

EFHOH

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Edited by Marcel Bobeldijk, president of EFHOH and Niels-Henrik M. Hansen.

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NEWSLETTER

EFHOH

DECEMBER 2018



CROATIAN ASSOCIATION
OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING



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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

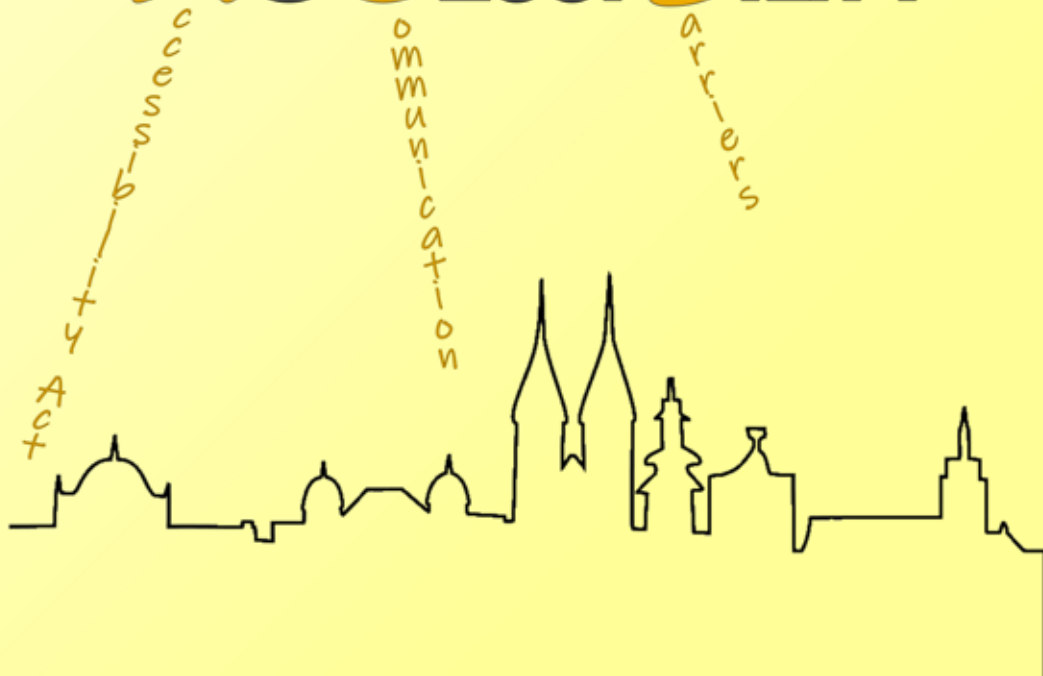


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HOTEL PALACE ZAGREB
April 4 - 7, 2019

EFHOH AGM&CONFERENCE

UNDERSTANDING ACCESSIBILITY



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People



EFHOH President letter

By Marcel Bodeldijk

Dear Members and EFHOH Newsletter Readers,
After a very un-Dutch/European autumn, with seemingly endless tropical temperatures, it is suddenly winter. Speaking of winter, warm greetings from the EFHOH board. We wish you a wonderful winter holiday with your family and friends. We would also like to say thank you to all our members, partners, and sponsors for all your support in 2018.

Your support is greatly appreciated and by sharing your best practices and work at the local and national level, together, we can promote it at the European level and push for a society where hard of hearing people can participate on all levels. These principles apply to many different areas. In this EFHOH newsletter, you can find some examples. You can also find more examples on our very popular EFHOH website

www.efhoh.org. It would be great if you could continue promoting our website in your country and organisation.

Our partnership with EDF, the European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblindness, Hear-It, EHIMA, and AEA are good examples as well as our partnership with two European projects Tin-Act (Tinnitus/see at our website) and LiveTextAccess (LTA) see also the article in this newsletter. We as the EFHOH board hope to continue, together with you, building bridges for a more accessible Europe for hard of hearing people.

[LTA] LiveTextAccess

On 14 September 2018, the LiveTextAccess project (LTA) kick-off meeting was held in Milan, Italy. This project is led by Rocio Bernabé (Munich University of Applied Languages) and EFHOH is one of the partners in this new project. This project is co-funded by Erasmus plus program of the European Union for the period 2018-2019. LTA will harmonise the professional profile of real-time subtitlers across Europe and create open source training materials. Trained LTA respeakers and velotypists will acquire specialised knowledge in high demand contexts such as cultural events, parliamentary assemblies, broadcasts, workplace, and education. The training will also prepare them for three different work settings face to face, online, and by relay.

EFHOH AGM 2019

We invite all of you to come to Zagreb, Croatia in April 2019. Zagreb will be hosting the 2019 EFHOH AGM. In this EFHOH newsletter and on our website, you can find more information regarding the AGM. One of the important topics at the AGM will be the board elections for the positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. See the call sheet which we have sent out to our members. Please contact the chair of the nomination committee Zdravka Bastijan zdravka.bastijan@hsgn.hr have any questions or would like your organisation to nominate a candidate.

The conference on Friday, April 5th will have the theme *Understanding Accessibility*. If you would like to give a presentation about the best practices in your country/organisation please contact Zdravka Bastijan at zdravka.bastijan@hsgn.hr

Follow Us

We invite you to follow EFHOH via Facebook and Twitter. Our Twitter addresses are:

EFHOH @efhoh
Marcel Bobeldijk @marbob32
Lidia Best @best_lidia EDF
EDF @MyEDF

On our website: www.efhoh.org, you can find a lot of information about our work and for our members, we have a For Members section for you to access certain documents. Please contact us if you have problems logging in.

Save the Dates

EFHOH will be on Christmas / Winter break from Friday 21 December to Monday 7 January 2019. It is a good idea to make a note on your calendar:

6 March 2019 Lunch Debate in the European Parliament, Brussels

4-7 April 2019 EFHOH AGM in Zagreb, Croatia

Dear All,

On behalf of the EFHOH board, I wish you all, together with your family and friends, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019!

Warm regards,

Marcel Bobeldijk
President of EFHOH

Starting an EFHOH Tinnitus Workgroup:

Why an EFHOH Tinnitus workgroup?

Intro

Volker Albert (DTL President) and Marcel Bobeldijk (EFHOH President) are at this moment participating in a European Project called TIN-ACT (Tinnitus Assessment Causes Treatments) by the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. For more information see: www.tinact.eu

You may have noticed that there was no longer a European organisation for people with tinnitus such as EUTi had been for many years.

Due to this, Volker and Marcel came up with the idea to launch a tinnitus workgroup in EFHOH where people can exchange information on projects and research regarding tinnitus. In this paper, you can find some background information about EUTi and you can also find some background information about EFHOH.

Lastly, Volker and Marcel have some questions for you. It would be great if you could send your answers back to Marcel Bobeldijk at president@efhoh.org or Volker Albert at v.albert@tinnitus-liga.de. Of course,

you can also contact Volker and Marcel if you have questions or comments.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Volker and Marcel

Background info about EUTi

On September 23, 2002, the European Federation for Tinnitus Associations e.v. (EUTi) under the leadership of the German Tinnitus League e. V. (DTL) was founded in Cologne as a registered association based in Wuppertal under German law.

The task of the association as an umbrella organisation was to support the work of the non-profit national self-help organisations in every aspect and in the interests of the then 25 million people affected with tinnitus in Europe.

The first board was elected, and a corresponding statute was drawn up and adopted. The members of the national tinnitus self-help organisations met once a year to exchange information and experience at the Munich Airport. Furthermore, the necessary formalities and financial fundamentals were prepared during this conference and implemented by the DTL office. By 2014, it became clear that the burden on the DTL was increased by the assumption of the entire administration and, in some cases, also the costs. In the long run, it was no longer legally justifiable.

At the final members' meeting on February 11, 2015, the board unanimously decided to dissolve the EUTi. The dissolution became final on September 28, 2016. On the same day, it was also deleted from the register of associations.

