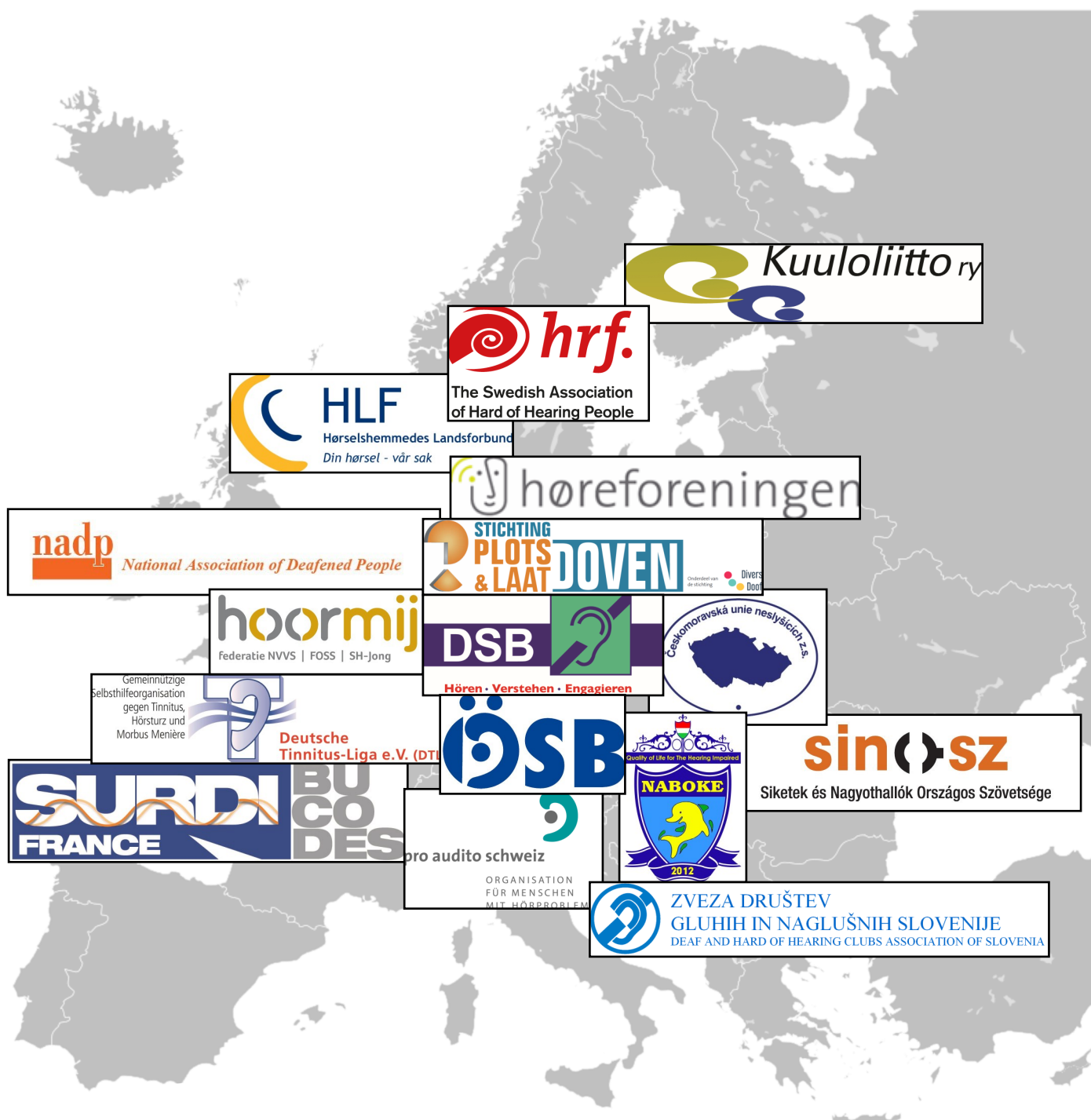


IMPACT REPORT

European Federation of Hard of Hearing



2017

Introduction



Our mission

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People represents 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 the levels in society. EFHOH will realize this vision through our actions, contacts and campaigns, involving the EFHOH members and our partners.

EFHOH has close connections to the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH).

The impact of our activities

This report gives an overview of what we have achieved during 2017.

