

European Federation of Hard of Hearing People
Editor: Ulla Konkari Koski

December 2005

EFHOH president letter

Dear friends,

The end of the year 2005 is coming soon but first we have the nice family month December with the nice dark day with the candlelight and the Christmas tree in the living room. I hope that all of you have a good Christmas and I wish you and your family a happy year 2006!

From this place I will say some words of thanks to Mark Hoda. Thanks for his wonderful work for RNID in the Great Britain and on the European level. Mark, I will never forget the fine cooperation on the issue Subtitling on Television for All in Europe. From the one of the first meeting in Seville and to the last meeting at the UK presidency of the European Union you were always hard working for more and better subtitling on television. It was your words that looking to the television is a human right. And that in a Europe for all look to television is included hard of hearing people. Lillian and I as presidents EFHOH receive a lot of support and feedback from you special on the human rights topics. Mark I wish you a wonderful time in your new job for the local government in London. Take care and maybe we meet you again on one of the EFHOH or IFHOH meeting round of the world you are welcome!

Some weeks ago EFHOH and IFHOH board members had our joint board meeting in the Zagreb, capital of Croatia. It was really nice and good to meet some people from the hard of hearing and deaf organisation in Croatia and see the wonderful work they do. Of course they will invite you all to come in the end of April to Croatia for the 27th bi-annual General Meeting of IFHOH and EFHOH. The last IFHOH AGM was at the IFHOH world congress in Helsinki and the last EFHOH AGM was last April in The Hague - sometimes I think that the time goes so quickly.

It was also very nice to meet Karina Chupina, the president of IFHOHYP, at the joint board meeting in Zagreb. Karina informed us what IFHOHYP has done during year 2005 and what is the program of IFHOHYP in 2006. Two important activities in 2006 for IFHOHYP are the summer camp in August 2006 in Spain and in the end of April the training course for young hard of hearing people who are volunteers in the national and local youth organisations. This training is organised in the co-operation with the council of Europe (not EU).

Siegfried, our vice president, was present at the European Day of disabled people in Brussels organized by the European Parliament. It is fine that Siegfried was able to go to this meeting and represent the 40 million hard of hearing people in the EU member states.

I was this autumn present at some EU meeting one was in London at the UK European Union presidency. It was useful to meet at this meeting also some other hard of hearing people who will represent Hungary and Finland. Sami Virtanen has written an article about this meeting in this EFHOH newsletter.

In October I was in Italy at the congress about Text and Image, Updating research in screen translation. This congress was organised by the university of Bologna and Forlì. Together with Mr.

Pirelli we have given a workshop with the title Using voice recognition systems in producing real-time subtitling for the hard of hearing. Giacomo Pirelli (son of Mr. Pirelli) has written for this EFHOH newsletter a nice article.

Dear friends have a good Christmas and a happy 2006 and see you soon in Croatia!

-- Marcel Bobeldijk



Marcel Bobeldijk in EFHOH board meeting in Zagreb

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IFHOH/EFHOH Annual General Meetings in Dubrovnik, Croatia 27th April – 1st May 2006

*"If you want to see Heaven on Earth, come to Dubrovnik."
(George Bernard Shaw)*

First announcement:

The Croatian association for deaf and hard of hearing people (HRVATSKI SAVEZ GLUHIH I NAGLUHIH- HSGN)), the IFHOH board and the EFHOH board invite all general members, associate members, sponsors and observers to the Biennial General Meeting of IFHOH and the Annual General Meeting of EFHOH to be held in Croatia.

Date:

Thursday, 27 April 2006 (Arrival) - Monday, 1 May 2006 (Departure)

Venue:

Grand Hotel Park, Dubrovnik / Croatia www.grandhotel-park.hr

Accommodation:

- Grand Hotel Park, single room (bed, breakfast and dinner, special rate) € (Euro) 200 (4 nights)
- Hotel Argosy, single room (bed and breakfast, special rate) € 160 (4 nights)

Participant's Fee:

Will be defined later.

Preliminary Program:

- Thursday: Arrival day
- Friday: Opening of the conference by Dubrovnik's mayor, presentations from Croatia
- Saturday: Symposium, EFHOH AGM, Social Program
- Sunday: IFHOH Bi-AGM (revision of statutes)
- Monday: Departure.

The old city of Dubrovnik is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dubrovnik is the "pearl of the Adriatic" with a sub-tropical climate.

Travel:

Dubrovnik airport (DBV) can be reached by direct flights from Zagreb, Croatia; Vienna, Austria; Rome, Italy; Frankfurt, Germany; Amsterdam, The Netherlands; London Gatwick, United Kingdom (and further destinations). Check with your travel agency for an adequate flight.

During the tourist season, which starts at the beginning of April, there are 5-6 flights daily from Zagreb to Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik Airport will have more information about the summer flight schedule by the end of December.

Please book your flight to Dubrovnik as soon as possible because the number of flights to Dubrovnik is limited. (Dubrovnik cannot be reached by train!)

The official letter of invitation with the registration form and further details will follow later.