Background info about EFHOH

EFHOH is the European Federation of Hard of Hearing people and is for all types of hearing loss including tinnitus. EFHOH promotes the interests of Hard of Hearing People at European and European Union level. Most of the information about EFHOH you can find on our website www.efhoh.org and also on Facebook. Each year EFHOH holds an Annual General Meeting. EFHOH is a close partner of IFHOH (International Federation of Hard of Hearing People) and an active member of EDF (European Disability Forum).

How the workgroup will work

First, the workgroup will be a place where people (contact persons) can share information about tinnitus in general and about the project and research that we as EFHOH can inform you about. The TIN-Act (Tinnitus Assessment Cause Treatments) project is a project where EFHOH and DTL (German Tinnitus Liga) are both participating in.

The communication in the workgroup will be by email and/or Skype. Maybe in the future, we can organize a face to face meeting.

Contact persons

From the side of EFHOH:

Marcel Bobeldijk (EFHOH President)

From the side of the DTL and former EUTi:

Volker Albert (DTL President)

Our first 5 questions:

1. Is there an association/organisation on Tinnitus in your country?
2. Does your organisation have a tinnitus group/workgroup/committee?
3. What are the main activities of your tinnitus workgroup?
4. Does your organisation at this moment participate in a project or research? If so, which one?
5. Is your organisation/your tinnitus group interested in participating in the new EFHOH tinnitus workgroup?
6. Do you have a contact person from your organisation who will be participating in the new EFHOH tinnitus workgroup? If so, can you inform us about her/his name and email address?



13th, October, 2018

Dear General members of EFHOH,

The new board of EFHOH will be elected in the EFHOH Annual General Meeting (AGM), Saturday morning, April 6th, 2019 in Zagreb, Croatia.

The nomination committee needs formal proposals from the member organizations for the positions of the board:

a. candidates to the board:

President
General Secretary
Treasurer

All possible candidates must be nominated by a general member organization of EFHOH. A current EFHOH board member can be re-elected, but he/she has to officially communicate with his/her own general member organization about his/her availability of re-election.

The EFHOH Statutes state among others:

The Board consists of President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer 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 have to be a member of EFHOH general organization. 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 (The Netherlands)
Vice-President:	Lidia Best (United Kingdom)
General-Secretary:	Aïda Regel Poulsen (Denmark)
Treasurer:	Darja Pajk (Slovenia)
Board Member:	Morten Buan (Norway)

b. Candidates to be the chair of the nomination committee.

Candidates must be nominated by a general member organization of EFHOH. The chair of the nomination committee can be re-elected, but he/she has to officially communicate with his/her own general member organization about his/her availability of re-election.

The statutes of EFHOH state among others:

Members of nomination Committee must be of age and qualified to act.

The nomination committee should be composed of at least three members. None of the members of nomination committee can be of the same nationality. Members of the nomination committee cannot



be candidates in the board election.

Please send information of candidates at the latest by January 15th 2019, to my e-mail address zdravka.bastijan@hsgn.hr

Kind regards

Chair EFHOH Nomination Committee
Zdravka Baštijan



Brussels, 3 December 2018 - IMMEDIATE RELEASE

80 million people demand a better Europe.

European leaders need to guarantee an accessible and inclusive Europe.



On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the European Disability Forum launches its key demands for the European Elections.

The “EDF Manifesto on the European Elections 2019” was adopted during the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities, on 6 December 2017. It was adopted by more than 700 delegates who represented the entire disability movement: more than 80 million persons in Europe.

On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we again demand that the EU institutions, and political parties adopt our key demands:

- **Fully accessible and inclusive European elections**, ensuring that legal capacity extends to all and materials, polling stations and methods of voting are accessible to all.
- A comprehensive **European Disability Strategy 2020-2030**: that satisfies the commitment made towards the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities.
- **EU Funding to secure equal opportunities and non-discrimination**, including non-discrimination and accessibility provisions in the next Multi-annual Financial Framework;
- **A European Pillar of Social Rights which improves the living conditions of persons with disabilities and their families.**
- **An accessible Europe** in all aspects of life, including digital, built environment and transport.
- **A Europe of Human Rights**, including finally adopting the comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.

OPEN LETTER TO THE EU INSTITUTIONS: WE NEED A STRONG EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT AND WE NEED IT NOW.

On behalf of over 80 million Europeans with disabilities and 190 million people aged 50 and older we, the undersigned, call on EU leaders to agree on an ambitious European Accessibility Act before the 3rd December, the European Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The European Commission's proposal for a European Accessibility Act, published in 2015, was a response to the demands of millions of Europeans. Demands that stretched back more than ten years. It was a good start but now we are tired of waiting for its adoption.

We urge all EU institutions to reach a political agreement before the European Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3rd December. This day also marks three years and one day since the proposal was published.

The agreement needs to ensure a strong, effective and future-proof Accessibility Act.

We demand that it covers a wide-range of accessibility requirements, especially in the following areas:
Fully-accessible emergency services: This is a life or death issue. Millions of Europeans are effectively denied fast, life-saving medical assistance. The Act must ensure universal accessibility of emergency services.

Inclusion of micro-enterprises: Up to 93% of products and services are created by micro-enterprises. Having those products covered by the European Accessibility Act is essential.

Inclusion of accessibility in Public Procurement, EU Funds, and TEN-T regulation: we want the Accessibility Act to apply to Public Procurement, EU Funds, and TEN-T. 16% of Europe's GDP is generated by Public Procurement. Public authorities and offices

employ up to 30% of the labour force, thus yielding immense innovation potential. Public procurement can give incentives for new developments in the field of accessibility.

Accessibility of the built environment: the Act covers many digital products and important services, but not the built environment that surrounds them. This means that many products and services will remain inaccessible, even if they comply with the Accessibility Act. It is paramount that the EAA includes the built environment. We therefore call for a mandatory provision on the built environment in the final text.

Accessibility of urban transport: accessible urban transportation is essential. Millions of Europeans rely on public transport to lead their daily lives. They use it to get to work, to go to the hospital, to meet friends. Persons with disabilities need to have the same right. They need to have the same access. We especially call on all Member States that are most opposed to improvements to overcome their objections. They need to guarantee strong provisions that will improve the lives not only of over 80 million persons with disabilities and 190 million people aged 50 and older, but of all Europeans.

Yours sincerely,

European Disability Forum/ AGE Platform Europe/ ANEC - European consumer voice in standardisation/ IFSBH - International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus/ EURO-CIU - European Association of Cochlear Implant Users/ ARFIE - Association for Research and Training on Integration in Europe/ EBU - European Blind Union/ ENIL - European Network on Independent Living/ EASPD - European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities/ EAMDA - European Alliance of Neuromuscular Disorders Associations/ EDA - European Dyslexia Association/ EFHOH - European Federation of Hard of Hearing People/ Alzheimer Europe/ MHE - Mental Health Europe/ Social Firms Europe/ CP-ECA - Cerebral Palsy - European Communities Association/ Inclusion Europe/ ECCE - European Cooperation in anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy/ EUD - European Union of the Deaf/ ENUSP - European Network of (ex)-Users and survivors of psychiatry/ Autism Europe

On May 12th 2018 during the Nabucco opera on the stage of the National Opera of Ukraine the sound disappeared for two minutes. In front of an astonished audience the choir continued singing, the orchestra was playing, but without any sound. This way, one of the largest cultural institutions of country joined the project "When the Silence Has Spoken" devoted to people who are losing their hearing. The experiment was innovative not only for Ukraine, but also for the entire Europe.

