



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The mission of EFHOH

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 levels in society. EFHOH will realize this vision through our actions, contacts and campaigns, involving the EFHOH members and our partners.

CONFERENCES ON ACCESSIBILITY, LATE DEAFENED, CODE OF CONDUCT, AND MUCH MORE

During the year 2016 EFHOH were again able to move our position forward. We were represented at several conferences and meetings, to some of them invited as keynote speakers.

World Hearing Day theme of 2016:

“Professional Hearing Care Makes you Smarter and Healthier”

At the event in the EU Parliament on March 1st EFHOH was represented by President, Marcel Bobeldijk, and Vice President, Lidia Best.

You can find the WHO campaign material here:

<http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/world-hearing-day/2016/en/>

EFHOH AGM in Paris combined with a conference on topics related Hearing Loss. All EFHOH board participated.

Aida Regel Poulsen did a presentation on EFHOH and numbers within deafness at a **Late Deafened gathering** in the Danish Disability House.

Marcel Bobeldijk and board member, Juha Hietala, attended the **EDF AGA and European Conference on “Legal Capacity”** together with our Irish association member representative.

Lidia Best was one of the speakers at the AEA (European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals) seminar 2016 in Brussels.

Marcel Bobeldijk and Lidia Best delivered a Hearing Awareness workshop for the members of the staff of European Disability Forum (EDF) in Brussels.

Lidia Best, was one of the speakers at the **HEAL 2016 conference** in Italy. HEAL = Hearing Across the Lifespan and in 2016 the theme of the conference was "Early intervention is the key to better care".

Aïda and Juha Hietala, represented EFHOH in Washington at the **IFHOH BGM** and , **IFHOHYP AGM 2016** where Aïda presented work of EFHOH to delegates. At **International Congress and HLA Conference**, Aïda made hearing loops presentation.

Lidia Best, participated for EFHOH in Athens, Greece, for the European Disability Forum (EDF) **Women Committee** meeting.

Lidia Best represented EFHOH at the **World Health Organisation stakeholders** meeting in Geneva on prevention of deafness and hearing loss and the current trends in hearing care and the WHO program.

Lidia Best took part in the Polish Disability Forum project leading two expert debates on implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Poland with specific focus on hard of hearing people. She was also asked to deliver a keynote presentation in Warsaw, taking part in a high level debate on UN CRPD and **Article 8 (Awareness rising)**

Aïda Regel Poulsen, did a workshop on UN CRPD at the **IFHOHYP Summer Camp** at Castberggaard, High School for the deaf, Denmark.

Marcel Bobeldijk, was invited to deliver the opening speech at **ECOS2016** in Berlin, this is the European Conference of Speech to Text Interpreters.

EFHOH participated in Ear Foundation Conference "Spend to Save" in Brussels with Lidia Best as one of the speakers. Read more here:
<http://www.earfoundation.org.uk/news/articles/553>

Marcel Bobeldijk, participated the European Parliament during the event **Multilingualism and equal rights in the EU**: the role of sign language. The event was organised by MEP Helga Stevens.

IVVS Conference was held at the Refugium in Løgumkloster, Denmark. The Theme was Paulus' letter to the Romans in which he stated the need to hear to be able to believe. Aïda Regel Poulsen did a presentation on need of visual and auditory memory separate and combined.

EFHOH vice president, Lidia Best was actively involved in the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive negotiations as part of EDF ICT experts group. She also took part in the meeting with the European Broadcasting Union, organized by EDF in Brussels.

Marcel Bobeldijk, and Aïda Regel Poulsen, represented EFHOH at the **Hear-It.org Annual General Assembly (AGA)**.

Marcel Bobeldijk, represented EFHOH at the EU 2016 Conference on how to translate the **UN CRPD** into change. The conference was in Bratislava, Slovakia during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

As a member of **EDF Women's committee**, Lidia Best spoke about access to justice for women with hearing loss, when the International Day for the elimination of violence against women was marked.

European Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated in Brussels in the EU Commission in November, where also UN CRPD 10th anniversary was celebrated. Marcel and Aïda participated from EFHOH board.