Some examples are very concrete others are more in the field of creating awareness and the process of spreading knowledge.

February 2017,

Marcel Bobeldijk, president

- ◆ **Over 52 million Hard of Hearing within the European Union**
- ◆ **Over 80 million Hard of Hearing People in Europe**



New Website Launched

The newly redesigned EFHOH website was launched in December. The new design and improved navigation will help users to find information more quickly and easily. There is also a new *For Members* page which offers additional useful information. EFHOH provides regular updates on the website about its work and continues to raise awareness of hearing related issues.



World Hearing Day 2017

Lunch Debate in the European Parliament



World Hearing Day is an annual advocacy event celebrated on 3rd of March and organized by the World Health Organization (WHO)

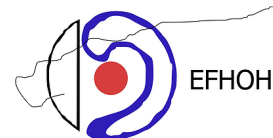
since 2013. The day aims to raise awareness and promote ear and hearing care across the world.

As part of World Hearing Day 2017, the triangle of AEA – EHIMA – EFHOH jointly organized the European Parliament Lunch Debate in Brussels. This event was especially aimed at MEPs and national decision makers in Europe. The theme of World Hearing Day 2017 was “Action for Hearing Loss- Make a Sound Investment” and the event was hosted by MEPs **Helga Stevens** and **Roberta Metsola**.

- Most young people do not understand the importance of adequate hearing protection.
- Unaddressed hearing loss has a significant cost worldwide - in Europe up to 178 billion euros.
- By effective screening, hearing loss could be detected in time.
- One euro invested in hearing care saves ten euros due to the consequences arising from communication problems in daily life.



The AEA-EFHOH-EHIMA Lunch Debate in the European Parliament was concluded by MEP Roberta Metsola, who called for more action to highlight the hearing disability issue. Metsola stressed that Europe should be at the forefront in addressing the challenge of hearing loss, especially the development of adult screening.



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People



IMPACT

Increasing awareness regarding the cost benefit of investing in hearing care in the EU. Our members were able to observe first-hand EFHOH's lobbying efforts. We have also unveiled first ever Joint Policy Paper EFHOH/AEA/EHIMA.

EFHOH Annual General Meeting and Conference



The 2017 Annual General Meeting and Conference was held in May in London. The theme of the conference was “Staying Connected, Informed and Empowered” and featured multiple speakers with the keynote speaker being Dr **Laszlo Lovaszy** of the UN CRPD committee. This event was organized by EFHOH member NADP (The National Association of Deafened People). There was well over 100 attendees at the conference which was accessible with communication support including loop systems, lipspeakers and Speech to Text (STT).

28 delegates and observers from 12 European Countries gathered for the EFHOH AGM. **Darja Pajk** of Slovenia was elected as the new EFHOH treasurer.

EFHOH delegates also approved an important motion brought forward by HLF/Norway that calls on the European Commission and the European Parliament to put hearing loss in population surveys in the European Union. This document known as the *London Declaration 2017* is available on the EFHOH website www.efhoh.org/resources.

IFOS 2017

EFHOH's Vice president chaired a session on the “Economic impact of hearing loss”.

During this session, the impact of hearing loss on the individual and society and the possibilities offered by today's technologies were discussed. Other topics discussed included the challenges for providing these services and the value of harnessing the knowledge and experiences of the end users' representatives.

IMPACT

We have increased the importance of a person-centered approach to hearing care as well as the importance of consulting on the development of health policies with the representatives of HOH.

4th International Accessibility Conference- Future Loops

The 4th International Accessibility Conference “Future Loops” hosted 400 attendees in October 2017 in Berlin, Germany.

As new and wireless technologies were presented, it was also simultaneously clear that loops and telecoils are still the only universal assistive listening system for HoH people as well as the only system that has been possible for IEC to standardize.

The conference was closed by IFHOH, DSB, and EFHOH signing a conference statement.

Press Release available
www.efhoh.org/resources



Audiologist of the Year



The annual 'European Audiologist of the Year' celebrated its 10-year anniversary in October at the 2017 EUHA Congress in Nuremberg, Germany.

EFHOH was very pleased to be part of the judging panel.

Having been involved in the development of the *European Standard on services offered by hearing aids professionals*, as well as consulting with the European Association of Hearing Aids Professionals (AEA) on their *Code of Conduct*, it was a great privilege to hand over the trophy to British audiologist **Robert Beiny**.

