



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Annual Report

2008

The mission of EFHOH

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People exists to represent hard of hearing people at European level in dialogue with the European Union, the members of the European Parliament, and other European authorities.

Our aim is a Europe where hard of hearing people can live without barriers and have the opportunity to participate on all levels in society. EFHOH will realize this vision through our actions, contacts and campaigns, involving the EFHOH members and our partners.

Members, the board and office

Members

EFHOH consists of 26 general members, 5 associate members, and 9 sponsors as supporting members. During 2008 EFHOH got two new sponsor member:

- AnnieS, a Dutch based company developing technology and services for the hard of hearing and deaf people.
- ISOC, Internet Society Disability project Coordinator; a worldwide non-profit organization founded in 1992. With head office in the USA, ISOC currently have European branches in Geneva, Switzerland and in the Netherlands.

In addition to the members, EFHOH has several contact persons from countries where a hard of hearing organization has not yet be established.

The board

The following persons were members of the board in the year 2008:

President: Marcel Bobeldijk, the Netherlands (elected 2007).

Vice-president: Siegfried Karg, Switzerland (elected 2008).

General Secretary: Jan Lamby, Sweden (elected 2007).

Treasurer: Ritva-Liisa Schädling, Germany (elected 2007)

Member: Knut Magne Ellingsen, Norway (elected 2008)

The Board had two meetings during 2008:

1st time: 28th March in Dublin, Ireland

2nd time: 8th November, Houten, The Netherlands

Office

The "office" of EFHOH has been run by a part-time employee at the Swedish organization HRF, Mrs Lilian Ebadi-Lindqvist. She has been taking care of traditional post, e-mail box and archive. Our mailing lists and the distribution of all EFHOH documents also belongs to her duty. On 4th October Lilian and Marcel had a small meeting at the HRF office.

The work done by mrs Lindqvist is shared with IFHOH, on the same basis.

The cost for this work is currently covered by a donation from the Swiss member Pro Audito Winterthur.

Contact information, see Annex 2.

Note to the reader:

The headings and subheadings of the following three parts refers to the corresponding headings in the "Action Plan 2008-2009"

Accessibility

- **subtitling**
 During the year we continued our surveillance on this topic.
 A substantial step forward was a Written Declaration on the subtitling of all public service television programs in the European Union launched by Polish MEP Ms Lidia Joana Geringer de Oedenberg. In the European Parliament 393 members signed this declaration.
- **public transport**
 As a result of a contact at the 2007 EDDP in Brussels, we were able to provide the IRU, International Transport Union, with our guidelines for accessibility to hard of hearing in taxi, coach and bus.
 In the EFHOH general guidelines "An inclusive society", we have added a separate part about Public transport.
 A revised version of these guidelines will be presented in the beginning of 2009.
- **telecommunications**
 In February, the EDF organised a meeting where EFHOH was represented by Guido Gybels. At the meeting a letter was prepared about the position on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between user organisation and the telecommunications industry on accessibility of digital television.
 Later EDF participated at an INCOM meeting dealing with a draft called EICTA Memorandum of Understanding on Accessible Digital TV.
 EFHOH provided comments on the EDF position paper about eAccessibility
- **built environment**
 In March EFHOH Secretary Jan Lamby commented the new version of the proposed standardisation document ISO/TC 59/SC Building construction – Accessibility and Usability of the built environment.

Organisations and partnerships

- **encouraging new federations**
 Some contacts was established during the year in 2008, but no new members.
- **partnerships**
Euro-CIU
 Marcel participated at the Euro-CIU Annual General Meeting in Luxembourg. Euro-CIU is the European federation for organisations of CI-users. Apart from traditional AGM issues, there was one point where the members reported about activities and news from their respective country. They have an impressive website in four languages and strong financial situation. See www.eurociui.org

EDF

The European Disability Forum held their Annual General Assembly in May in Ljubljana, Slovenia. EFHOH was represented by President Marcel Bobeldijk. Important topics were an EDF strategy for Gender Equality; adoption of the Work Program for 2009.

As a part of an amendment of EDF Internal Rules, two new committees was created: The Committee of Women and Girls; and the Youth Committee. The former committee of Universal Access was disbanded. In both new committees EFHOH was able to nominate and get two candidates elected: In the Committee of Women and Girls Anna Klemettilä, Finland; in the Youth Committee Karina Chupina, President of IFHOHYP, International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People. Marcel was also during 2008 a member of the EDF intern auditor committee

On Dec 1 – 2 the European Commission organised the yearly policy conference to mark the European Day of People with Disabilities, EDDP, in close cooperation with the European Disability Forum (EDF).