The web streaming is still available on: webcast.ec.europa.eu/european-day-o

EFHOH conducted the **Late Deafened people in Europe survey**.

The survey is important step in collecting information from deafened people in Europe on their situation.

ORGANISATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

EFHOH supported efforts of our members in **Czech Republic** with an **official letter** and recommendations for access.

EFHOH contacted Apple with a letter of concern following recent FCC petition. We had a good meeting and agreed to continuing good working relations. Vice President, Lidia Best, represented EFHOH at this meeting.

We issued a Press Release "**Access denied**" following European Parliament, Culture Committee decision with regard to European Accessibility Act.

The European Association of Hearing Care Professionals (AEA) published a new **Code of Conduct**. It sets out the principles that characterize good practice and makes explicit the standards of ethical and professional conduct expected from hearing care professionals. EFHOH has been consulted on this development. See: <http://www.aea-audio.org/portal/index.php/code-of-conduct>

We launched new Report during an event in Brussels called "**Getting our Numbers Right**". This report is the joint work of European Association of Hearing Care Professionals (AEA), European Association of Hearing Instruments Manufacturers (EHIMA) and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH). http://media.wix.com/ugd/c2e099_a558aa1fff27463db2c78a150a017636.pdf

Lidia Best started to participate in the working meetings at **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

We are pleased to be able to contribute to international standards.

TABLE OF ALL MEETINGS

Throughout the year EFHOH has again attended several meetings in Brussels, as well as other places concerning different fields of our work. In 2016 EFHOH was represented at 25 different events throughout the World.

A full table of all these and other meetings is found below showing the range of our advocacy work on high European level.

15-16 January	London	EFHOH board meeting
24-26 January	Auckland/New Zealand	IFHOH board meeting
28 January	Brussels	EDF-ENGO's meeting
1-3 April	Paris / France	EFHOH AGM
14-16 April	Varese/Italy	EURO-CIU
20 April	Brussels	Platform meeting
21 and 22 May	Dublin/Ireland	EDF Assembly
30 May	Brussels	Workshop EDF staff
2-4 June	Como/Italy	HEAL
9 June	Brussels	EDF-ENGO's meeting
22 June	Washington DC/USA	IFHOH BGM
23-26 June	Washington DC /USA	IFHOH World Congress
2-3 July	Athens	EDF Women's Committee
6-7 July	Geneva	WHO Stakeholders meeting
8 August	Castberggaard, Denmark	IFHOHYP Summer camp
18 August	Løgumkloster	IVVS Churchear Conference
26-28 August	Berlin	ECOS 2016
22 September	Brussels	EDF-ENGO's meeting
23-24 September	Bad Arolsen Germany	30 years DTL
26 September	Brussels	Event organised by Ear Foundation
28 September	Brussels	EUD conference Sign Language
14-15 October	Helsinki	EFHOH board meeting
25 October	Copenhagen	Hear It AGA 2016
26 October	Brussels	Platform meeting
12-13 November	Bratislava	EDF Board meeting and Conference
29-30 November	Brussels	European Day of Disabled People

EFHOH GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND CONFERENCE

The EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2016 was held in Paris, France. 20 delegates from 20 members participated at the meeting on April 1st. The Annual and Financial Reports as well as the Auditors Report were all accepted.

New members

EFHOH are pleased to welcome Hellenic Federation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HFD) Adult Deafs in Sweden (VIS) and an individual associate member from Cyprus.

Elections

Board member, Jaana Linna, has completed her term
Treasurer, Richard Darbéra, had shortly before the AGM declared his wish to withdraw from his position.

The results of the elections are as followed:

The Vice-president: Lidia Best, UK.

Member: Juha Hietala, Finland.

Interim Treasurer was pointed out after the AGM to be: Ritva-Liisa Schädling, Germany.

The election of the Nomination Committee 2016 was carried out. Harald Tamegger, Austria, took in absentia the position as a Chair.

Petra Feinkohl, Germany, was again appointed to the office of Auditor.

European Parliament Officer, Etienne Cuche, EDF, presented the European Accessibility Act and the EDF position, legislative procedure.

