



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Annual Report

2009

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 the year 2009 EFHOH got no new members. 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 2009:

President: Marcel Bobeldijk, the Netherlands (elected 2009).

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

General Secretary: Jan Lamby, Sweden (elected 2009).

Treasurer: Ritva-Liisa Schäding, Germany (elected 2009)

Member: Knut Magne Ellingsen, Norway (elected 2008)

The Board had two meetings during 2009:

1st time: 23rd April in London, UK

2nd time: 16th October in Bergen, Norway

Office

The "office" of EFHOH has been run by a part-time employee at the Swedish organization HRF, Ms 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. Lilian Ebadi-Lindqvist participated in the board meeting in Bergen.

The work done by Lilian Ebadi-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.

In October Marcel Bobeldijk together with Sami Virtanen from Finland, participated in the 3rd International Congress Media for all in Antwerp, Belgium.

- **public transport**

EFHOH has in cooperation with EDF followed the implementation of the the EU regulation on the Rights of passengers travelling by air and the corresponding regulation on their Rights of Railway Passengers.

- **built environment**

The EDF announced they would start a new e-mail expert group on accessibility in the Built Environment. EFHOH Secretary Jan Lamby was nominated to be a member of that committee, expected to start work in the beginning of 2010.

Organisations and partnerships

- **encouraging new federations**

Some contacts was established during the year in 2009, and the Czech Organisation of Deaf intends to become a member during 2010.

- **partnerships and co-operation with other hard of hearing or deaf organisations**

Marcel Bobeldijk met twice during the year with Euro-CIU, EUD and FEPEDA. The main points from these discussions were to have more contact between the four organisations; to make a link on the websites to each other. All four together meet Members of the European Parliament, example Adam Kosa from Hungary (deaf MEP).

It was also notified that the four organisations have access to a meeting room in Brussels, free of charge, at the EUD office.

EDF

The European Disability Forum held their Annual General Assembly in May in Athens, Greece. EFHOH was represented by Board member Knut Magne Ellingsen. He was also nominated to become a board member of EDF. To our disappointment he was not elected, but became a member of the Membership and Credentials Committee.

The circumstances and general conditions during the meeting was very unsatisfactory from the EFHOH point of view. The board therefore wrote a letter to the board of EDF proposing changes of the procedures at the meeting. As a part of this follow-up, Marcel Bobeldijk met with EDF Director Carla Berzotti.

In the EDF Committee of Women and Girls, EFHOH has Anna Klemettilä-Sorri, Finland is a member. The most important events during 2009: The High- Level European Conference on Women and Disabilities: Access to training and Employment took place on February 12-13, in Leon, Spain. EDF, represented by the chairwoman and a member of its Women's Committee (Ana Peláez and Kicki Nordström), had the opportunity to take the floor and present its point of view both in the session on education and training and the session on employment. The representatives also presented and distributed the book; "*Recognising the Rights of Girls and Women with Disabilities: An Added Value for Tomorrow's Society*" to all participants.

The Committee also participated in the training of EDF Board on gender equality 13th of February.

ECOTEC Research & Consulting was undertaking a study for the European Commission (DG Employment) on the Situation of women with disabilities in Europe in light of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Other committee members gave their comments, and Ana Peláez and Gunta Anca were participating Briefing for expert committee meeting in Brussels on 23 April 2009.

The Youth Committee works in a similar way and here Karina Chupina, President of IFHOHYP, International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People is a member. The Youth Committee performed a survey in 2009, whose aim was to enquire about participation of young people in the disability movement, and especially in EDF and its member organisations. The questionnaire targets young persons with disabilities aged between 15 and 35, involved or not in DPOs.

The Youth Committee was also involved the ExchangAbility project in co-operation with the Erasmus Student Network (ESN). Its main aim is to make ESN an association accessible for disabled students on all the levels of its activities. The long term vision is to increase of the number of exchange disabled students. The third important issue is preparing an EDF position paper on the Future EU Youth Strategy.

EDPD in Brussels

On Dec 3 – 4 the European Commission organised the yearly policy conference to mark the European Day of People with Disabilities, EDPD, in close cooperation with the European Disability Forum (EDF).

The 2009 conference had the theme "Creating Conditions for Independent Living". EFHOH was represented by Secretary Jan Lamby. The highlight of the conference from the hard of hearing point of view, was the presentation by Karina Chupina, the President of IFHOHYP. She became the first hard of hearing person to be invited to speak at this conference. Her presentation was called "The limits of choice – constraints choosing the right device".

A more detailed report from the conference is found in the March

2010 Newsletter. On the website <http://ec.europa.eu/social> all presentations from the conference can be found.

Marcel Bobeldijk was for the last year a member of the Internal Auditor Committee of EDF.