The 2008 conference had a theme called: "Acting locally for a society for all". EFHOH was represented by Secretary Jan Lamby and a more detailed report from the conference will be found in the January 2009 Newsletter.

More information about the EDF on the website: www.edf-feph.org

EUD

In May and in November Marcel Bobeldijk met with Mark Wheatley, Director at the European Union of Deaf, EUD. Good contact was made and they agreed the organisations would put a link to each other on their websites.

Facilities and Services

- **Support better quality of induction loops and other assistive listening systems**
During the autumn the planning started for the international conference on hearing loops to be held in 2009.
Responsible in the board is the Vice President Siegfried Karg.
- **Participation within EU Standardisation of Hearing aid Specialist service**
During the whole year Marcel participated in several meetings and commented this proposed standard. Useful comments on draft versions have also been provided by member organizations. The standardization work will be finished during 2009.

In March Marcel became a official new ANEC representative for services and design in all working groups such as being the ANEC representative to CEN TC 380 Project Committee on Services of Hearing Aid Professionals (previously CEN BT TF 200).

EFHOH General Meeting - AGM - Conference

The EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2008 was held on the 28th March in Dublin, Ireland. There, 17 Delegates from 14 General members together with 21 observers joined at the European Foundation in Dublin City. The assembly hall provided excellent conditions for the meeting, where every delegate had his/hers own microphone. Speech to text support was given on a large screen.

The AGM started with traditional reports, and then proceeded to the elections. The Vice President and a board member was to be elected. The Vice President Sigfried Karg, had agreed to be re-elected. For the position as board member there were two candidates: Knut Magne Ellingsen, Norway, and Anna Klemettilä, Finland.

Balloting results:

Vice President

Siegfried Karg, 33 votes, elected,

Board member

Knut Magne Ellingsen, 27 votes, elected.

Anna Klemettilä 6 votes.

In the nominating committee the Chairman Kees Twilt, the Netherlands, and Peter Derbyshire, Ireland, was re-elected.

Mrs. Petra Feinkohl was again appointed to the office of auditor.

Financial report

This report gives an overview of the financial situation of the year 2008. Due to high costs, mostly for the world congress, EFHOH made a negative financial result.

Incomes in year 2008 were **EUR 10.053,31**; the amount of membership fee from our members was EUR 6.900,00.

The amount of all our expenses was total **EUR 10.569,37**.

The largest parts were: IFHOH Congress in Vancouver/Canada in July 2008, EUR 4.058,05; EFHOH AGM in Dublin in March 2008, EUR 1.852,26; and EFHOH Board meeting in Houten/The Netherlands in November 2008, EUR 1.594,04.

The loss for the year 2008 was **EUR 516,06**.

Action Plan 2008-2009 and Budget plan

The action plan for the following two years and the budget plan were accepted unanimously.

Conference

On the second day the Irish hosts had put together a wide scope of presentations. It showed among many things, that Ireland in the area of equality legislation is in the front line. Several presentations showed good practice of rehabilitation programs. From France came Paul Zylberberg who presented a questionnaire the French organization BUCODES had carried out last year. It showed how different the situation for hard of hearing persons are around the world: What do you have to pay for a hearing aid; how many hearing aids are sold etc.

In addition we got presentations from the two new sponsor members: AnnieS, presented by Raymond Kruyer, the Netherlands; ISOC, presented by Arnould van Wijk, the Netherlands. The new members are added to the list on the EFHOH website with links.

IFHOH – IFHOHYP

The EFHOH is a part of the **International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, IFHOH**. This is our “mother” organization, and there is close co-operation between the EFHOH and the IFHOH.

Generally speaking, EFHOH’s work is concerned with European issues, most of them closely connected to the EU; while the work of IFHOH is equally close connected to the United Nations and the International Disability Alliance, IDA, where IFHOH is a member. The president of EFHOH (Marcel Bobeldijk) is a board member of IFHOH. EFHOH board members had given some presentations and participated in different workshops.

This year’s highlight was the 8th IFHOH World Congress in Vancouver, Canada. Over 570 delegates from all over the world met during the first week of July. Many Europeans attended, including the whole board of EFHOH. We presented ourselves on a table in the exhibition.

The congress started with the IFHOH Biennial General Meeting, where the the existing board was re-elected.

The congress itself comprised of three days with plenary sessions and workshops, with lots of opportunities to make contacts. In conjunction with the congress premises there was also a traditional exhibition.

