



# IMPACT REPORT

European Federation of Hard of Hearing



---

# 2018

---



## A strong united voice of Hard of Hearing



**The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH)** is an independent NGO that represents the interests of Europeans who are Hard of Hearing, Cochlear Implant users, Late Deafened People, Tinnitus and Meniere patients. Our federation consists of **28** national federations from **19** countries, **3** associate members and **4** individual members.

EFHOH was created in 1993 by its members' organisations to ensure that decisions at the European level concerning persons with Hearing Loss are taken with and by Hard of Hearing people. This is reflected in the motto: "Nothing about us without us".

Our aim is a Europe where Hard of Hearing People can live without barriers and have the equal opportunity to participate on all the levels in European society. EFHOH will realize this mission through our actions, contacts and campaigns, involving the EFHOH members and our partners.

### **The impact of our activities**

This report gives an overview of what we have achieved during 2018. Some examples are very concrete others are more in the field of creating awareness and the process of spreading knowledge.

February 2019

**Marcel Bobeldijk**  
president

- ◆ **More and more people are developing a hearing loss in Europe as well as Worldwide**
- ◆ **Hearing loss comes in all ages – from new born to old age and the older we get, the more likely we are to develop a hearing loss.**
- ◆ **New statistics and data will be published in 2019**



# World Hearing Day 2018

## Lunch Debate in the European Parliament



Once again EFHOH collaborated with AEA and EHIMA to join forces for World Hearing Day in Brussels. For the first time, AGE has joined our efforts in advocacy and lobbying. The theme of WHD 2018 was “Hear the future ... and prepare for it”. The report on WHD activities 2018 is [available on EFHOH’s website](#).



### IMPACT of Hearing Loss:

How to stay spontaneous



## EFHOH NEW WEBSITE – BIG SUCCESS

One year has officially passed since the EFHOH website was relaunched and it has been a resounding success. It has well exceeded our expectations. To date, we have recorded over 4,000 visits to the website from not only fellow Europeans but by interested parties throughout the world. The *About* page and *News* are the most popular sections to visit as well as the *Library*. The functionality of the new website offers more options and analytic tools than the previous website.

The EFHOH website was redesigned and relaunched near the end of 2017 by EFHOH volunteer **Bryan Bong** and **Søren Petersen** of Hear-It AISBL. The project was overseen by former board member **Juha Hietala**. The website is sponsored by [www.hear-it.org](http://www.hear-it.org). Bryan Bong (The Netherlands) is the EFHOH webmaster. Visit us @ [www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org)

### Top 10 Countries with the most visitors to the EFHOH website:

1. USA
2. France
3. The Netherlands
4. Germany
5. United Kingdom
6. Denmark
7. Sweden
8. Finland
9. China
10. Belgium

### IMPACT of Hearing Loss:

When you communicate better in writing than in speech

## HEARING AIDS REIMBURSEMENT REPORT 2018

Following the ESSEN DECLARATION 2015, EFHOH has worked on gathering information on hearing aids provision in different European countries. The report provides information from 19 countries and is available on our website.

### IMPACT of Hearing Loss:

You need to know your rights regarding your needs

### IMPACT of Hearing Loss:

Know how to obtain HA/CI and how you need HA/CI tuned and adjusted

## Audiologist of the Year



Deutscher Hörakustiker des Jahres 2018, Benjamin Schadow, together with Marcel Bobeldijk and Aïda Regel-Poulsen.



The Rayovac Audiologist of the Year competition, run in conjunction with Audio Infos, EHIMA and EFHOH, asks patients to nominate a hearing care professional who has gone above and beyond the call of duty, providing outstanding care and help to patients and their patients' family.

Patients with inspirational stories are encouraged to enter, describing how their hearing care professional has impacted their lives.