The Nabucco opera, one of the most famous ones in the creative heritage of Giuseppe Verdi, traditionally starts with an overture that is followed by a choir appearing on the stage. But this time, for two minutes, the choir and the orchestra was performing without any sound. After such an unusual performance, the organizer of the project, nongovernmental organization (NGO) "Vidchui" ("Feel") appealed to the audience:

"Ladies and Gentlemen! You just heard the silence. Do not worry, please, as in less than a minute the world of music is going to return, and you will see the opera Nabucco in the usual way for you. You have heard silence because every 10th person in this room is probably losing their hearing and isn't even aware of that. You have heard silence because more than 3 million Ukrainians have hearing problems and cannot find courage to talk about it..."

OPERA WITHOUT SOUND: THE NATIONAL OPERA OF UKRAINE JOINED THE PROJECT ON HEARING LOSS





It ended with an appeal to check the hearing and to support people whose world is absorbed by silence.

"Many people who face hearing problems are not ready to admit it. Not ready to use a hearing aid, not ready to give themselves the opportunity to hear. I hope that after this evening, when silence spoke to the audience, some people will decide to do it," said Andriy Pyshnyi, the founder of the Vidchui"NGO. "When a person loses his or her sight – it shields them from the objects. When a person loses his or her hearing, it distances them from people. The performance we have organized today was created to break these barriers."

During an intermission, the audience participated in the survey. The results of more than 300 completed questionnaires show that only 26% of people checked their hearing during the last year, whereas after the opera 48% of the audience are going to do it. ▽

The "Silent Opera" project was implemented by the NGO "Vidchui" with the National Opera of Ukraine

that participated in such an experiment for the first time in its history.

▽

"Today, more than a half thousand guests in the hall became not just observers, they were participants of the show," says the general director of the National Opera, Petro Chuprina. "For the first time in the opera we used the language of art to talk to the viewer about an important social problem – hearing loss. Realizing how important this issue is, a hundred of actors of the National Opera joined the project without hesitation."

Loss of hearing is a widespread problem not only in Ukraine. According to the World Health Organization, there are more than 466 million people with hearing disabilities worldwide, and by 2050 this number could rise up to 900 million. In this case, doctors assure that in 60% of cases, hearing loss can be prevented by timely diagnosis.

On the basis of the project "Silent Opera" the organizers created a video which was presented at the end of August 2018.

* "Vidchui" ("Feel") is an NGO founded by Lyudmila and Andriy Pyshnyi. Since 2011, it has been systematically involved with the help and social adaptation of hearing impaired people. Over the course of seven years, the organization has implemented over 15 nationwide projects, including a unique inclusive camp aimed at the socialization of hearing impaired children, a creative space "TAM", a music class for people with hearing loss "Big Bach", a free course on sign language, etc.

** "Nabucco" is an opera in four acts written by D. Verdi in 1841 on the libretto by T. Soler. The opera is considered one of the main ones in the work of D. Verdi and brought him true fame.

Written by Tania Maksimova



News from IFHOH: Exciting Times for Hearing Health Care

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is pleased to be part of a movement to found a new World Hearing Forum under the aegis of the World Health Organization (WHO). The partners in the Forum are envisioned to be mainly international, and sometimes regional, organizations who are involved with hearing health care or the

hearing loss movement. The Forum's overall vision is to create a world in which no person experiences hearing loss due to preventable causes and those with hearing loss can achieve their full potential through rehabilitation, education and empowerment. Accordingly, the World Hearing Forum will aim to advocate for and raise awareness on ear and hearing



care at global, regional, national and local levels. It will be housed within WHO, which will function as the Secretariat for this new body.

Momentum for this Forum gained traction following the adoption of a new motion of hearing ear care, WHA 70.13, which was passed at the 70th Health Assembly of WHO in 2017. The Forum was approved at a WHO meeting of hearing health care partners in July 2018 in Geneva, and a Steering Committee was set up of which I am a member.

I am also pleased that WHO has invited the participation of our members in several regional consultations on ear and hearing care. Neeta Keshary of Nepal was our representative to a meeting for the South East Asian Regional held in New Delhi October 3-4, 2018. The meeting was held by WHO in collaboration with the Maulana Azad Medical College and Associated Hospitals, New Delhi, with technical inputs from Sound Hearing 2030.

Hanh Duong Phuong, IFHOH General Secretary, will be attending a similar meeting for the Western Pacific Region in Beijing, China on the 11th and 12th of December, 2018, being organized by the China Research and Rehabilitation Centre for Hearing and Speech Impairment, with the support of WHO. For a meeting of the European Region, held 16-17 of October, organized by the National Research Centre for Audiology

and Hearing Rehabilitation in Moscow, Darja Park of EFHOH was the delegate.

Besides a focus on the WHA resolution 70.13 on prevention of deafness and hearing loss, the meetings were intended to share regional best practices and to provide feedback to WHO on the proposed outline for the World Report on Hearing. This report is being targeted to be completed by March 3, 2020, in time to be unveiled on World Hearing Day.

IFHOH is promoting the WHA 70.13 motion. At our recent BGM and Conference in Slovenia, the Slovenia Declaration was adopted by IFHOH members; the Declaration stresses the importance of member organizations connecting with their hearing health-care partners and governments at a national level to implement the WHA resolution 70.13. In particular, the Declaration calls on us "to serve notice that governments will be held accountable for improving hearing healthcare as well for preventing and reducing hearing loss."

These are exciting times to advance our hearing health care agenda.

You are welcome to contact me at president@ifhoh.org if you have any questions or comments.

With warmest regards,
IFHOH President Dr. Ruth P. Warick

Innovative German Audiologist Scoops Prestigious European Award 2018:

Benjamin Schadow



AUDIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR 2018



"I am very glad to have found such a terrific hearing care professional"

Aïda Regel Poulsen EFHOH's secretary and Marcel Bobeldijk EFHOH's president were during the EUHA conference also at the Audiologist Winner Award evening in Hannover.

A dedicated audiologist has won a prestigious European Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the hearing industry. Benjamin Schadow owner of Hörstil in Erfurt, Germany, has been announced as the 2018 European Audiologist of the Year (AOTY), just weeks after scooping the German Audiologist of the Year title.

The judges were particularly impressed by his innovative use of the latest technologies, including 3D printing, to find bespoke solutions to the hearing difficulties of his patients.

In a moving nomination, patient Karla Rudloff, 62, explained how she had developed hearing loss on both sides as a child as a result of chronic otitis media and found that standard devices were aggravating her condition.

As a result, she was struggling to hear what was being said during phone calls, work meetings and social conversations. But thanks to customised ear pieces produced with the help of a 3D printer and fitting a number of auxiliary devices in her workplaces, she is now confidently able to actively participate in wide range of activities, such as watching TV, listening to music, taking part in conversations at social gatherings and communication in general.

"I am very glad to have found such a terrific hearing care professional".

The competition is organised by Rayovac, a world leading hearing aid battery manufacturer and division of Spectrum Brands Holdings, in partnership with Audio Infos, a leading international hearing publication for the audiology industry, the European Hearing

Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH).

Now in its eleventh year, the competition honours Europe's top hearing professionals, as voted for by their hard of hearing and deaf patients, who have received excellent levels of support, service and care from their audiologist.

Celebrating a decade of industry excellence, a panel of independent hearing care professionals and specialists came together over the summer to read through the hundreds of nominations from the UK, France, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands. A winner was selected from each of the participating countries in September before the overall winner was announced in October during Rayovac's annual Evening of Excellence, held during the EUHA congress in Germany.

Collecting his award, Benjamin Schadow said: "I'm honoured to have won the European Audiologist of the Year Award and am proud to accept it on behalf of my whole team at Hörstil GmbH & Co. These awards are extra special as they are nominated by patients and I'm delighted to hear that they feel that the way we listen to their needs and continuously strive to innovate is making a difference to their lives'.

