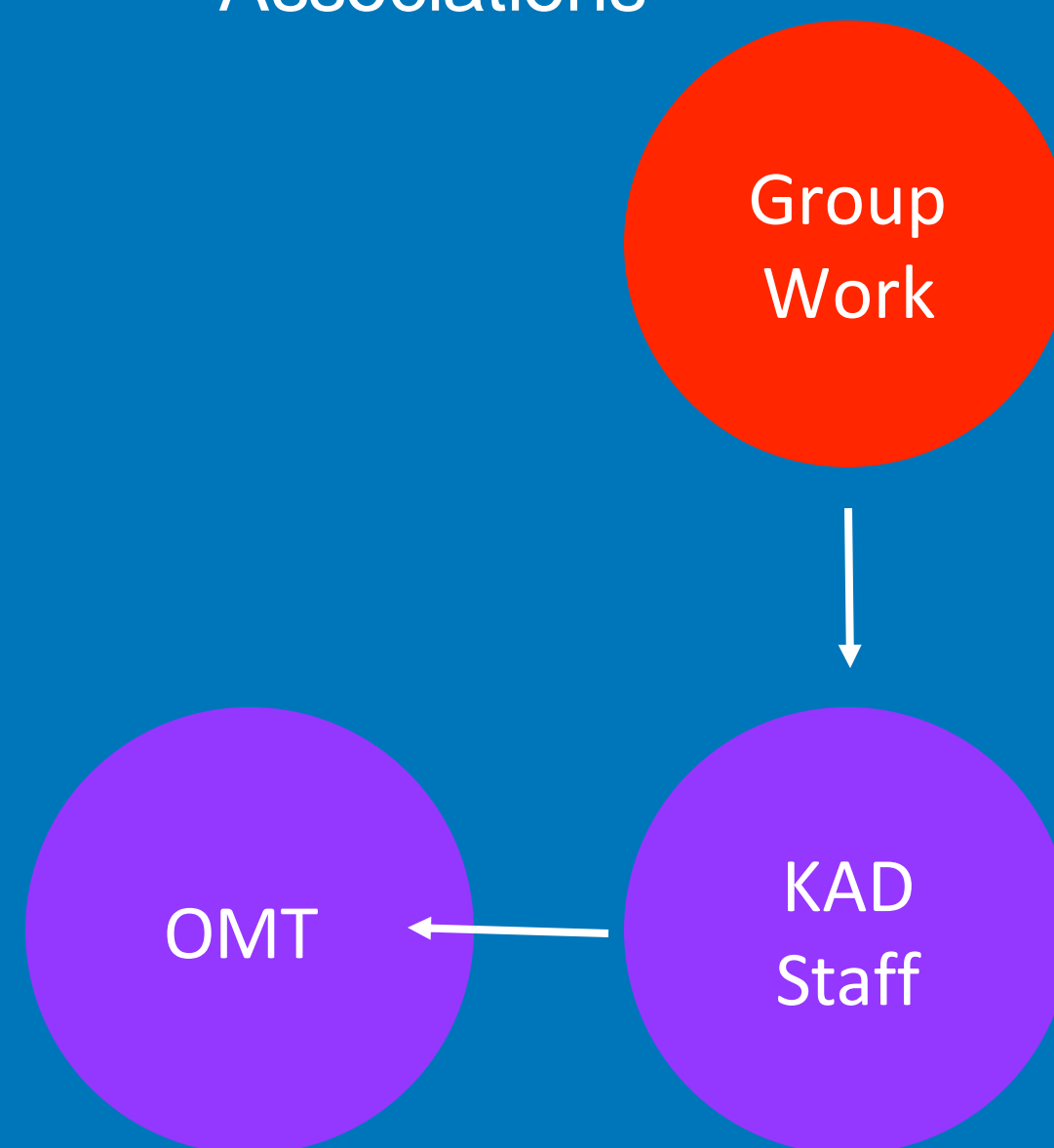
- Reports
- Meetings
- Minutes
- Training
- Presentations in local deaf clubs