The Dubrovnik 2006 Task Force Team

Tajana Biskupic (General Secretary Hrvatski Savez Gluhih I Nagluhih) e-mail: hrv.savez-gluhih@zg.htnet.hr

Darja Holec (General Secretary IFHOH)

Siegfried Karg (Vice president EFHOH)

EFHOH Board Nominations

The Constitution of EFHOH states among others:

The Board consists of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and one board member.

Board members must be of age and qualified to act. The majority of the Board-members must be Hard-of-Hearing themselves and all must be a member of one of EFHOH's General members.

Board members will be elected by a majority vote for a period of two years and can be re-elected.

The present Board comprises:

- President: Marcel Bobeldijk (Holland) (2005-2007)
- Vice-President: Siegfried Karg (Switzerland) (2004-2006)
- General-Secretary: Jan Lamby (Sweden) (2005-2007)
- Treasurer: Ritva-Liisa Schäding (Germany) (2005-2007)
- Board Member: Ulla Konkari Koski (Finland) (2004-2006)

Siegfried Karg has agreed to be the Vice President for another period and Ulla Konkari Koski has agreed to be the board member for another period.

The nominating committee needs formal proposals from the member organizations. To be able to present a proposal for new board-members of EFHOH to the General Meeting to be held in Croatia April 2006, the nominating committee needs your nominations by the latest 15 February 2006.

The nominating committee of EFHOH by

Pat Mc Kenna, IHHA Ireland and

Kees Twilt, NVVS Holland.

IFHOH Nominations: Deadline Extended

The deadline for nominations for the Board of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People has been extended to January 20th, 2006. The four positions are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- General Secretary

An additional position, Director-at-large, has been recommended by the Board of IFHOH and nominations are being invited for this position. It is expected that the nominee or nominator organization will meet the expenses associated with board meetings.

Candidates will serve a two-year term to take effective immediately following the IFHOH AGM April 28/29, 2006 in Croatia. Candidates must be nominated by member organizations of IFHOH in good standing.

To make a nomination, please communicate by e-mail at this time to the Chair of the Nominating Committee and include:

- Biographical summary (50-200 words)
- Statement of reason for support of the nomination (100 to 200 words)
- Contact information for the candidate: (address, phone, fax, e-mail, etc.)
- Contact information for the nominee (address, phone, fax, e-mail, etc.):

- Verification that the nomination is supported by the host IFHOH member country and by the candidate.

Note: nominations already made do not need to be re-sent unless incomplete.

Please send nomination information to the e-mail address of ruth.warick@ubc.ca

Thank you from the members of the IFHOH Nominating Committee:

*Ruth Warick
Kalle Tervaskari
Dr. H. Seidler*

Symbols

Following an ANEC proposal put forward last year, ESTI has set up a Specialist Task Force working to develop a standard set of symbols for use to indicate that digital television programmes and ICT equipment have special facilities to assist disabled users.

The facilities of interest are Subtitles, Audio description, Signing, Speech output and spoken command.

The project managers, Clive Miller and Wally Mellors, needs to test these symbols throughout Europe. If you are interested in taking part in this work please do so by going to the website at www.accesssymbols.org and filling in the questionnaire, or forward this link to your friends or colleagues, as the project does not have sufficient input from across Europe yet.

For more information you can contact: c.giovannini@anec.org

Marcel Bobeldijk

New General Secretary

Hello all EFHOH-fellows,

My name is Jan Lamby from Sweden and I was elected new General Secretary of the EFHOH in April this year.

My age is so called 50+, a commonly used expression in Sweden when you don't want to declare your exact age. As you understand this means I am well over fifty years old...

I have been a hard of hearing since the age of ten, when I got my first hearing aid.

Currently I am president of the HRF Stockholm "District", an umbrella organisation of 18 clubs in the Stockholm county. The HRF is the Swedish National Association of Hard of Hearing People. We are the largest district of the HRF, representing over 5.000 members. Our main task is to influence the Stockholm County Council to offer better care for hard of hearing people of all kinds, supplying better equipments, interpreting and so on.

I was educated an architect in Stockholm, and now having my own firm. A very small scale business that is, I have no employees. My projects mainly consist of renewal of building environments; villas and summer-cottages. I also carry out investigations of the accessibility in buildings and in the built environment.

So what do I want to do as a General Secretary of the EFHOH?

Well, as you might understand reading the above, I am very interested in accessibility. As the EFHOH is a member of the EDF, European Disability Forum, we were invited to participate in five different networks about accessibility. One of them is the Built environment network, where I am now a member. So far I have attended one meeting in Brussels concerning these matters.

I think we are doing very important to work in the EFHOH, and we need to have many different contacts with the European Union and organisations linked to the union. The EU is working hard to achieve conformity of the members' legislation; making national standards become European standards and so on. All this work is covering fields of great interest to hard of hearing people: Telecommunication, subtitling in TV and pictures; accessibility of the society in general, and transport in particular.

Now that I have been able to get to know our board, I feel very confident about my fellow board-members. We are five people with different interests and competences. Together we form a team well equipped to meet the challenges listed above.