The other country winners who were in the running for the European title were:

Bridgitte Harley, UK
Julien Benoist, France
Wilgis Schoffelmeijer, Netherlands
Myriam Gonzáles Mayas, Spain.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS OF APFHD MEMBERS TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRPD, SDGS AND INCHEON STRATEGY (IS)

*By: Hanh Duong Phuong, President
Raphael Torralba, Vice President
Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD)*

The Asia-Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD), founded in 2012, is a regional network of formal and non-formal organizations of hard of hearing and deafened people in Asia-Pacific region. It provides a platform to unite voices of millions of people who are hard of hearing and deafened, raise awareness and protect their rights. APFHD has thirteen member organizations- Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Mongolia, New Zealand, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, PNG, Vietnam. It validates APFHD's right track to continue its growth in the Asia Pacific region.

The Federation also serves as the regional representative in international network such as International Federation of Hearing of Hearing People (IFHOH), in which APFHD is a regional member. With this opportunity, some of APFHD leaders were involved in the CRPD Project of IFHOH in New Zealand in 2014.

In implementing the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in AP as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Incheon Strategy (IS), APFHD, together with its country members, provided inputs to the governments, organized communication events on awareness raising on hearing loss and the rights of people with hearing loss (Deaf/Heard of Hearing/Deafened), especially on World Hearing Day every 3rd day of March and on International Day of Persons with Disabilities every 3rd day of December.

APFHD, in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), successfully organized its 3rd Biennial General Meeting (BGM) 2018 and Regional Training on International Instruments Towards Sustainability on 20-23 August 2018 at Bangkok, Thailand. During the event, we had some discussion on problems and challenges in advocating for the rights of Hard of Hearing (HOH) and Deafened that our member organizations and their leaders encountered.

Lack of Accessibility: Hearing aids are available in the market but not available to buy. Supportive hearing devices are known to be FM and only. Hearing aids and FM are very expensive and not covered by insurance. It means parents must pay for the hearing aid of their child. If these are already a burden, children with hearing loss and their parents also faces a big problem in inclusive environment, especially at mainstream schools. The teachers of these schools do not know how to teach or support their students with hearing loss. The schools do not have captioning at all. During the APFHD workshop, the participants did not have much experience in kinds of caption (Open – Closed; Real time – PreRecorded; Local – Remote; By human – By computer; By computer: ReSpeaking – Direct; In live event – In recorded event; Regular Keyboard – Stenotype Keyboard, etc.). We also do not have answers for questions asked by Mr. Avi Blau, Vice President of IFHOH: How much captions are used in AP? In what type of events captions are used? (Foreign movies? TV series? News? Internet? live events? meetings?) Why isn't it used more? (Reading ability? cost? ...) What can we do to promote the use of captions?

Weak voice of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened: Based on the report of our colleague from Japan – All Japan Association of Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened People (Zennancho), Dr. Kazuhiko Seya presented the topic on “The necessary of National HOH Association in Asian Countries”. He emphasized the two important works of National HOH Association. First is the improvement of national welfare for HOH persons by defending HOH person’s rights according to UNCRPD, which is the most effective and strong artillery in the improvement of the welfare of HOH persons.

Second, a HOH association represents the HOH persons in an interactive international cooperation. This is an absolute requirement. Without a bilateral association, HOH persons cannot be represented in international cooperation and network. Lack of opportunities for AP young leaders improving their capacities:

Since HOH advocacy is not yet that strong in Asia Pacific, young HOH leaders are lacking in various opportunities. We believe that there many young HOH persons in Asia Pacific willing to be tapped as leaders. However, most of them are not willing to lead due to several factors such as, but not limited to:

1. Lack of empowerment and leadership - Most young leaders are inexperienced and thus, they need empowerment and leadership trainings. However, fewer experts on HOH for empowerment trainings are available in some countries. This kind of training brings out the best in them and motivate them to be leaders and agents of change, as what we experienced in our workshops held in APCD.
2. Fewer and weak networking - Networking plays a vital role in the foundation of an organization. Young HOH leaders lack opportunities in improving their communication and networking skills. Even when they are communicating online, which is the only platform for them to connect, some of them are having trouble getting their thoughts, ideas, and points across.
3. Less or no participation of HOH persons in disability movement activities - Young leaders need exposure in disability movement activities in order for them to observe and learn. Unfortunately, the HOH community has less or no participation in such events because the HOH advocacy is not yet fully recognized.
4. No advocacy for HOH on research related to hearing loss issues- Researches related to hearing loss issues and rights of HOH persons is a crucial part

in developing young leaders. Lack of advocacy on it will make it hard for young leaders to fully develop their knowledge in understanding the issues, especially the UNCRPD.

English language is a barrier: It is easy to picture this kind of situation. Without opportunity to learn English in their own country, leaders with hearing loss find it hard to participate in the international communication in the process of focusing on the global society. Some countries has no language centers that can offer an English course suitable to our hearing loss.

Solutions: We had a very good site visit to the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) to witness the practical application of equal opportunity policies practiced in Thailand. Real-time captioning was used during the duration of the visit. We are trying to find any opportunities in joining them for sharing their knowledge and technique to our member countries. To make our presence and voice be known, the Executive Committee of APFHD have plans to collaborate with Zennancho to assist in establishing hard of hearing associations in our other countries.

We – APFHD EC – still looks for solutions in improving our activities and our country members as well. Opportunities to collaborate with friends / hard of hearing organizations worldwide would greatly help us in improving our activities and projects.

Contact of APFHD Executive Committee:

apfhd.ec@gmail.com

Ms. Duong Phuong Hanh, Vietnam, President
 Mr Chhim Kim Hean, Cambodia, First Vice President
 Mr. Raphael Torralba, Philippines, Second Vice President
 Mr. Isaque Mia, Bangladesh, General Secretary
 Ms. Tuya Mijiddorj, Mongolia, Treasurer

EFHOH and ITU **joint effort** in improving hard of hearing people **accessibility** at **meetings**

EFHOH started to participate in standardisation work of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in September 2016, this was possible with support from the Global Initiative for accessible ICT's (G3ict) <http://g3ict.org/> Today I have pleasure to share the result of the first EFHOH led technical paper called "Overview of Remote Captioning".

Since ratification of UNCRPD we are seeing rapid growth in participation of persons with disabilities at live meetings and events with a demand that these meetings be accessible meetings. Hearing loops, captioning and sign language are the main requests organisers will encounter from the deaf and hard of hearing community to support access to communication. To meet the demands, remote captioning is often used.

The experiences of people with hearing loss using captioning vary considerably. Where good quality captioning service with specifically well trained captioners is deployed, deafened and hard of hearing people, experience equal participation and full inclusion. However, when there are other substandard services used we are in fact excluded from full participation. The negative side effect is that we may withdraw from further participation based on these bad experiences and because of poor captioning.

Having seen different provisions in different countries that often do not successfully provide access for hard of hearing and deafened people, it became important to develop a technical paper tackling remote real time captioning. This effort was led by EFHOH and involved consultation with many stakeholders over two years period including captioners, IFHOH and accessibility experts working with ITU Study Group16.

This newly approved technical paper will continue in paving a way towards better quality of access to captioning in all meeting both physical and remote for persons who are deafened and hard of hearing. The

ITU-T will continue to test other methods of captioning as they are developed.

ITU does not charge for the download of this technical paper and can be found here <https://www.itu.int/pub/T-TUT-FSTP-2018-ACC.RCS> Further information on accessibility standards and technical papers can be found at accessibility and multimedia standardization section of ITU www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/accessibility/Pages/default.aspx

Now there needs to be concerted efforts between policy makers, persons with disabilities, their respective organisations and those who are responsible for procurement of services in making all meetings truly accessible. This paper is the first step.