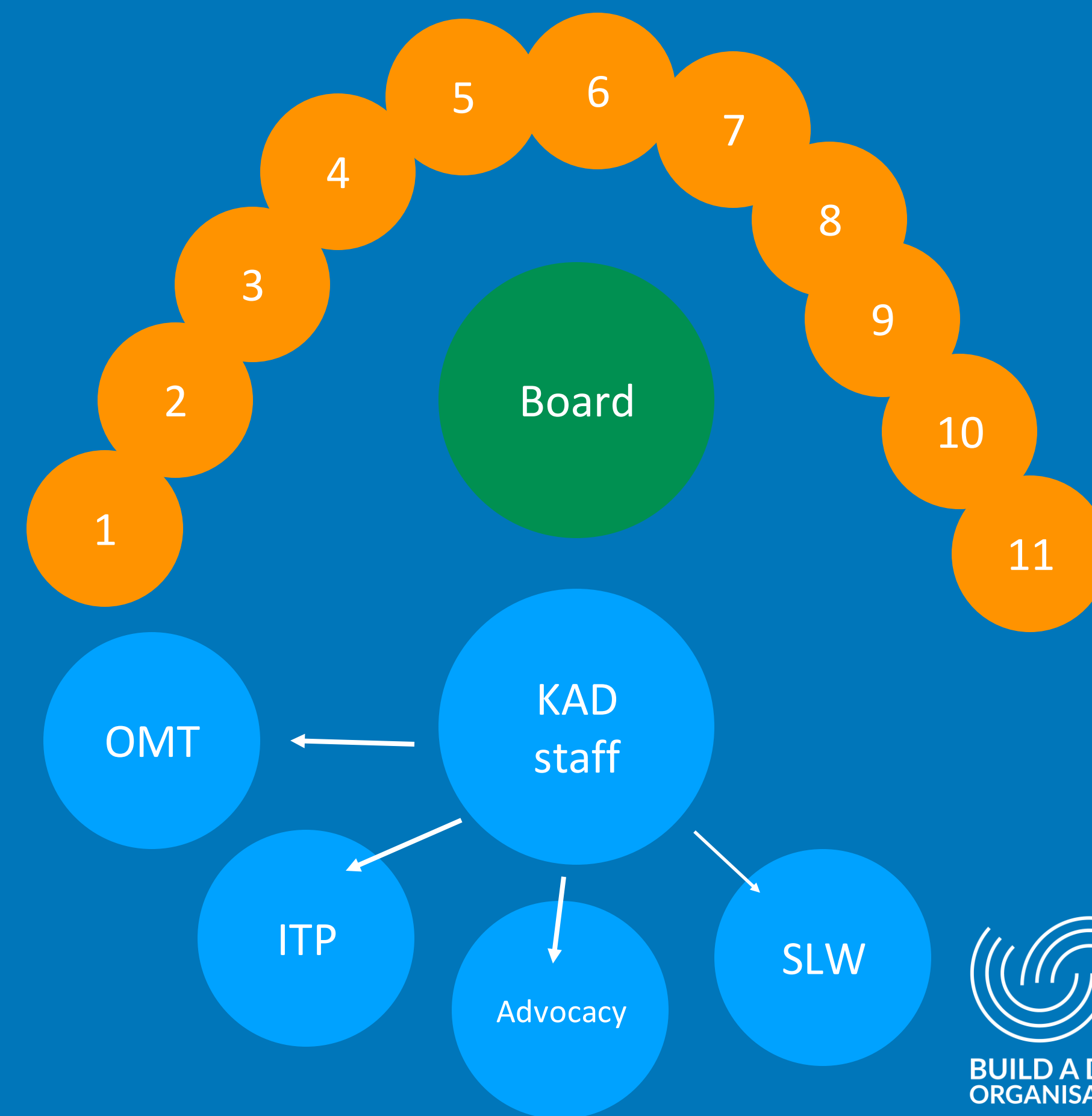
2004 - Organisation  
Management Training

Training included:

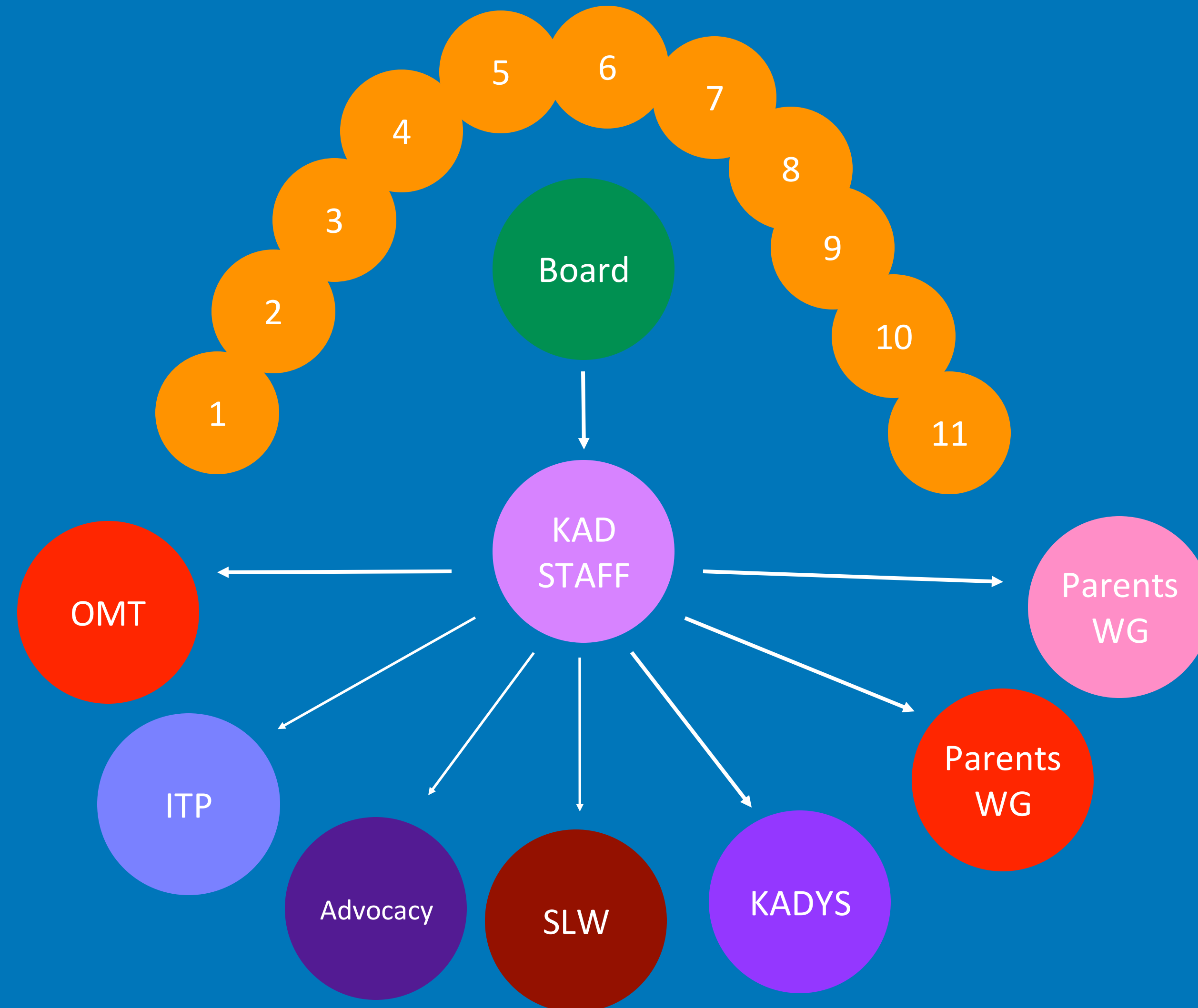
- Deaf community empowerment
- Leadership
- Role of Board in the local deaf Associations



2007 - First KAD general assembly  
- First board established



# KOSOVAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF IN 2018





# KOSOVAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF ORGANOGRAM