*Jan Lamby
Sweden*

Subtitling in Dutch TV

Apart from the regular subtitling of all foreign films and series on screen, Talpa TV will start broadcasting subtitles all of its previously recorded Dutch programs on December 15th. This can be seen on Talpa text page 888. The remaining programs, among which live sports and news programs, will follow soon. With this measure Talpa fulfils the urgent demand from several organisations which represent the 1.5 million deaf and hard of hearing people in Holland. Talpa is the first commercial broadcasting system in our country to serve this group seriously.

Subtitling of Dutch TV-programs will be a complicated craft for a while yet, because speech recognition systems have not been developed sufficiently yet. Especially the number of typists who can print subtitles for live and semi-live broadcasting under extreme time pressure, is very limited. Talpa had a contract put up with the 'inVision Subtitling' company which has built up the essential expertise. inVision will train a team of velotypists, speech editors and supporting staff, who will work for Talpa exclusively.

Gert Grolleman, business manager of Talpa TV, is responsible for the project. He says: 'Originally we did not realise how many Dutch people are unable to follow our TV programs without subtitling. But when you realise one and a half million people are involved, you realise we are not talking about a luxury. This concerns an essential project that is part of the social responsibility of a national TV channel. Anyway it will be a considerable task to arrange this in a reasonable time-scale. Especially programs like 'Barend and Van Dorp' and 'NSE' are extremely difficult to be printed extremely fast in the same speed as speech. This is caused by the fact that in these programs many different people are continually changing subjects and speakers. As a typist you have to be able to type 1000 symbols per minute and a very thorough training is required for this'.

Audio Induction Loops in Ireland

In Ireland, significant headway has been made with televised subtitling on the public service channels – RET 1 and RTE 2.

RTE 1, besides meeting an overall target of 55 per cent set by the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI) for 2005, has independently set a secondary target of at least 60 per cent for peak-time. In addition, RTE subtitles all main news and current affairs programmes as well as major national events. Given this satisfactory progress on subtitling, the council of the Irish Hard of Hearing Association (IHHA) decided that the audio-induction loop would be the main theme of its programme for 2005/6.

The Equal Status Act 2000 obliges all service providers, public and private, to “do all that is reasonable to accommodate the need of a person with a disability by providing special treatment or facilities, provided the cost is not greater than nominal” The cost of supplying and installing a counter loop is around €650, which is nominal for any large business. Under this legislation all major banks and building societies have a roll-out programme for counter loops with one bank – AIB – set to complete the roll-out by December 2005. Furthermore, many chain stores have similar programmes as well as public libraries. All Catholic dioceses have agreed to set out a programme for accommodating people with disabilities, including the provision of loops, while the Dublin Archdiocese has already installed loops in over a third of its churches.

The Disability Act 2005 obliges government departments to draw up Sectoral Plans specifying measures to meet the needs of people with disabilities. The consultation process is now taking place. The Irish Hard of Hearing Association is heavily involved in the process and is satisfied with progress. We recommend among other things that all staff undergo disability awareness training to ensure that they are aware of the needs of hard of hearing people and know how an induction-loop works.

We, furthermore, recommend that a designated person in a work place should be charged with the role of ensuring that the loop is in working order as well as having it tested and serviced regularly.

The Department of Local Government has made €15 million available to all local authorities for accommodating people with disabilities. Following this initiative the Irish Hard of Hearing Association has made submissions to all authorities outlining our vision of access, including the provision of induction loops.

Dublin Airport has already installed induction loops at the information desks and departure gates, with a conspicuous ear-symbol suspended from ceilings. It has not yet completed the programme: the check-in desks have yet to be looped. The Irish Hard of Hearing Association has been assured that the stalled programme will be completed shortly, making Dublin Airport the most advanced airport in the EU for provision for hard of hearing people.

The Irish Hard of Hearing Association (IHHA) aims to see a loop in all public buildings in a local community – post office, church, library, theatre, bank, police station, pharmacy, large stores, hotels, conference halls and colleges. As the loop is affordable and easy to install, there is no valid reason for not providing it. There is, however, a need to raise awareness of the loop and the benefit it can bring to many people with a hearing loss.

Pat McKenna
President
Irish Hard of Hearing Association
December 2005

University of Bologna at Forlì Between Text and Image: Screen Translation

Objectives

The Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in Translation, Languages and Cultures (SITLeC) of the University of Bologna at Forlì (Italy) organized the International Workshop between Text and Image: New lines of search on the translation for the screen, from the 27th to the 29th October, in order to promote the exchange of ideas about the methods of translation and interpreting.

Interest in research on screen translation has increased sharply in the past decade; while at the same time fast moving technological breakthroughs are continually modifying and renewing both products and well-established methods of linguistic mediation.

The aim of the conference was to establish the state of the art in terms of research in this ever-expanding field and at the same time to underscore the work of scholars following new paths of investigation, both in terms of innovative linguistic mediations being examined and pioneering experimental design.

Subtitling

Some sections of the meeting have taken into consideration the aspects of subtitling. Even if in Italy dubbing is more frequently used, subtitling is keeping an increasing importance as an aid for people with hearing impairment, as well as for normally of hearing people for a better understanding of films and documentaries in foreign languages.