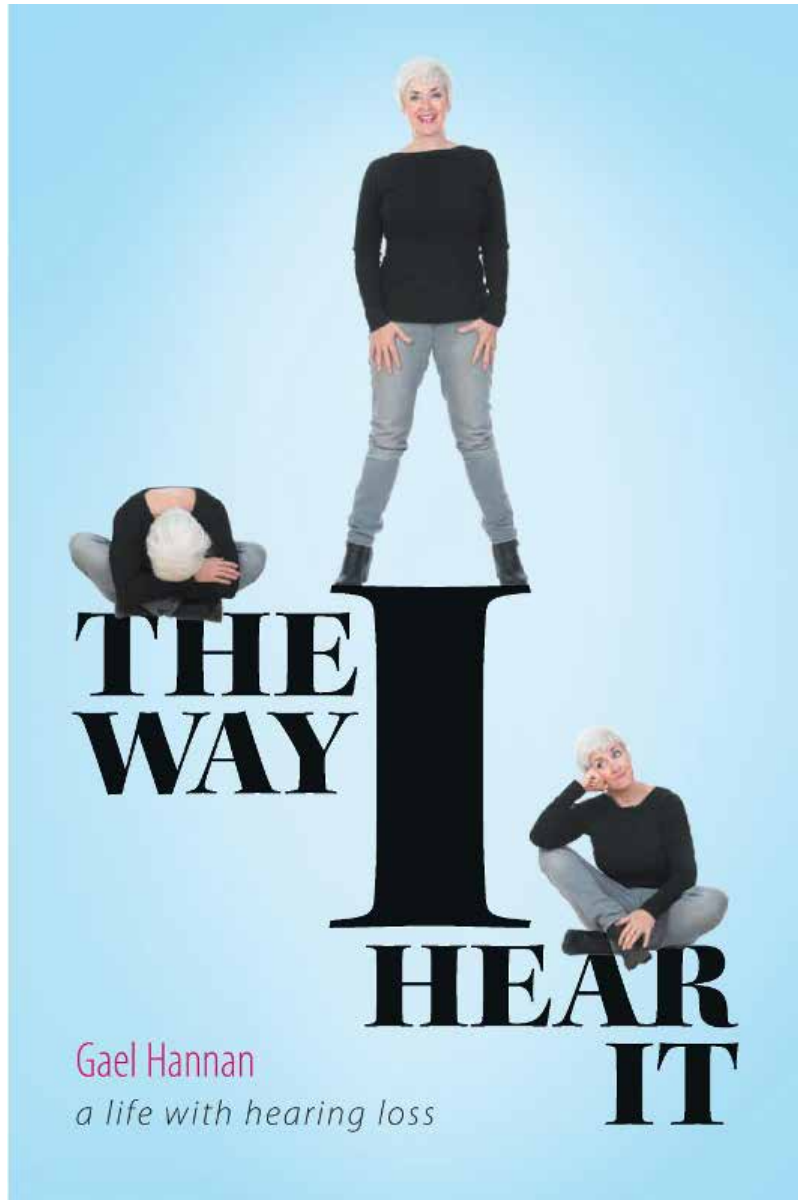
There is still a lot of work ahead and we continue to review other accessibility documents as well as proposing further work that will benefit hard of hearing people and raise awareness of our needs.

If you would like to influence next stages of our work, please contact me directly at vice.president@efhoh.org.

Lidia Best / EFHOH Vice President



Written by Gael
Hannan



Hearing Loss Has **No** **Barriers**

As a person with hearing loss, I act the way you expect people with communication challenges to act. I say pardon a lot.

I may look blank/confused/dazed/concerned when I can't figure out what was just said.

I look engaged/enthralled/not interested when I'm pretending to understand what was just said.

When I'm at a conference with people who have hearing loss – people I refer to as HoHs, an acronym for Hard of Hearing or Hearing Loss – we often

gather in someone's hotel room and share hearing loss stories. We laugh loudly and use the hearing loss dialect which includes frequent use of pardon, move your hand from your mouth, repeat that, and speak up! We face each other when we talk. We use all sorts of technology. And we are totally relaxed because everyone shares the same issue of hearing loss, even our 'hearing' family members.

The author in action



Recently the Hearing Husband and I went to Scandinavia, where I met groups of people who use the same dialect – except that they do it in Swedish! And Danish. And Finnish.

And to my relief – because I don't speak Danish, Finnish or Swedish – most of them also speak English. In Vaasa, Finland, after a long day of presentations, a few of us gathered in Siw and Roger Østman's hotel room and started the HoH Party. If you were watching through a window and couldn't hear what was being said, you wouldn't be able to tell the Swedes from the Canadians or the Danes or the Finns. And chances are you wouldn't be able to tell the HoHs from the Hearing People, either.

I was honoured to be invited to speak to hearing loss groups in Scandinavia. My presentation, "I'm Hearing as Hard as I Can", is about the reality of living with hearing loss, its emotional impact, and the strategies that get us through the day. I use humour and drama in my work and if people in the audience couldn't catch every nuance of my English words, an amazing group of speech-to-text translators filled in the gaps.

As a person who depends on technology to hear and communicate, and who has seen hearing aids transform through the years from simple amplifiers to astounding mini-ear-computers, I didn't think anything could surprise me anymore, but I was stunned by the ability of these amazing technicians.



Visit at GNHearing

Firstly, the translators managed to keep up with me while transcribing my talk (and I talk fast) to the screen. Secondly, they used full keyboards whereas real-time captioners in North America use court reporting technology. And thirdly, in Stockholm and Vaasa, the incredible team of Jimmy and Mohammed were miracle workers; they not only translated my speech into text, they turned English speech into Swedish text!

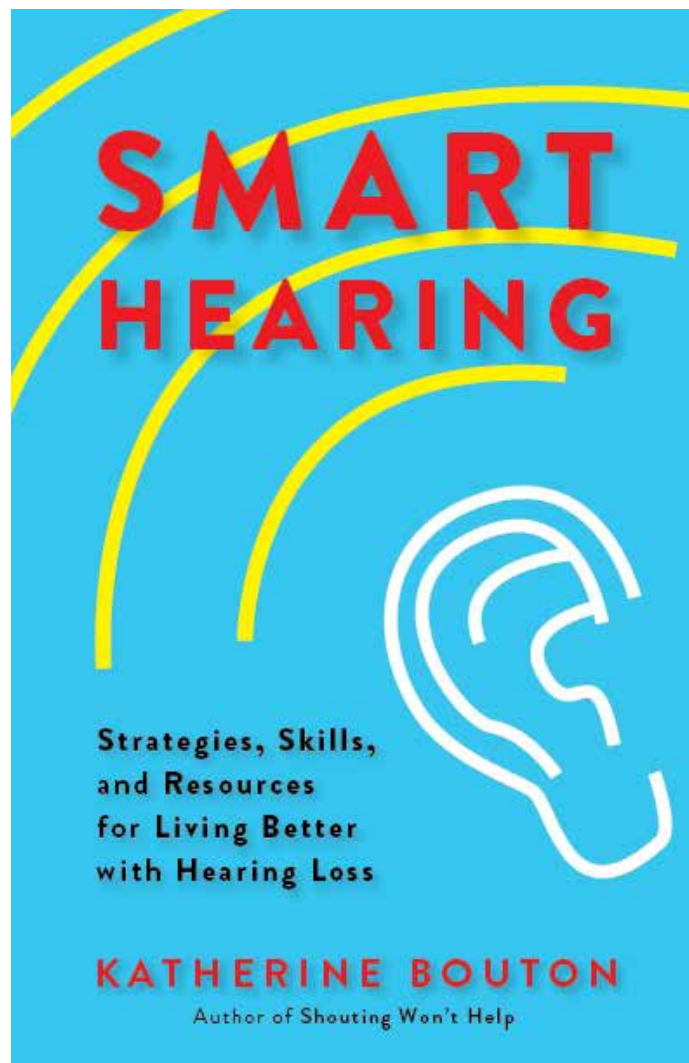
Our trips wasn't all work and no play. The Hearing Husband and I wore out our shoes walking around Copenhagen and Stockholm and were delighted at the high level of accessibility. I used my hearing aid and CI telecoils at every museum we visited, and we became so used to doors opening automatically that, back in Canada, we still find ourselves standing in front of doors, waiting for them to open.

