



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

# Annual Report 2018

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

## **THE MAIN TARGETS**

The main targets for the year 2018 & 2019 were:

Implementation of the UN CRPD (Committee of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities) in the EU member states. In Cooperation with IFHOH we did a workshop about the implementation of UN CRPD in Ljubljana before EFHOH AGM 2018. This was also a follow up of the workshop done by EFHOH together with IFHOH in Copenhagen 2015.

Organising a Lunch debate in the European Parliament around the World Health Organisation (WHO) World Hearing Day in cooperation with the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) and the European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals (AEA).

## **AN OVERVIEW OF EFHOH ACTIVITIES:**

Working toward a stronger position for EFHOH in the European Union and the European countries.

Implementation of the European Accessibility Act (EAA) in the EU members states.

Implementation of Article 7 (Accessibility) in the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).

Improving access to hearing aids, assistive listening systems (ALS) and communication support.

Implementation of the European Union Medical Device Regulation (MDR).

## Strategy on Accessibility

In Action Plan 2018-2019, EFHOH members will find an update regarding the actions that the EFHOH board will take in relation to the European Accessibility Act.

### **Actions in 2018 & 2019:**

Continue to inform our members about the European Accessibility Act (EAA) and support our members for the implementation of the EAA at the national level.

Give direct feedback (via EDF) on the EAA to the European Commission and participate in the different public hearings that the European Commission and the European Parliament organise.

Update the *State of Subtitling* report we did not finish this in 2018. Action point for 2019.

Participate in the Understanding Quality in Media Accessibility Conference (UMAQ). The date was changed and EFHOH was not able to participate.

EFHOH president, Marcel Bobeldijk, participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Live Subtitling in Milan, Italy.

A Workshop for EDF staff was an occasion to exchange about the situation and the accessibility for hard of hearing people in Europe. This was carried out by Lidia Best and Aïda Regel Poulsen.

Aïda also participated and gave a presentation at the European Conference of Speech to Text Reporters in Stockholm, Sweden (ECOS).

Participate in the EU Commission and Parliament meetings as well as the European Conference workshop on Accessibility. This took place in combination with EDF board meetings and AGA.

Participation in the EU Parliament Disability Intergroup meetings was not possible for EFHOH.

A) some of the meetings took place in Strassbourg/France and that was not practical for EFHOH board members.

B) There are limited disability intergroup meetings.

Have direct dialogue with the Digital Commission and work as part of the Contact Group with EU States Media Regulators was not managed. EFHOH had a meeting with EBU.

Continue our cooperation with the staff at EDF as member of the EDF ICT expert group and the Public Transport expert group was done.

Continue our contact with the European Commission. Member Marianne Thyssen is responsible for employment, social affairs, skills and labour mobility and with the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality (responsible for implementation of the UN CRPD). EFHOH had some contact with Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero

(Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission).

Give and share feedback via EDF and directly on the EU Commission consultations by different documents with focus to accessibility, ITC, public transport, EP elections etc.

## Accessible Public Transport for Hard of Hearing People

### **Actions in 2018 & 2019:**

Direct involvement as member of the EDF Transport Expert Group and support EDF regarding the importance of the European Accessibility Act for the disability movement.

Call attention to the European Union that as a signatory of the UN CRPD it is obliged to adopt appropriate legislative measures to ensure the right to accessibility under Article 9 of the Convention.

EFHOH members should try to persuade their national governments to participate in the Commission's working groups on order to include as many Member States in the initiative as possible. National Disability Councils can also take part on behalf of the national government if they decide to delegate this task. EFHOH's members will have opportunity to get involved at the national levels in their countries.

EFHOH had participate in the making process of the EDF position paper on the recast of the rail passengers rights regulation (1371/2007).

EFHOH had participate in the EDF-AGE Platform webinar on EU Rail Accessibility legislation for beginners: explaining the EU rules on Rail Accessibility and the EDF/AGE position in the current revision.

## Accessible Telecommunication for Hard of Hearing People Across Europe

### **Actions in 2018 & 2019:**

Two EFHOH board members and a technology expert (volunteer) are working in the EDF ICT Expert Group on the implementation of the European Standard EN 301 549 "Accessibility Requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe".

EFHOH vice president will continue to participate in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) meetings to provide input on accessibility.

Continue our work in relation to spectrum interference which has the potential to affect hard of hearing people using hearing aids, cochlear implants and ALDs.

## Strategy on Rehabilitation

The EFHOH member-organizations' countries shall offer rehabilitation to hard of hearing people.

### **Actions in 2018 & 2019:**

Updated the EFHOH policy papers providing information about reimbursement of hearing aids.

EFHOH will also work in this period for better European Standards of Hearing Aids and Assistive devices and will continue our work with the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) and the European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals (AEA).

Participate in stakeholder workshops organised by WHO and support work on prevention and awareness of hearing loss issues

Continue our partnership with our member DTL (German Tinnitus Organisation) in the TIN-ACT project (Tinnitus).

Participate and give presentations at the Hearing Across the Lifespan Conference 2018, Lake Como. Darja Pajk and Aida Regel Poulsen.

At WHO conference in Moscow Darja Pajk represented EFHOH.

Lidia Best represented EFHOH at the WHF in Geneva.

## Strategy on Organisations and Partnerships

Encourage more European states to have a national federation for Hard of Hearing People. Maintain and develop partnerships with other European Organisations and work in cooperation with the European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness.

### **Actions in 2018 & 2019:**

We were not able to organise any Hearing Awareness workshops in 2018 because of limitation in Human power and money.

Participate in the different Platform meetings.