In particular, the workshop has posed the question of the existence of Centres with qualified staff in order to carry out the subtitling of films projected in the festivals or in the cinemas. Apart from the multilingual aspect, the specific requirements of people with hearing impairment have to be considered, since for them it is necessary to provide some additional information, as the indication of the significant sounds (telephone ringing, rifle shot, etc).

One of the topics that have been discussed concerned categories of operators more suitable for the distribution of films in the cinemas in Italy for the different categories of audience: lovers of essay movies, people with hearing impairment, foreign people desiring to understand a film or a show better thanks to the subtitles, or rather to learn a foreign language.

Interpreters and translators' training

A second topic was related to the Centres that may ensure high quality, readability and visibility in subtitling. The SITLeC and the Scuola Superiore of Modern Language for Interpreters and Translators (SSLMIT) may ensure such quality, thanks also to the stages and experiences in the agencies that the students attend for completing their academic curriculum.

Also other Centres may achieve similar levels, but of course awareness and experience on the field would be necessary. Since there are just a few Associations of Subtitlers, the Associations of Dialogists play an important role, since while preparing the texts for dubbing, they carry out several preliminary steps useful for the subtitlers too.

The SITLeC Department underlined that the experience in the multilingual translation for hearing people provides the interpreters with a mentality and flexibility particularly suitable for answering the requirements of the associations of people with hearing impairment. This creates a new specialization and a new professional path for subtitling an increasing number of television broadcasts, films in festivals and cinemas, theatre performances and conferences.

A considerable number of university students attending the Department are well skilled to work on translation, interpretation and subtitling. Particular care has been spent on their training on the latter aspect, in view of reinforcing a position as a reference Centre at national and international level. In this sense, SITLeC and SSLMIT are in regular contact with other European universities or organizations, as ISTI in Brussels and the European VOICE Project, which held the two pre-conference Seminars.



Giuliano Pirelli presenting the VOICE Project

Pre-Conference Seminars

Opening the three days Conference, Giuliano Pirelli, VOICE Project's coordinator at the European Commission Joint Research Centre, presented the Project and underlined the use of the prototype that has been developed, in a high number of conferences and the tests performed in several schools and universities. Also several television broadcasters took in the innovative character and some of them, like BBC, use voice recognition systems for the automatic generation of subtitles.

A high motivated audience of young and less young interpreters and translators followed with interest the presentation, questioning both on the technical and the operative field, particularly on the training of speech recognition systems. The discussion dealt with the importance of the tone of the voice and of other requirements for using the system, the modalities for inserting new words, the control of the format of the generated subtitles and of reprocessing the produced text.

Several students demonstrated particular interest for the innovations and the use of the new technologies for their job. Carlo Eugeni, PhD student at the University of Naples Federico II and working at the hosting department, demonstrated the results of his researches on the new professional role of the re-speaker: he made a simultaneous translation of an English speech into Italian and, via a microphone with wireless connection to a portable computer, automatically transformed his voice into subtitles, thanks to the use of the software VoiceMeeting 8, last development of the prototype previously developed by the VOICE Project.

The speech that Carlo subtitled was that of Marcel Bobeldijk, Dutch, hard of hearing, President of EFHOH (European Federation of Hard of Hearing), who illustrated the situation of television subtitling in Europe and the amount of the programs subtitled by public and private television broadcasters.

Marcel concluded with the request of increasing the number of such broadcasts and of defining a European law in this sense. Encouraging initiatives already exist in some countries, like in particular Great Britain, The Nederland and France, where the television broadcasters follow the objective of subtitling 100% of the television broadcasts in four-year term 2006-2010. It is well known that Great Britain has a strong liberal political and democratic tradition, which respects the rights and equal dignity of the individuals and demonstrates to be able to adapt itself to the needs of people with hearing impairment.

The EFHOH's President underlined the importance of the subtitles' quality, avoiding accepting too fast and approximate productions. It is important to overcome the economic aspect and consider that a complete and correct application of subtitles facilitates the integration of people with hearing impairment in the society.

Round tables

In the following days, two round tables have taken place: one on dubbing and the other on subtitling. Professionals in the field have discussed about the constraints of their daily work as far as the translational process is concerned (translating difficult words or sentences, the humor, etc.)

One of them has explained how sometimes he is obliged to work under hard conditions due to time constraints, especially during film festivals or television broadcasts. A solution can be team working with experts doing each specific job (like checking on the Net some technical terminology).

Another one has showed the conventional way of subtitling: graving subtitles directly on the grease of the 35mm films. It is, however, more and more replaced by laser graving.

The special guest of the round table on subtitling was Elvira De Majo, coordinator of Ombrelettriche, a subtitling company based on Rome, producing inter- and intra-lingual subtitles for DVD companies.

The two roundtables have bore testimony of a large audience. Among the very interesting questions raised by the attendants, Carlo Eugeni has asked to the president of the major Italian dubbing company, AIDAC, whether it was possible to produce verbatim subtitles. The answer has been that, since many difficult words and phrases and rhetorical figures are cut, subtitling companies can cut up to 50% of the original dialogues. This is due to linguistic and semiotic constraints (a considerable number of Italian deaf have a low literacy rate and slow reading capacities so, verbatim subtitles would not help them in fully understanding what is said on the screen).