More information about the work of IFHOH at the website: www.ifhoh.org

IFHOHYP, the federation of the hard of hearing young people, held their AGM, on March 23rd in Spain. EFHOH was not represented at this year’s meeting. More information about IFHOHYP at the website www.ifhohyp.org

EFHOH Media and information

Newsletter

After the summer EFHOH eventually was able to get a new Editor for the Newsletter. Mr Niels-Henrik M. Hansen, Denmark started his work with the September issue. He introduced a new layout which was well appreciated. Four Newsletters were issued during the year.

At the release date, every member and contact-person etc. gets an e-mail link direct to the website. During 2008 there were over 160 receivers on the lists.

Information and PR

EFHOH has issued a flyer/brochure, which is available from Ritva-Liisa Schädling.

EFHOHs' website, www.efhoh.org, is now well established as a news channel. All relevant documents can now be downloaded from the website such as: the Annual Report; Statement on the UN Convention; "An Inclusive Society" – EFHOH Guidelines on Accessibility etc.

Facebook:

In the autumn of 2008 EFHOH started a EFHOH friends group at the Facebook site, and in a short time 48 people became member of this group.

Final words

Finally, the board members want to thank everyone; individual persons, members, member organizations, co-operating organizations and, last but not least, the sponsors who in different ways have given support to EFHOH in the work to make a better life for hard of hearing people.

February 2009 The EFHOH Board:

Marcel Bobeldijk

Siegfried Karg

Jan Lamby

Ritva-Liisa Schädling

Knut Magne Ellingsen

Annexes

Annex I

GENERAL MEMBERS

Austria	Österreichischer Schwerhörigenbund
Belgium	Vereniging vor Hardhorenden "Onder Ons"
Croatia	Hrvatski Savez Gluhih I Nagluhah
Czech Republic	Svaz Neslysiich a Nedoslychavyh v CR
Denmark	Höreforeningen
Estonia	Eesti Vaegkuuljate Uhing
Finland	Kuuloliitto r.y.; Svenska Hörselförbundet rf
France	Bureau de Coordination des Associations de Devenus-Sourds et Malentendants
Germany	Deutscher Schwerhörigen Bund e.V. Bundesgemeinschaft der Eltern und Freunde hörgeschädigter Kinder
Hungary	Siketek es Nagyothallok Orszagos Szevetsege
Ireland	Irish Hard of Hearing Association
Latvia	Latvijas Nedzirdigo Savieniba
Netherlands	Nederlandse Vereniging voor Slechthorenden. Federatie van Ouders van Slechthorende en Spraakgebrekkige Kinderen
Norway	Hørselhemmedes Landsförbund
Slovakia	Slovensky Zväz Sluchovo Postihnutých
Slovenia	Zvesa Gluhih in Naglusnih Slovenija
Sweden	Hörselskadades Riksförbund
Switzerland	Pro Audito Schweiz
Turkey	Türkye Isitme ve Konusma Rehabilitasyon Vakfi
Ukraine	Ukraine Society for the Deaf
United Kingdom	Hearing Concern (The British Association of the Hard of Hearing) The Royal National Institute for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People National Association of Deafened People

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Germany	Internationaler Verband für Schwerhörigen-Seelsorge e.V. Deutsche Tinnitus-Liga e.V.
Italy	AUDIES ASSOCIAZIONE Famiglie Italiene Associate per la Defisa dei Dittiti degli Audiolesi
Switzerland	FoRom écoute La Fondation Romande des Malentendants

SPONSORING MEMBERS

AnnieS	the Netherlands
Bernafon AG	Switzerland
GN Resound	Denmark
Oticon A/S	Denmark
Phonak AG	Switzerland
Pro Audito Winterthur	Switzerland
ISOC	Switzerland/the Netherlands
Siemens Audiologische Technik GmbH	Germany
Widex A.P.S.	Denmark

Annex 2

EFHOH and its relationships

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing – EFHOH - was created as a legal entity and independent organization on the 31 March 2001 in Budapest, Hungary.

EFHOH is a benevolent federation of the European national organizations of hard of hearing people. The organization was registered in the Register of Commerce of Utrecht, the Netherlands, on the 18 November 2001. EFHOH is the only European organization that represents all the 81.5 million hard of hearing adults (one in seven Europeans) in Europe (member and non-member states of the European Union). Its mission is to promote accessible communication, accessibility to travel and environment and to raise awareness of the problems of hard of hearing people in society.

EFHOH has full membership as a European Non-Governmental organization in the European Disability Forum – EDF with the right to representation in the Annual General Assembly.

Contact information

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