The Hearing Husband and I smart enough not to expect everyone to fit the Scandinavian stereotype of blonde hair, blue-eyes, superbly fit, tech-savvy people who eat fishcakes and say skål. What we found is that they do say skål, seem to be reasonably tech-savvy and are warm, funny and generous. I saw no evidence of serious addiction to fishcakes, which I don't care for. In fact, the food – especially the new Nordic cuisine – was fabulous. The only minor problem I had was the Danish language – it is difficult to lipread and

I spent much of the trip trying to say Copenhagen the way they do in Denmark. It requires my mouth and throat to do things it's not trained to do.

I'm grateful to the three groups for inviting me to speak – Finland's Hörselskadade i Arbetslivet (Hard of Hearing Persons in Working Life), Hörselskadades förening i Stockholm, and Høreforeningen, the Danish Association of the Hard of Hearing. And the trip wouldn't have been quite so joyful without the superb company of Andreas Schousboe of GNHearing, Regitze Willemoës in Copenhagen, Aida Regel Poulsen of Middelfart, Anne Sjökvist in Stockholm, and the incredible gang in Vaasa – Eivor, Camilla, Siw and Roger.

Once again, we all learned that hearing loss has no barriers, laughter sounds the same in any country, and communication access solutions can be universal.



Bookreview: A **Smart** Compendium of **Hearing Loss**

Katherine Bouton, *Smart Hearing. Strategies, Skills and Resources for Living Better with Hearing Loss*, River West Press New York 2018, 291 pages, e-book \$ 6.99, ISBN 978-0-692-16556-0, Paperback \$ 14.99, ISBN 978-0-692-16498-3.

With “Smart Hearing” (fall 2018) Katherine Bouton presents her most extensive, most helpful, most personal and most current work on hearing loss. “Smart Hearing” is an authentic and thoroughly honest book, which refreshingly distinguishes itself from the sometimes exaggerated promises of the industry. Bouton lives with this technology and is happy with it, but she is still very aware of the acoustical and physical boundaries.

Whereas in her first book, “Shouting Won’t Help” (2013), Bouton primarily describes her personal career after having suffered a hearing loss at the age of 30, in her second book “Living Better with Hearing Loss” (2015), she already covers the whole range of problems with which one is confronted and the possible personal and technical solutions that exist. In the meantime, the former New York Times editor has turned into an international expert in this field. Her knowledge has broadened, and she describes the current state of research on the subject of hearing systems technology.

This is always done from the perspective of a person who herself suffers from a severe hearing loss, and

who, despite a hearing aid in one ear and a cochlear implant in the other, still openly admits to how, in difficult acoustical situations, her ability to hear is limited despite the best hearing technology and the use of additional "assistive listening devices". In addition, she still continues to struggle with the question of what may have caused her hearing loss.

That many problems (including cost) are specifically related to the situation in the USA does not diminish the significance of her book for the European reader. The hearing systems industry worldwide is dominated by six companies (soon after a planned merger there will be only five).

Of these companies all except one US-company are located in Europe.

The author specifically mentions the work of the Hearing Loss Association of America. Bouton first participated in the 2011 Annual Convention, and she has since been elected to its Board of Trustees. She dedicates this newest book to the many friends of this self-help organization.

Bouton presents current studies which postulate a connection between hearing loss and dementia. She urges treating this research with caution so as not to see a causal relationship which none of the researchers claims exists. Whether hearing systems can actually slow down cognitive decline has not been proven conclusively in any study to date. Only one French study with cochlear implant patients reaches this conclusion, although experts have doubts whether the improvement was thanks to the cochlear implant or to the aural rehabilitation these patients received twice weekly for a whole year (see "Spektrum Hören" 3/2016, pp. 47-49).

In comparison to her first book, Bouton's knowledgeability, especially in the field of Audio Frequency Induction Loop Systems ("hearing loops"), has increased enormously. This may have to do with the fact that her audiologist fitted her first hearing aid without a telecoil. In the meantime, she has experienced inductive hearing and uses it successfully.

Bouton joins in the US discussion about the pros and cons of so called "Personal Sound Amplification Products (PSAPs)", which can be purchased freely on the market, and so-called "Over-The-Counter-(OTC) Hearing Systems", which are not yet available. These

have been officially approved, but the FDA has been given three years to define their exact parameters.

This book is filled with valuable tips concerning very practical problems. For instance, Bouton mentions "ototoxic" drugs which can be purchased without a prescription, and which can lead to permanent hearing impairment.

Despite the prevalent fascination with constantly developing hearing technology, Bouton continues to emphasize the significance of lip reading ("speech reading") and hearing rehabilitation.

If you have hearing loss yourself or have someone in the family who is faced with the problem you will benefit from this book, as will hearing care providers / audiologists and ENT doctors who want to inform themselves about the state of the art research.

In my opinion, there is no other book at present which is simultaneously as personal and well researched in the English speaking or in the German speaking realm as Katherine Bouton's "Smart Hearing".

Siegfried Karg, former
Vice president of the
European Federation of Hard of Hearing People,
Winterthur/Switzerland
A German version of this book review appeared in
"Spektrum Hören" No. 6 November/December
2018, p. 60.



New **EU Regulation** is coming into force 26 May 2020

Are you aware of new EU Regulation of provision of hearing care and hearing aids in EU coming into force in May 26th 2020? The existing directive simply set out goals for Member States, which leaves freedom for countries to decide on adoption into their laws, however the regulation leaves no room for different interpretation and must be applied word for word to provide harmonisation across the EU.

This is an important step in the right direction in securing consumer protection in addressing sales of personal sound amplification systems (PSAPs) too often marketed as hearing aids. The regulation is recognising that provision and use of hearing aids needs intervention of hearing care professionals to ensure right hearing compensation is provided and further support where necessary.

The work is not finished here. Advocates working at the national level in Member States will be in better positions to request enforcement of the regulation but they will still need to monitor the situation to see if national regulators are up to date and prepared. Should you have any questions in relation to this development, please contact me directly @ vice.president@efhoh.org

The link to the full EU document can be found here <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2017:117:TOC>

Lidia Best
Vice- President EFHOH

Hearing aids **Provision** in Europe 2018

Please find link to the updated report on State of Hearing aids Provision in Europe 2018:
<https://www.efhoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/State-of-Hearing-Aids-Provision-in-Europe-2018.pdf>

Which is now on our website. You can also find this report in the Library on the Resources page under Publications.

Hire an EFHOH **speaker**!

Invite us to talk. We can travel to your event to present and share our work and lobbying experiences.

We may present about IFHOH Human Rights Toolkit and Prague Declaration, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including our subtitling lobbying work.

EFHOH representatives will never charge for their presentations, however we may request for travel and accommodation to be covered by the inviting party. Please contact us at office@efhoh.org



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[=] LTA

LiveTextAccess

LTA is an EU co-funded project that addresses inclusion and innovation. LTA focuses on three European priorities:

- development of curricula to meet labour market and societal needs
- open education in the digital era
- social inclusion.

LTA aims to design an effective and certified curriculum for real-time intralingual respeakers and velotypists. The training materials developed will be open source and suitable for in-house, vocational and higher-education training.

Real time subtitlers trained by LTA will have proper skills to provide high-quality subtitles in different contexts:

- cultural events
- parliamentary assemblies
- broadcasts
- workplace
- education.

The training will prepare for three different working settings:

- face-to-face
- online
- by relay.



Lead partner:



Project Leader: Rocio Bernabé
 rocio.bernabe@sdi-muenchen.com
 Web: <https://ltaproject.eu>
 Facebook: LTA
 Twitter: @LTA_EUproject

Project partners:



SCUOLA SUPERIORE PER
 MEDIATORI LINGUISTICI



Funded by the
 Erasmus+ Programme
 of the European Union

EUROPEAN DISABILITY MOVEMENT DEMANDS THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN 2019

Petition launched today by the European Disability Forum calls for action from EU Governments.