Another very important issue has been the one the possibilities of collecting data about the different subtitled versions of the same film. The problem behind it is that, during the film festivals, many subtitled versions got lost and it is sometimes difficult to use the same subtitles again, once the film has been projected and the festival is over.

Probably the hottest spot was the one on copyright, hindering the possibility of projecting DVD for special needs' purposes (audio description for the blind and intra-lingual subtitles for the deaf) in a public place.

At the end of the conference, after having talked about my studies at the Turin University (MultiDams: multimedia, cinema and theatre) and about my efforts to raise more awareness of the deaf question, I have asked cues on how to persuade cinema owners to project subtitled films more often. Even if all the speakers have underlined the importance of my initiative, they have openly declared that it is only the economic side of the coin that is of interest to the cinema owners. So, the best way to promote subtitling is to show them that there is an important loss of audience in discriminating against the deaf by not providing subtitled versions of the films scheduled to be projected. Last but not least is, for sure, the political issue of the absence of an ad hoc legislation asking for more subtitles, without which very little results can be obtained.

Giacomo Pirelli
giac_pirelli@hotmail.com
<http://voice.jrc.it/forum/giacomo>

Living Together in Society: The European Commission Conference

European Day of People with Disabilities 2005

More than 200 delegates from disability organisations and government institutions met at the European Commission Conference Centre in Brussels December 1 and 2, 2005. The conference was organised in cooperation with the European Disability Forum.

Vladimir Špidla, former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and now European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, opened the conference. Carlotta Besozzi, director of the European Disability Forum, moderated the key note addresses and the debates.

Kent Ericsson, University of Uppsala, Sweden, spoke on community living and stressed the problem of "de-institutionalisation" which has been "solved" by law in Sweden since the year 2000.

Manuel Lobato, Spain, from the European Network for Independent Living, stressed the need for centres for independent living and personal assistance for physically disabled people.

Donata Pagetti-Vivanti, Italy, President of Autism Europe, showed the existential problems of a mother with an autistic son, especially the problems arising when parents get older and can no longer take care of their disabled children.

Alexander Cote, project manager of Handicap International, gave a moving insight into the difficult situation of disabled people in some southeastern European countries.

Jan Andersson, Sweden, chair of the committee for Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament, wants to substantially improve the employment situation for disabled people and sees good chances in new technologies.

Lisa Pavan-Woolfe, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, presented the Communication from the European Commission on the situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union: the European Action Plan 2006-2007 on "Equal opportunities for people with disabilities in the EU" which

was just passed by the Commission a couple of days prior to the conference.

Jérôme Vignon, Directorate General Employment, Social Protection and Social Integration, showed the statistical evidence of an ageing society and the poor employment ratio among disabled people in relation to non-disabled people. "Less than half of disabled people are employed. This relatively low rate of employment shows that unemployment among disabled people continues to merit serious attention." (Equal opportunities..., COM/2005/604, p. 4)

Erzsebet Szöllösi, Executive Member of the European Disability Forum, closed this year's meeting.

A strong focus of this conference was on the subject of "De-institutionalisation". Hard of hearing people however, who do not live in closed institutions but who have communication problems in everyday life and in their work situation were not a specific target of this conference. But further conferences shall follow.



The conference center

The conference centre is equipped with microphones on every place so that delegates could ask questions and could be easily understood. There was even an installed induction loop as Christi Menheere, new IFHOHYP secretary from The Netherlands, discovered with great pleasure. The faces of the speakers were beamed to a screen and Wim Gerbecks, a professional Dutch velotyper, provided excellent speech to text support.

Siegfried Karg
EFHOH Vice president

EFHOH Board Task Allocation

Marcel Bobeldijk: Contact person EDF, board member of IFHOH, subtitling, Public transport

Siegfried Karg: Contact person German speaking members and contact person industry/sponsors and is the contact person for the technical subjects

Jan Lamby: Secretary's work contact person all our members, important is make a new up to date member list with the contact persons and Agenda 22.

Ritva-Liisa Schädling: Treasurers work and look to new sponsors/funds

Ulla Konkari Koski: Communication and contacted person of IFHOHYP and the editor of the newsletter and the website.

E-Accessibility Conference, 21st October 2005, London (UK)

I participated on the interesting E-Accessibility Conference and accessibility services were available well during conference, example typist in English, the loop system, lip readers, sign language interpreters and description interpreters for blind persons. Approximately 300 participants all over Europe took part in Conference.

The theme of E-Accessibility Conference was bound to i2010 – strategy (key words and themes are information, innovation and social inclusion) and 2005 e-Accessibility Communication on e-Accessibility. Both of documents are reported by the European Commission. The e-Accessibility Communication was road map for Conference.

The Communication includes several actions how to make the European information society for all.

- a) promoting criteria of accessibility and Design for All on public document,
- b) developing certification for accessible products and services and
- c) promote current legislation more efficient making society more accessibility.