[View the Evening of Excellence on YouTube](#)

European Days of Persons with Disabilities



The theme of European Days of Persons with Disabilities 2017 was “Towards an inclusive, social and sustainable Europe”. **Marcel and Aida** represented EFHOH, and during the two-day event, we discussed citizenship, political participation, sustainable development and urban accessibility with the European Commission. EDF President, **Yannis Vardakastanis** stated in his opening speech: *“To be a citizen means to be able to exercise rights, to be part of society and not to*

be in the corner of it. And this is what we fight for”. Together with other HoH people, we enjoyed the use of neck loops and very useful Speech to Text shown on a big screen with the speakers and sign language interpreters.

For more info visit EDF's website.

EFHOH is a member of EDF

EDF speaks on behalf of all NGOs and national Disability councils with the EU Commission and European Parliament.

However, difficult challenges are still faced by people with disabilities and we still promote the CRPD for all people with disabilities including EFHOH members regarding access to communication, accessibility and participation for people with hearing loss in a sound environment.



4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities



More than 600 persons with disabilities from all over Europe met at the European Parliament to engage in dialogue with European leaders concerning “Disability Rights at the Heart of the European Union” and to celebrate 20th anniversary of EDF.

During the EPPD, a manifesto on the European elections 2019 as well as a resolution on the next European Disability Strategy were adopted by the delegates.

Participants discussed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and finally, the delegates adopted an emergency resolution on the European Accessibility Act.

The day was meant to take form under the EDF motto “nothing about us without us”, however, Hard of Hearing people were far from included at this event. Neck loops were hard to find and there were issues with the extension cords which left us with several dropouts during the event.

Even more crucial was the lack of a quality and poor Speech To Text Interpreting. A follow-up work has been ongoing since the 4th EPPD, and as many speeches as possible have been broadcasted with subtitles. However, to be fully included does, of course, mean to be able to participate in the actual event.

We will continue our focus on useful loops and good quality STT throughout Europe to ensure the active participation of all hard of hearing people.

[For more info visit EDF's website.](#)



EFHOH is one of the partner organisations in a major European research project TIN-ACT. The University of Groningen in The Netherlands will be coordinating this project together with seven other institutions in Europe. The researchers hope to unravel the biological mechanisms responsible for causing tinnitus and study methods of diagnosing

and treating the condition. The European Commission has pledged to fund almost € 4 million from the Horizon 2020 programme. The research project will last four years (2017-2021).

WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA

You can find information about EFHOH on our new website, www.efhoh.org

EFHOH is active, present and accessible on social media. Visit our Facebook page and group.

EFHOH is also active on Twitter, [@efhoh](https://twitter.com/efhoh), [@marbob32](https://twitter.com/marbob32), and [@best_lidia](https://twitter.com/best_lidia)



NEWSLETTER

In our Newsletter you will find fresh reports from different events in different EFHOH members countries as well as reports of events, where EFHOH was present. You will also find invitations to meetings and conferences organised by us, or our partners.

The EFHOH Newsletter is usually published 3 to 4 times per year.

The Editor works as a volunteer just like the EFHOH board members. The responsibility was in 2017 taken by Marcel Bobeldijk together with Editor Niels-Henrik M. Hansen from Denmark.



OFFICE AND CONTACT

All board meetings are accessible through loop systems and speech to text interpreting.

President **Marcel Bobeldijk**, The Netherlands

Vice President **Lidia Best**, United Kingdom

Secretary **Aïda Regel Poulsen**, Denmark

Treasurer **Darja Pajk**, Slovenia

Board member **Juha Hietala**, Finland

EFHOH is a European Federation and its board of five board members work solely on a voluntary basis. In the first part of 2017, EFHOH received support from the UK organisation Action on Hearing Loss through an internship.

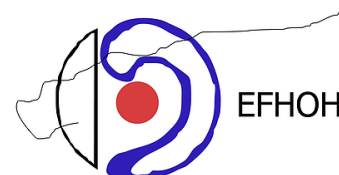
EFHOH have 28 General Members, 3 Associate members, **3 sponsor members** and **5 gold sponsor members**.

The General members are all national federations/associations of/for hard of hearing people.



Enquiries: office@efhoh.org

Website: www.efhoh.org



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People