EFHOH intern policy worker, Sophie Kleanthous, presented "State of Hard of Hearing People's Rights" in the EU survey.

The day after the AGM the French association, BUCODES SURDIFRANCE, hosted a one day conference with the theme: "Living Well with Hearing Loss".

Audrey Sitbon from INPES (French Ministry of Health) presented French survey on deaf and hard of hearing people

Dr. Françoise Artières presented an overview on cochlear implantation

Søren Hougaard, representative of EHIMA (European Hearing Instrument

Manufacturers Association) commented on the results of the Eurotrak Survey

Mark Laureyns of the AEA (Association of the European Hearing Care Professionals) presented actions and ways to improve the services provided by audiologists.

Dr. Benoit Mongourdin presented the emergency call number 114 and future developments towards full conversation.

Dr. Hans Mülder, Phonak, spoke on the issue of "hearing in noise"

Renaud Perdrix of the National Information Centre on Deafness introduced the Surdi.info news site.

Finally, Dominique Dufournet of Bucodes SurdiFrance presented the future Practical Guide to properly getting equipped with hearing aids.

For direct links see EFHOH Newsletter, June 2016

https://media.wix.com/ugd/c2e099_b7fbf3d332354dcd9c6af0ce1fd387fd.pdf

FINANCIAL REPORT

This short report gives an overview of the financial situation of the year 2016.

Incomes during the year were **EUR 17.304,16**; the amount of membership fee from our members including sponsors were EUR 16.570,00.

The amount of all our expenses was total **EUR 19.202,33**.

The largest costs were: EFHOH AGM in Paris in April 2016 for EUR 6.087,25, 2 Board meetings in January in London plus in October in Helsinki for EUR 6.794,36 and different Conferences for EUR 4.650,50.

The costs for conferences are high every year, naturally because EFHOH participate in more frequently in different conferences (including IFHOH Congress in USA), many of them hosted by EU bodies: The Parliament, the Commission and others like EDF.

The lost for the year 2016 was **EUR 1.898,17**.

IFHOH

EFHOH has close co-operation with the **International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, IFHOH**. The president of EFHOH (Marcel Bobeldijk) is by constitution a permanent member of the IFHOH board.

IFHOH had their Biennial General Meeting (BGM) in Washington, in the USA in June in conjunction with the international conference of Hearing Loss Association America (HLAA).

More information about IFHOH at the website www.ifhoh.org

IFHOHYP

IFHOHYP, the **International Federation of the Hard of Hearing Young People**, held their AGM in Washington in the USA in June, in conjunction with the IFHOH Biennial General Meeting (BGM) and Hearing Loss Association America (HLAA) international

conference.

IFHOHYP elected new board. New president is Victor Rehn, Finland.

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

EFHOH MEDIA AND INFORMATION

Newsletter

Four issues of the Newsletter were published in 2016. The editor (volunteer) is Niels-Henrik M. Hansen, Denmark. There were close to 490 receivers on the mailing list through 2016. The Newsletter remains the best source for reports and information of events and advocacy work. Most of the events covered in this report can be found in the Newsletters.

Website

EFHOH website has been maintained and updated by Vice-president, Lidia Best. For further development and improvement, volunteer Bryan Bong, has been appointed as a new webmaster.

Facebook

EFHOH has had a Facebook group, which kept attracting more members. Through 2016 EFHOH set up an official Facebook page to increase our social medial presence.

EFHOH page has 390 followers already. The link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanFederationOfHardOfHearingPeople/>

Twitter

EFHOH also has a Twitter account with more than 300 followers.

As with Facebook, it is increasingly important to be visible on social media platforms. You can follow us @EFHOH, @marbob32 or @best_lidia.

MEMBERS, THE BOARD AND OFFICE

Members

By the end of 2016 EFHOH had 28 General members, 3 Associate members, 6 gold sponsor members and 3 sponsor members. We also have 2 individual members, one in Greece and one in Cyprus.