Communication is stressing that current standards are already exist and they should be used more efficient, research results should be taken consider better in practical way and Design for All –education should be developed.

During conference many head speakers stressed Design for All – approach which addressing the needs of all users. The Commissioner of social affairs, Vladimir Spidla, mentioned on his speech that the amount of aging people will increase 30 % by 2050 in Europe and most them have problems to use ICT –tools and there are obstacles in internet for different users, example blind persons and aging people. These conditions set up many questions how this society is build up just now. Spidla mentioned that the EU will fund continuously contributions on research and development work with Design for All approach.

Alun Michael (British minister of Trade and Industry) explained that it is important that manufactures and service providers design their products by respecting needs of all potential users and take consideration diversity of users and consumers – this concern business, government and civil society. It is seen clearly that national HOH organisations should be awareness and get involved on design process of environment/products/services from the start point, not later when design process has already started.

TV-subtitle issue rose up on Conference; the British MEP and President of Disability group of European Parliament (EP) Richard Hewitt explained that according to e-Accessibility document the Commission urges that European Parliament follows up “Television without frontiers” –directive, which will be reviewed next year. Hewitt wanted to stress that TV-subtitle will come to into a new light on Disability group of the EP. It is very necessary that EFHOH and other HOH national organisations inform MEPs of the EP on their own countries.

European Design for All e-Accessibility (EDeAN) network presented their own work. The network has a role as being critical thinking on type of information society and raise up examples how avoid this kind of mistake and creating information society for all on political level and giving practical tools on bottom level.

The Finnish DFA-network is the largest network in the EU, including 33 different organisations including research centres, universities, polytechnics, ICT-organisations, disability organisations and so on. In 2006 Finland will run as coordinator of the European network and international Design for All –conference will be held 14th-15th September 2006 in Rovaniemi, in the University of Lapland. Theme is DFA-talks and is connected to social inclusion which is standing on i2010 –strategy paper. Social inclusion concern strongly HOH persons how to make citizen society with ICT-tools

Finnish EU Presidency will start 1.7.2006 and lasting at the end of year 2006. In that time there are many top meetings; including next following similar e-Accessibility conference will be held in Finland, 28th-29th September 2006 in Helsinki.

Accessible conversation will going on forward because it is advance of all EU-citizens.

Sami Virtanen
Planning officer
The Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing



eAccessibility Conference, London. From the left: Giacomo Pirelli, [Winston Churchill], Marcel Bobeldijk

World Flight for Hearing project is taking off in March 2006!

Follow up this Swedish project:
<http://www.worldflightforhearing.com/>

Articles needed for the next EFHOH newsletter

You can send articles to the editor Ulla Konkarikoski:
puppana@gmail.com

Due this is a newsletter with several short stories, the article should not exceed one page.

Deadline for the next newsletter is at the end of February, if you need more time, contact Ulla and negotiate individual deadline.

Let's make a good newsletter together!

International holiday's meeting for hard of hearing and late deafened in Wehlen / Germany

Dear friends in Europe,
as already during the last years in England, Austria, Finland,
Switzerland and Slovenia, we also want to invite to the
international holiday's meeting for hard of hearing and late
deafened to Germany in nice "Saxon Switzerland" on the Elbe.

Place: the meeting takes place in town Wehlen on the shore of the
Elbe, approx. 25 km from the Saxon capital Dresden.

Appointment: Thursday 03.08. till Sunday 13.08.2006 (10 days)

Lodging: Hotel Wehlener Hof and at towards recumbent Strand
Hotel. (please look www.strandhotel-wehlen.de)

Charges (without the excursions):

- 10 overnight accommodations with breakfast sideboard
- 10 x three-course dinner
- 1x packed lunch for a big wandering,
- 1x using of bicycles
- and guest's card with a lot of privileges

Every room has modern furnishings with a shower, WC, TV and
phone, and the price is 448 € per person in the double room in the
Wehlener Hof OR 498 € per person in the single room in the Stand
Hotel.

Possible holiday's offers:

- 2-3 controlled wanderings in the national park Saxon
Switzerland
- bicycle tour along the Elbe River
- town guidance in Dresden and Meissen (porcelain
manufacture)
- steam navigation on the Elbe
- one day bus journey to Prague
- further offers: www.saechsische-schweiz.de

Registration:

Rooms have been ordered for approx. 50 persons. Deadline for
applications is 31st December, 2005. At the same moment is with
the registration a deposit of 150 EUR to pay under the following
bank connection:

Receiver's name: Strand Hotel

Account No.: 3 000 038 034, IBAN: DE75 8505 0300 3000 0380 34

Name of the Bank: Ostsächsische Sparkasse, BIC-Code: OSD DD
E81

Remarks: International meeting of hard of hearing 2006

Contact: Registration and correspondence, please, to
(in German) Dirk Bracher, Dürerstr. 83a, D-47447 Moers, Germany
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Heartly welcome in "Saxon Switzerland"!

IFHOHYP Study Session 23rd -30th April 2006 in Strasbourg

IFHOHYP Study session will be devoted to "Safeguarding human
rights of hard of hearing youth: how to cope with discrimination
and violence in education and employment".