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

Facilities and Services

- **Support better quality of induction loops and other assistive listening systems**

In late September in Winterthur, Switzerland the "Hearing Loops International Conference" was held. The practical work was done by a organizing committee within the Pro Audito, the Swiss member of EFHOH. Chair of the organizing committee was EFHOH Vice President Siegfried Karg. The conference turned out to be very successful, and a resolution was adopted. This resolution is aimed to increase the use of induction loops; to encourage the manufacturers of hearing aids to have them equipped with telecoils; to promote the benefits of induction loops or other assistive listening devices. The resolution and all presentations can be found on the conference website www.hearingloops.org

- **Participation within EU Standardisation of Hearing aid Specialist service**

A final version of this document was ready in November. In 2010 this standardization work will be adopted by the EU members. Marcel Bobeldijk participated in the meetings.

EFHOH General Meeting - AGM - Conference

The EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2009 was held on April 24th in London, UK. 13 Delegates representing 11 General members together with 19 observers joined at the Princess Diana Memorial Fund Conference.

The AGM started with the traditional Annual and Financial Reports; the Auditors Report was also approved. Then the meeting proceeded to the elections: The President, the Treasurer and the General Secretary member was to be elected. All three had agreed to be re-elected. As there were no other candidates, all three were re-elected unanimously.

In the nominating committee the Chairman Kees Twilt, the Netherlands, was re-elected; new member became Freda Keenan, Ireland. Petra Feinkohl was again appointed to the office of auditor.

Action Plan 2009-2010 and Budget plan

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

Conference

On the second day the RNID, Royal National Institute for Deaf, hosted a conference called "Communication in the Information Age". The conference had three sessions: 1/Silence and Technology; 2/Breaking the Sound Barrier 3/Citizenship and Inclusion. All three sessions dealt in various ways with the improvements of the communication technology like modern mobile phones; other kinds of assistive technology like captioning and induction loops in the underground.

In the conference venue several exhibitors displayed products in the field of assistive technology, telecommunications etc.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2009

This report gives an overview of the financial situation of the year 2009. The year's result was positive.

Incomes in year 2009 were **EUR 10.864,42**

The amount of membership fee from our members was EUR 8.915,00.

The amount of all our expenses was total **EUR 10.447,88**.

The largest parts of costs were: EFHOH AGM in London in April 2009 for EUR 2.904,76; EFHOH Board meetings in London for EUR 447,40 and in Bergen in October 2009 for EUR 3.285,22.

The surplus for the year 2009 was **EUR 416,54**.

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.

Important work of IFHOH during 2009 included the CRPD Committee of IDA, where they dealt with the implementation of the CRPD, UN Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities. It is also worth mentioning that the IFHOH President Jan-Peter Strömngren held the position as President of the IDA for the second half of 2009.

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 April 12 in Malmö, Sweden. EFHOH was represented by Secretary Jan Lamby. The election results meant that the board for the first time got a member from Africa, James Aniyamuzaala.

More information about IFHOHYP at the website www.ifhohyp.org

EFHOH Media and information

Newsletter

The work with the Newsletter was carried out smoothly by the Editor Niels-Henrik M. Hansen, Denmark; partly in co-operation with President Marcel Bobeldijk. Four issues were released, following the plan for 2009.

At the release date, every member and contact-person etc. gets an e-mail link direct to the website. During 2009 there were over 160 receivers on the lists.

Information and PR

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

The board looked for a webmaster during the year, but as no suitable candidate showed up for the volunteer work, the responsibility was continuously shared between the Secretary and the Vice President.

The site was expanded with links to other hearing or deaf organisations, like the EUD, Euro-CIU etc.

Facebook:

There is since 2008 an EFHOH friends group at the Facebook site, and by the end of 2009, 86 persons were members 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.

April 2010 The EFHOH Board:

Marcel Bobeldijk

Siegfried Karg

Jan Lamby

Ritva-Liisa Schädling

Knut Magne Ellingsen

Annexes

Annex 1

GENERAL MEMBERS

as per 31 december 2009

Austria	Österreichischer Schwerhörigenbund
Belgium	Vereniging vor Hardhorenden "Onder Ons"
Croatia	Hrvatski Savez Gluhih I Nagluhah
Czech Republic	Svaz Neslylichic 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
Netherlands	Nederlandse Vereniging voor Slechthorenden. Federatie van Ouders van Slechthorende en Spraakgebrekkige Kinderen
Norway	Hörselhemmedes Landsförbund
Slovakia	Slovensky Zväz Sluchovo Postihnutých
Slovenia	Zveza Drustev Gluhih in Naglusnih Slovenije
Sweden	Hörselskadades Riksförbund
Switzerland	Pro Audito Schweiz
Turkey	Türkiye 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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