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

The Board

The following persons were members of the board in the year 2016:

President: Marcel Bobeldijk, the Netherlands (elected 2015)

Vice-president: Lidia Best, UK (elected 2016)

General Secretary: Aïda Regel Poulsen, Denmark (elected 2015)

Treasurer interim: Ritva-Liisa Schädling, Germany (elected 2016)

Member: Juha Hietala, Finland (elected 2016)

The Board had three meetings during 2016:

January: London, UK

April: Paris, France

October: Helsinki, Finland

Office

During 2016 EFHOH has managed to carry on the intern position to support the joint work of EFHOH and action on Hearing Loss (AoHL), in The United Kingdom.

Throughout the whole of 2016 we have had two interns, which were: Sophie Kleanthous and Sam Ma'ayam.

Contact information, see Annex 2.

FINAL WORDS

Finally, the board members wish to thank everyone; individual persons, members, members organizations, co-operation organizations and, last but not least, the sponsors who in different ways have given support to EFHOH in the work to make and create a barrier-free Europe for all hard of hearing citizens.

February 2017,

The EFHOH Board

Marcel Bobeldijk

Lidia Best

Aïda Regel Poulsen

Ritva-Liisa Schädling

Juha Hietala

ANNEXES

Annex 1

List of General members; associate members; Gold sponsors and sponsoring members as well as individual members as per 31st December 2016.

General Members (28)	Country
Österreichischer Schwerhörigenbund	Austria
Vereniging voor Hardhorenden "Onder Ons"	Belgium
Hörgeschädigte Ostbelgiens VoG	Belgium
Hrvatski Savez Gluhih I Nagluhah - HSGN	Croatia
Svaz neslycicich a Nedoslychavych v CR	Czech Republic
Ceskomoravska unie neslycicich z.s.	Czech Republic
Høreforeningen	Denmark
Eesti Vaegkuuljate Liit	Estonia
Kuuloliitto r.y.	Finland
Svenska Hörselförbundet rf.	Finland
Bureau de Coordination des Ass. de Devenus Sourds et Malentendants	France
Deutscher Schwerhörigen Bund e.V.	Germany
Deutsche Tinnitus-Liga e.V.	Germany
HFD - Hellenic Federation of the Deaf	Greece
Siketek es Nagyothallok Orszagos Szövetsege	Hungary
Nagyozhallók 's Barátaik Országos Közhasznú Egyesülete - NABOKE	Hungary
Heyrnarhjálp	Iceland
Hearing Loss Ireland	Ireland
Nederlandse Vereniging voor Slechthorenden	Netherlands
Nederlandse Federatie van Ouders van Slechthorende kinderen en van kinderen met Spraak-taalmoeilijkheden	Netherlands
Hørselhemmedes Landsforbund	Norway
Polska Fundacja Osób Słabosłyszących	Poland
Zvesa Drustev Gluhih in Naslugnih Slovenije	Slovenia
Hörselskadades Riksförbund	Sweden
VIS - Vuxendöva i Sverige	Sweden
pro audito schweiz	Switzerland
National Association of Deafened People	United Kingdom
Action on Hearing Loss	United Kingdom

Associate Members (3)

Udruga gluhih i nagluhih osoba "Svetlost" - Solin
Internationaler Verband für Schwerhörigen-Seelsorge e.V.
forom écoute la Fondation Romande des Malentendants

Country

Croatia
Germany
Switzerland

Sponsor Members (3)

Oticon A/S
Humantechnik GmbH
Sonova AG ex Phonak AG

Denmark
Germany
Switzerland

Gold Sponsors (6)

Cochlear Limited
Widex A/S.
GN ReSound A/S
SIVANTOS GmbH former Siemens Audiologische Technik GmbH
Amplifon
Bernafon AG

Australia
Denmark
Denmark
Germany
Italy
Switzerland

Individual Associate Member (3)

Kalia Nicolaou
Sofia Kolotourou
Fluvià Artells Campañá

Cyprus
Greece
Spain

Annex 2

EFHOH facts and history

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing – EFHOH – was created as a legal entity and as an independent organization on 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 million hard of hearing adults (one in 7 Europeans) in geographical Europe.

Its mission is to promote accessible communication, accessibility to travel and the built 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 (NGO) in the European Disability Forum – EDF – with the right to representation in the Annual General Assembly.

Contact information

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