Study session is NOT a boring conference where you only sit and
listen! It is an interactive training with active participation and
good dynamics.

When: 23-30 April 2006

How long: one week, from Sunday (arrival) to Saturday
evening/next Sunday (departure)

Where: European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe,
Strasbourg, France.

For Whom: mainly for hard of hearing young people active in
youth and hearing organisations, aged 18-30. Note that some
participants can be older than 30, but 75 % must be aged 18-30.

How many participants: 35, from member states of the Council of
Europe

Language: English. It is necessary to have the intermediate level
of English (higher than very basic)

Technical details: Your travel costs to and from Strasbourg will be
returned you back by IFHOHYP from the Council of Europe grant.
Accommodation, lodging and meals are free of charge in the
European Youth Centre. You will be asked to pay a participation
fee to the Council of Europe: 45 Euros.

Special equipment: text-to-screen/palantype service will be
provided! It allows you to follow EVERYTHING said in plenary.

How to apply? In winter IFHOHYP will send you full information +
application form. Participants will be selected on a competition
basis and according with criteria in the information. Please note
that priority in selection goes to IFHOHYP member organisations!

Methods: Training workshops, discussions, debates, work in small
groups, brainstorming, theatre, 'role games' and simulation
exercises, non-formal education, study visits to the Council of
Europe or other institutions, inputs by guest speakers from the
European Disability Forum/Council of Europe/other institutions,
and other exciting stuff!

...And also one free day for Strasbourg sightseeing, dinner with
Alsacian food in restaurant, intercultural evenings, parties and lots
of international communication!

If you have any questions or would like to send young HOH people
from your organisation, please write to Karina Chupina at
travelmind21@yahoo.com.

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year 2006
to all EFHOH newsletter readers!**

EUROPEAN COMPARISON OF SUBTITLING:

Dear all, this is the EFHOH comparison about subtitling in the different European countries. When the information about your country is not correct please inform me what the correct amounts etc are. We like to have the up to date information about 2005 and the next years. When you miss your country on this list please send also information about your country to me. My email address is marbob32@hotmail.com - thanks for your support.

In the next EFHOH newsletter we will publish also this comparison of Subtitling in Europe with up to date information. I think it will be nice to follow the growing of the % amount in the European countries.

The aims: The European subtitling campaign has two strands to it:

- increased levels of subtitling and sign language on television throughout Europe through the current review of the Television Without Frontiers directive (TVWF);
- introduction of technical standards and/or guidelines/codes of practice for TV equipment to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing people have easy, comprehensive access to subtitling and sign language services.

For whom subtitling on television programs? For the 81 million deaf and hard of hearing people. It is important to remember that many hearing people will also benefit subtitling. People learning a second language, children and adults with learning disabilities and children starting to read. For elderly people and for many more.

So that EUD, EFHOH, FEPEDA, RNID and other national members have one goal and that is 100% in a Europe for ALL.

The main events in 2005 were board members are present:

April 2005: EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2005 in the Netherlands the Hague.

October 2005: UK Presidency conference about e-Accessibility with RNID and partners;

October 2005: Workshop Voice project, Screen Translation at the University of Bologna/Forli Italy.

| COUNTRY | Subtitling at this moment | 100% in Year? |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Austria | 2005: ORF: 160 hours in one month. | ? |
| Belgium | 2005: Flanders: 2003 2004 2005 2006 VRT = 35% 40% 45% 50% Commercial channel: VTM = 1 program VT4 = 0% KA2 = 0% Some regional Channels have subtitling as WTV and AVS. | No legal provisions 2010 |
| Bulgaria | 2005: No subtitling only one the national tv gives summaries on the news program at 19.30 | No legal provisions ? |
| Croatia | 2005: Public tv HRT 1 two time a month 40 min. program about disabled people with subtlting. Public tv HRT 1 start in the end of 2005 with subtitling of the news program. | No legal provisions ? |
| Czech Republic | 2005: Public Czech television, channel 1 and 2= subtitling + sign language for hearing handicapped: 72% of the programme. Private NOVA TV: 15% Private Prima TV: 15% | Two legal bases ? |
| Cyprus | 2005: Only the ten-minute evening news bulletin on the Second Channel in the Greek language for deaf and hearing-impaired viewers with Greek subtitling. | No legal provision exist on the use of subtitling. ? |