Stairs in polling stations. Long, complicated instructions. Unreadable voting ballots. Candidates voting on behalf of blind persons. Deprivation of the legal right to vote for persons with intellectual disabilities. These common issues still prevent persons with disabilities from voting in 2019.

Over 80 million persons with disabilities routinely face easy-to-solve problems in voting. In a time where abstention, scepticism and political apathy are higher than ever, providing accessible elections is essential. It will show that European governments still care about their citizens.

This is why today we are launching our “European elections for all” petition. It tells leaders that we want a Europe of equals. It tells leaders that they need to make Europe more democratic. It tells leaders that over 80 million European voices matter.

Yannis Vardakastanis, President of the European Disability Forum stated “Voting, and standing for elections, are two of the most important rights we have. This ongoing discrimination has to end.”

INTERNATIONAL STUDY ON ACCESSIBILITY IN THE WORKING LIFE

The German Social Accident Insurance (Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung, DGUV) is conducting an international study on accessibility in the working life.

Based on the German Federal Government’s National Action Plan 2.0 for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (focal point) commissioned a comparative survey on the accessibility in the working life. The DGUV has been asked to carry out this study.

The objective of the study is to find best practices and international experiences for an extensively accessible working environment that can subsequently be offered for implementation to German enterprises and their associations. Of special interest are examples, which show structural or strategic changes



and go beyond the single case, so that they can be transferred to other enterprises.
[Click here to read the full article](#)

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD) CALLS UPON STATES PARTIES TO OPPOSE THE DRAFT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE OVIEDO CONVENTION.

The UN Committee released a public statement against the draft Protocol point that it blatantly conflicts with the human rights of persons with disabilities recognised by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

These are great news and a welcome addition to our ongoing campaign against it.

ARE DISABLED PERSONS ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLATFORMS?

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) is carrying out consultation work specifically on the Sendai Framework for Action, producing baseline data and information. We would like to ask our members if disabled persons organisations are involved with national platforms working on disaster risk reduction?

Please send your response and feedback to Justin Sharpe justin.sharpe@kcl.ac.uk and Catherine Naughton catherine.naughton@edf-feph.org

UPDATE: UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The CRPD Committee published on Monday 'General Comment No. 7 on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention'. It is available on the website of the Committee. We will analyse it and come back to you on this. We will also discuss the implications in detail at our November Board.

Last week, the Committee adopted a statement calling States parties who are members of the Council of Europe to oppose the adoption of the draft additional protocol to the Oviedo Convention. The draft is currently under consultation by bodies of the Council of Europe. We are working with other partners to influence the result of the consultation. We encourage you to disseminate the statement to your network and continue to reach out to your governments.

THE AGENDA OF THE 21ST SESSION OF THE CRPD COMMITTEE HAS BEEN RELEASED

It will take place from 11 March to 5 April 2019. European countries up for review are:

Concluding observations: Norway, Turkey
Concluding observations for periodic reports under simplified periodic reporting procedure: Spain
List of issues prior to reporting: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark

The 11th pre-sessional working group will take place from 7 to 12 April 2019 and will include adoption of list of issue for initial review of Albania, Estonia and Greece.

For any questions in relation to the work of the UN CRPD Committee and the additional protocol to the Oviedo Convention, please contact Marine Uldry at marine.uldry@edf-feph.org.

THE EU PUSHES FOR MORE ACCESSIBILITY ON AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA

A broad majority of Members of the European Parliament adopted on the 2nd of October the new Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), which includes mandatory provisions on accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Article 7 establishes that TV channels, both public and commercial, as well as video on-demand platforms, such as Netflix or HBO, will have to make their services "continuously and progressively more accessible to people with disabilities". This means that there will be more subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, audio description, sign language interpretation and spoken subtitles in, for example, TV programs, series, movies, documentaries and news.

This is a remarkable improvement compared to the former Directive in which this article was just an encouragement. This resulted in some EU Member States totally neglecting accessibility, while others have considerably advanced, thanks to making it obligatory in their national laws.

MAKING MOBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE MORE ACCESSIBLE

The Erasmus Student Network (ESN), one of our partners is working for some years to inform more young people with disabilities of the mobility programs. There are quite some possibilities offered within the EU. Some very known are the Erasmus exchanges and the European Voluntary Service that becomes European Solidarity Corps. These programmes are for all young people so for those with disabilities too.

Even though the objective is there to make these programmes more inclusive, young people with disabilities are facing many challenges to benefiting of them. Therefore, ESN together with disability people organisations, youth organization and higher education institutions and organisations decided to join forces and take actions to push the decision-making bodies to make their commitment more concrete and gather resources available to facilitate young people with disabilities going on a mobility project.

A first meeting took place in Brussels on 27-28 September during which the participants trained each other on their respective fields and brought forward the difficulties encountered by young people when going on mobility. Many of the partners have already

resources which will all be gathered in a toolkit and recommendations have been prepared for the decision-making bodies. During a next meeting in December the recommendations will be finalized, a charter of inclusive mobility will be set up and the results will be presented at the European Parliament to the Commission and Parliament.

THE NEW ERASMUS+ SHOULD BE INCLUSIVE NOT ONLY IN THEORY

Together with some members we proposed some improvements of the Regulation on the New Erasmus+ Programme for Education, youth and sport. The main key message is that the programme should be inclusive not only in theory but in practice.

We proposed amendments on four main areas: compliance with the UN Convention (CRPD), accessibility, funding and the role of National Agencies the implementors of the programme.

Read More about the actions taken on Erasmus+ (log in on the members area please)

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN ACTION: OPEN CALL FOR CASE STUDIES

This is an open call to submit case studies to the Inclusive Education in Action website, a project conducted jointly by UNESCO and the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education. The project aims to provide an online resource for international policy makers working to develop equity and equal opportunities within education systems globally.

The call aims to collect written accounts of case studies from different regions that fall under one of the following themes:

Specific policy initiatives for inclusive education
Inclusive curriculum development
Developing inclusive learning environments
Educational staff professional development

The case studies should present detailed and highly structured material on key policy development in the move towards inclusive education policy and practice. The aim of the case study material is to provide detailed information from policy makers and practitioners for inclusive education, about their work and its results.

The case studies may include policy statements, descriptions and evaluations of policy developments, plans for and reflections on policy implementation. Material such as videos and photographs which complement written accounts are welcome.

The project team will use the information you provide to consider the case study and its suitability for the website. At present, we are only able to consider your information in English, but additional/supporting material may be in any language.

There is a specific template to present your case studied.

To submit your case study, please email your materials to iea@european-agency.org. The deadline for final submission is end of February 2019.

OPEN CALL: IDENTIFYING LITERATURE AND PROGRAMS ON SEXUALITY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

The International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) at Ghent University, Belgium, is currently conducting a literature review on behalf of the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) regarding sexuality education for children and young people with disabilities. The systematic literature review will form the basis for a guidance document on comprehensive sexuality education for children and young people with disabilities, which BZgA will jointly develop with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Expert Group on Sexuality Education.

The aim of the literature review is to identify the special needs and barriers that children and young people with disabilities face in regard to sexuality education. In addition, lessons learned from projects in the field are also being gathered. As such, we are looking for reports or short descriptions of activities that have been implemented on sexuality education for children and young people with disabilities.

The sharing of documents on activities that have been carried out by organization in this field is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Heleen Vermandere (Heleen.Vermandere@UGent.be) if you have any information.

Dear EFHOH members,

In EFHOH we have received this information from Siegfried Karg, Switzerland, that the German Guild of Professional Hearing Acousticians / Audiologists (biha) and the German Hearing Loss Association / Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund e.V. (DSB) have signed a Joint Declaration about Audio Frequency Induction Loops / Hearing Loops in April 2018. With Germany being the second largest hearing system market, this may be seen as a milestone internationally. Please find the links attached and do share within your associations.