The following nine countries participated: UK, FR, DE, NL, ES, AT, SE, IE, DE

The competition 2019 is now open for participants via this link: [www.audiologistoftheyear.co.uk/enter-now](http://www.audiologistoftheyear.co.uk/enter-now)

### IMPACT of Hearing Loss:

One needs to plan how and when to relax and maybe take breaks from communication

## LATE DEAFENED PEOPLE EXPERIENCES REPORT

EFHOH published results of a survey on late deafened people experiences in Europe. The results of the survey demonstrate the need for society to recognize specific challenges of late deafened people and to enable continuation of their education, employment, and full participation in society. By publishing this report, we hope other countries will take interest into this specific group and develop policy recommendations based on their own national research.

We have come a few steps and there is more work to be done. The report can be found on our website EFHOH late deafened report 2018.

### IMPACT of Hearing Loss:

On top of having good HAs/CIs, you need to work daily on Communication Repair Strategies

### Ask for:

- Repetition
- Additional information
- Clarification

## WORKSHOP ON UN CRDP

The day before the IFHOH Conference, May 2018, in Ljubljana, Ruth Warrick, president of IFHOH, presented a workshop that would give those attending an overview and present the latest development of accessibility goals and a directive for a Call to Action on the World Report on Hearing Care.

The workshop was carried out in cooperation between IFHOH and EFHOH.

See link to article page 10 in EFHOH Newsletter, July 2018: Workshop on UN CRPD - EFHOH Newsletter (Photo of participants on Impact Report 2018 frontpage)

### IMPACT of Hearing Loss:

One may be mistaken for suffering from dementia

Some hearing loss is related to dementia and other diseases



## LTA PROJECT



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 set up an education for subtitlers and speech to text interpreters in Europe as well as to raise the bar on standards.

EFHOH is a partner in the LTA project. Find out more: [LTA project](#)

## ACT! (Accessible Communication Today!) by European Platform and Microsoft

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind need to realise their full potential, and accessibility plays a vital role for it.

The European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deaf blindness together with Microsoft gathered key stakeholders from across the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector, the disability movement and the European Union institutions and organised the seminar: “ACT: Accessible Communication Today”.

The seminar took place at the Microsoft Centre in Brussels. See more on: [Microsoft seminar ACT!](#)



European Platform of  
Deafness, Hard of Hearing,  
and Deafblindness

### IMPACT of Hearing Loss:

Know your accessibility needs  
And claim it appropriately  
Loop, other assistive listening  
systems (ALS), subtitling and  
speech to text (STT)

## EUROPEAN PLATFORM WORK



We aim to eliminate barriers to information and communication because all of us need **ACCESSIBILITY** in all areas of life. In 2018 there has been a particular focus on our right to information concerning the upcoming elections.

- Campaigns
- electoral meetings
- debates on TV

All members of the Platform are also members of the European Disability Forum



## HeAL2018 CONFERENCE – LAKE COMO

Hearing across the lifespan was the topic at the Lake Como Conference in 2018, when Darja Pajk and Aida Regel Poulsen gave their presentations on their own experiences on what it takes to live with hearing loss throughout a person's life.

This conference initially concentrated on early identification of hearing loss and has developed to also focus on hearing across the life span.

You can read more in the July EFHOH Newsletter on page 4:

[HeAL2018 - EFHOH Newsletter July 2018](#)



# WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA

You can find information about EFHOH on our new website, [www.efhoh.org](http://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 new 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 **Morten Buan**, Norway

EFHOH is a European Federation and its board of five board members work solely on a voluntary basis. EFHOH has volunteers helping with layout of Newsletter and updating of website [www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org)

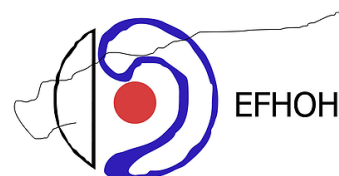
EFHOH have 27 General Members, 3 Associate members, **3 sponsor members** and **5 gold sponsor members** and 4 individual members.

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



Enquiries: [office@efhoh.org](mailto:office@efhoh.org)

Website: [www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org)



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People