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|----------------|---|--|
| Denmark | <p>2003 2004 2005 DR1 = 1930 1912 hours Commercial channel DR2 = 1223 1245 The total hours of subtitling of Danish spoken tv programs are 6459 hours this give a % of 49%</p> | <p>No legal provision ? ? ?</p> |
| Estonia | <p>2005: %? But lot of programs are subtitled special children programs and part of documentaries.</p> | <p>No legal provision ?</p> |
| Finland | <p>2005 YLE 1 = 20% YLE 2 = 20% MTV 3 = 0% Nelonen = 0 % SEBTV = 0%</p> | <p>Special duty to take into account the special needs of people with disabilities. ? ? ? ?</p> |
| France | <p>2003 2004 France 2 23% 30% France 3 14% 18% France 5 8% 10% TF1 21% 28% M6 7% 9% Canal + 3,5% 4,5% TOTAL 8.700 h 11.700 h</p> | <p>A new law in France 100% subtitling in 2010.</p> |
| Germany | <p>2005 ARD = 16% ZDF = 18% BR = 8% WDR = 7% MDR = 6% 3sat = 6% NDR = 6% SWR BW 5% RBB = 3% BR-alpha 3% Phoenix 2% Kabel 1 2% Pro 7 = 1% All the other German tv Channels 0%</p> | <p>No legal provision ? ?</p> |
| Hungary | <p>2005: Public channel less than 1% MTV: on every days the daily news 19.30-20.00 and on Saturday evening a film in prime time. M2 = Duna TV: sometimes a program by digital text (subtitling). Commercial channel: RTL, Klub, TV2 and others: sometimes a program by digital text subtitling. Broadcasting via cable network: HIR TV (news television): running news flow. BBC prime time 40% (rough estimate).</p> | <p>No legal provision ?</p> |
| Ireland | <p>2004 2005 2006 2007 RTE 60% 70% 80% 90% TV3 60% 70% 80% 90% TG4 60% 70% 80% 90% Since 2004 80% at peak time</p> | <p>There is a media law with special needs 100% would not be a final target this leaves scopes for news flashes etc.</p> |

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|------------------------|--|--|
| Israel | 2005: 40% of the recorded programs | Gradually the law will force the tv channels have 100% in 2014. |
| Italy | 2005: The national public t.v. channels have an average time of subtitle programs about 2 hours 15 min./day. Some commercial channels has subtitle program about 2 hours 30 min./day. | No legal provision ? |
| Latvia | 2005: Lot of films on television in Latvian language have Russian subtitling. Some films are in Russian with subtitles in Latvian. In the cinema are the most films in English with two languages subtitles Latvian and Russian. | No legal provision only special paragraph about Russian language ? |
| Lithuania | 2005: 1 Public channel 3 Commercial channels but 0% subtitling. Maybe after 2-3 years some channels introduce teletext. At this moment sign language for the two news programmes every day and four other programmes every week. | No legal provision ? |
| Netherlands | 2004 2005 2006 Public Channels: Netherlands 1 = 62,5% 70% 75% Netherlands 2 = 62,5% 70% 75% Netherlands 3 = 62,5% 70% 75% Commercial Channels Talpa = 90% RTL 4 = 2% RTL 5 = 0% SBS6 = 0,5% Net 5 = 0% Yorin = 0% Veronica = 0% | Special law comes in 2006 Before 2010 for the public channels 100% subtitling and for the commercial channels in 2010 100%. |
| Norway | 2005: NRK 1 = 21% NRK 2 = 14% Commercial Channels no such demands Channel TV 2 0% | No legal provision 50% in the end of 2005 100% +/- 2010 |
| Poland | 2005: +/- 30 hours each month | No legal provision ? |
| Portugal | 2005: SIC and TV1: minimum of 2&1/2 h per week of news programmes SIC and TV1: fiction/documentaries min. 5 hours a week Included transcription of sound effects. | A new television law and new framework for public service broadcasting. ? |
| San Marino | 2005: San Marino news program: 100% | |
| Slovak Republic | 2005 Public channel 1 = 25% TV Markiza = 10% | ? |
| Slovenia | 2005: Slovenia 1 = 37% 24 hours Slovenia 1 = 55% 6 pm to 11 pm Slovenia 2 = 25% Slovenia 2 = 34% 6 pm to 11 pm | Since 25-04-2001 Slovenia has a Media law with special part for blind and deaf. ? |

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|------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Spain</p> | <p>2005: Public Channels (state) TV1-TV2 3.300 hours Regional Channels: TeleMadrid; 1.369 hours Television Cataluna (TV3): 4.721 hours Canal Sur Andalucia: 1.324 hours Canal 9: 1210 hours Television Valenciana (Canal 9): 1.185 hours Euskal Televista: 405 hours Commercial Channels: Telecinco: 2.347 hours Antena 3: 2.691 hours Digital Channels: Cartoon Network y Disney Channels: 40%</p> | <p>No legal provision ?</p> |
| <p>Sweden</p> | <p>Public Channels SVT 1 and SVT2 = 50% Commercial Channels TV3 = 0% TV4 = 2% Channel 5 = 100% (but there are only a few Swedish produced programs in this channel)</p> | <p>No legal provision ? ? ?</p> |
| <p>Switzerland</p> | <p>2005: All together = 7500 hours</p> | <p>Since 2005 media law with special needs about subtitling ?</p> |
| <p>United Kingdom</p> | <p>2005: BBC one: 89% BBC two: 90% BBC three: 69% BBC four: 69% CBBC: 66% CBeebies: 81% BBC News 24: 81% ITV1 = 96% Channel 4 = 86% Channel 5 = 68% S4c = 65% Cable and satellite channels = Channels without exemptions must subtitle 60%, 5 years after 2003 Communications Act (or for future new channels when they start broadcasting) and 80% after 10 years.</p> | <p>There is legal provision 2008 2010 2010 2008</p> |