<https://efhoh.org/news-from-efhoh/>

<https://efhoh.org/biha-dsb-joint-declaration-concerning-hearing-induction-loops-in-germany/>

biha

DSB

**JOINT DECLARATION
CONCERNING HEARING LOOPS / INDUCTION LOOPS IN GERMANY**

**German Hearing Loss Association / Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund e.V. (DSB)
German Federal Guild of Hearing Acousticians / Bundesinnung der Hörakustiker KdÖR (biha)**

The German Hearing Loss Association and the German Federal Guild of Hearing Acousticians unequivocally declare their support for the use of Inductions Loops or comparable technologies in public venues.

The same should apply to medical agencies like doctors' offices, hospitals and specialist shops which hard of hearing people must frequent regularly.

Despite a widespread opinion, hearing systems and cochlear implants (CI) are not yet able to fully compensate for an existing hearing loss. Therefore, to ensure adequate communication for higher degrees of hearing loss a direct broadcasting of speech signals to the hearing systems or to the CI is of prime importance. Hearing loops / Induction loops can be of special benefit in public venues.

Whereas today Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are being vigorously marketed and promoted, the classic Induction Loop seems to no longer command attention. With the presently available technologies, however, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are not suitable for large public venues, or, should they be developed in this direction, are proprietary. They are mainly suitable for use in the private realm or in specific technical laboratory situations. Development is heading in the wrong direction.

Everyone with hearing loss should be able to participate fully in society. In order to facilitate participation in public venues, standardized and easily available technologies are needed that broadcast speech and acoustic signals wirelessly directly to hearing systems. At present, there is still no universal standard for publicly installed broadcasting systems which can connect to hearing aids and to which acoustic signals can be delivered. The same is true for broadcasting systems utilizing smart phones.

Wireless broadcasting using the telecoil / induction coil of the hearing system / CI fulfills the necessary requirements of standardization and common availability. Users of hearing systems with integrated induction coils, also called telecoils / T-Coils, can use Audio Frequency Induction Loop Systems / Hearing Loops without additional receivers, independent of the manufacturer of their hearing systems, and without much preparation or additional installation. Inductive transmission with neckloop and T-Coil is at present a commonly available technical solution for coupling the hearing systems to FM- and Infrared broadcasting systems.

Together we advocate for the full participation of people with disabilities in public life. Therefore, in accord with today's state of the art technology, the technical prerequisites must be created that enable people with disabilities to participate in public life. For hard of hearing people this is especially true with respect to communication and broadcasting of information in public buildings. To this end Inductive transmission via T-Coil is still the technology of choice.

Mainz/Berlin, April 2018

Signed: Marianne Frickel
Federal Guild of Hearing Acousticians KdÖR
President

Signed: Dr. Harald Seidler Dr. Norbert Böttges
German Hearing Loss Association e.V.
President, Vice President

(translated from the German original by Siegfried Karg)



October the 27th 2018

Dear friends!

First of all a wholeheartedly Thank You to all those of you who contributed in making our 2018 Conference in Strasbourg such a memorable event. It was such a pleasure to meet old friends again, and making new acquaintances as well. For me the greatest pleasure was deepening the acquaintance with some of you, especially through the workshop that I had. My respect for you has grown considerably.

Seeing new faces at the conferences gives reason to optimism: Our task has a future, and I believe that an organisation like IVSS Churchear is more needed in our time than ever before, with the rapidly growing number of younger hard of hearing persons. Many think that in the age of Internet, Facebook, Twitter and whatever they are called, all the so-called social media, there is no more need for the personal encounters. I think they are wrong. Without arenas for personal encounters, arenas where we can meet face to face, learning from one another, inspiring one another, we will be not only hearing impaired, but even socially impaired. And after all Jesus says that where two or three of you come together *there* I shall be among you. I believe that the personal encounters will become more important in the future than ever before. Therefore we shall meet again to another conference in September 2020¹, in Eisenach in Germany. Planning will commence at our board meeting in Germany in a couple of weeks. What should our 2020 conference theme be? If you have specific suggestions, don't hesitate to send them before November the 9th. You may use my email address (See below).

But we need other arenas as well, meaning that IVSS Churchear needs to find new ways to inspire and bring together people engaged within Pastoral Care among hard of hearing. One way to go is *regional conferences* in the years between the international conferences. And some of our Swedish members have taken initiative to a regional conference for the Nordic countries in the southernmost part of Sweden, by the Baltic Sea in September² next year. This will be a conference not only for those *working* with pastoral care among hard of hearing, but for hard of hearing parishioners as well. It will be a low cost conference in the most beautiful surroundings at the seaside. The emphasis will be on the personal experiences we make as hard of hearing, or as close relatives to someone with a hearing loss. More information will come at our web site (www.churchear.org).

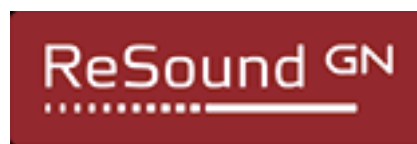
But as an organisation we need to meet with the pastoral care among hard of hearing in our members' countries as well. The board will therefore combine a board meeting next year with a visit to a Christian youth camp for hard of hearing youngsters, in Romania. And Ingrid is planning to visit an Open Ears event in the UK next year. But we have members in other countries as well, some with a well developed network around them, others feeling more lonely in their efforts for hard of hearing church members. How can the board contribute to boost your work? Do you want a visit for some event in your country? Do you want someone from the board to accompany you when you are negotiating with your church authorities? Jesus once asked a blind man by Jericho: What do you want me to do for you? Now we ask our members the same question: What do you want us to do for you?

Yours in Christ

¹ The 10th – 14th.

² The 6th – 8th. The count-down at our web site has already started!

EFHOH would like to acknowledge our sponsors generosity in helping us continue our efforts' in European advocacy



Support our sponsors! They support us!



EFHOH MEETINGS 2018/2019

2018	2018	2018	2018
14 December	Vienna	ITU meeting/conference	Lidia
2019	2019	2019	2019
18-19 January	Oslo	EFHOH board meeting	All board members
4-8 February	Erlangen Germany	TIN-ACT follow up workshop	Marcel
14-15 February	Geneva	WHO-ITU stakeholders consultation on the Make Listening Safe	Lidia
6 March	Brussels	EP Lunch Debate	All board members
13 March	Brussels	Platform meeting	Marcel
22-24 March	Bukarest	EDF Board meeting	Marcel
29 March	Munich	LTA project meeting	Marcel
4-7 April	Zagreb	EFHOH AGM 2019	All board members
26-27 April	Wroclaw/ Poland	EURO-CIU Conference and AGM	Lidia
7-11 May	Berlin	Tin-Act project meeting	Marcel
1-2 June	Brussels	EDF AGA 2019	Aïda and Marcel
17-19 June	Stockholm	Media for All conference	Aïda & Lidia
16-17 October	Nurnberg	Hear It AGM and EUHA and Audiologist of the Year	Aïda and Marcel
28-29 November	Brussels	European Days of Persons with Disabilities	One of the board members
2020	2020	2020	2020
May or June	Budapest	IFHOH World Congress + EFHOH AGM	All board members
1-2 December	Brussels	European Days of Persons with Disabilities	One of the board members

Version 20-11-2018

EFHOH - European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People consists of National Associations of/for Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened People, Parents' Organisations and Professional Organisations.

EFHOH comprises the European members of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) and was established in 1993. It has its own board and secretariat. The federation has non-profitable and benevolent aims and it is a non-political and non-sectarian organisation. EFHOH is a general member of the European Disability Forum (EDF). We also work in good co-operation with IFHOH and our official language is English.

The Board members of the EFHOH carry out their work on an honorary basis.