Repeated workshop for EDF new staff members.

Platform meeting was held as a seminar together with Microsoft hosted in Brussels with the theme ACT = Accessible Communication Today!

The aim of the seminar was to raise awareness concerning accessible communication. Accessibility needs to be an integral part of the development of future products. Speakers were Emmanuelle Grange (Head of EU commission Unit on Disability and Inclusion), Helga Stevens (MEP), Jenny Lay-Flurie (Microsoft chief accessibility officer). Speakers from the platform members were, Markku Jokinen (President EUD), Liisa Halonen (secretary EUDY), Wouter Bolier (Signaal / was about a Dutch example) and Peter van Houtte (EDBU board member), From Microsoft Hector Minto, Also from the EU commission Inmaculada Placencia Porrero (senior expert-social affairs unit disability and inclusion) And from the side of EDF was Alejandro Moledo (new technologies and innovation officer).

Participate in the different EDF board meetings and EU conferences.  
EFHOH president has participated 3-4 March in the EDF board meeting in Brussels.

Aïda and Marcel participated 26 May – 27 May at the EDF Annual General Assembly and at the EU Conference on the Web Accessibility Directive + at the workshop on the EU Structural funds. Important topics of this meetings were: European Pillar of Social Rights, Trends in Disability Assessment and Determination in Europe, European Accessibility Act (EAA),

Participate in the IFHOH board meetings and BGM.

Continue our contact with EHIMA (European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association) and the AEA (European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals).

EFHOH president participated in January in a triangle meeting about the organisation of the EP Lunch debate.

Participate in Late Deafened event(s) and continue contact with national/regional Late Deafened organisations and workgroups.

Participate in the ITU standardisation meetings (continue developing closer relations).

Participate and give a presentation at the Nordic meeting of the Hard of Hearing Organisations.

As mentioned earlier, EFHOH was one of the speakers at the eCOS event in Stockholm.

## Strategy on Youth

### **Actions in 2018 & 2019:**

IFHOHYP president is, on behalf of EFHOH, a member of the EDF youth committee. Victor is member of the EDF youth committee

EFHOH will continue the good contact between the board of IFHOHYP and EFHOH.

EFHOH participated in the IFHOHYP AGM in Istanbul. Marcel represented EFHOH.

IFHOHYP president or other board member will participate in the EFHOH board meetings. This did not take place in 2018. Skype meetings with IFHOH-EFHOH-IFHOHYP took place.

IFHOHYP was unfortunately no able to participate in the EFHOH Hearing Awareness workshop(s).

## Strategy on EFHOH Public Relations

To inform everyone who is interested in EFHOH, Hard of Hearing issues, European disability topics, and news from EFHOH member organisations.

### **Actions in 2018 & 2019:**

### **Results in 2018:**

The EFHOH website [www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org) was relaunched in 2017 and until January 2019 it has had 4000 visitors

EFHOH published 3 Newsletters in 2018. You can find them here: <https://www.efhoh.org/newsletter/>

EFHOH Impact Report 2017: <https://www.efhoh.org/about-efhoh/resources/>

EFHOH has both a Group and a Page on Facebook. Please follow, join and like us on Facebook. Link to Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanFederationOfHardOfHearingPeople/>

EFHOH is also active on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/efhoh>  
You can follow us @efhoh, @marbob32, or @best\_lidia, @DarjaPajk

EFHOH board members have promoted EFHOH and the needs of people with hearing loss throughout the year by giving presentations at different events, writing articles, granting interviews and participating in public debates.

This was all carried out in 2018 and will be continued in 2019.

## Strategy on Fundraising

### **Actions in 2018 & 2019:**

We would like to try to find one or two new (Gold) sponsors. We did not find new sponsors in 2018.



We will apply to one or more (European) funds:  
As partner in the LTA project, which was succeeded in 2018 and we participate in the TIN ACT (Tinnitus project)

## EFHOH AND MEMBERS

### EFHOH Annual General Meeting

The EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2018 took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia. 17 members were represented with a total vote of 38 at the AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> of May. The Annual and Financial reports as well as the Auditor's report were all accepted.

### New members

EFHOH is pleased to welcome yet another individual member from Ireland. VIS (Late Deafened Adults in Sweden) have closed their association and is no more a member of EFHOH.

### Elections

Vice president, Lidia Best, was re-elected.  
Juha Hietala, Finland, completed his term as board member.  
New board member elected is Morten Buan, president of HLF (Norwegian association).  
Petra Feinkohl, Germany, was again appointed to the office of Auditor.

Darja Pajk and Lidia Best presented the Late Deafened Report.  
Lidia Best presented the reimbursement report.  
Also, Lidia Best presented the report on ICT (EAA).

### Workshop and conference in combination with the AGM

Before the AGM there was a workshop on the UN CRPD in joint cooperation between IFHOH and EFHOH.

There was a one day conference on **Accessibility removes all barriers** with presentations on

- Legal bases in Slovenia and the World
- Psychological aspects of Hearing Loss
- Accessibility removes all barriers
- a) Medical rehabilitation

b) Psychosocial rehabilitation

For direct link see July Newsletter page 8: [https://www.efhoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/EFHOH-JULY-2018-NEWSLETTER.Ed\\_.F.pdf](https://www.efhoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/EFHOH-JULY-2018-NEWSLETTER.Ed_.F.pdf)

## Financial Report

The report on the financial situation of 2018 is as follows:

Incomes in the year 2018 were **16,590,00 €**

- Membership fees from our members and sponsors	16,590,00 €
- LTA Project	9,600,00 €
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Total	26.190,00 €

The amount of all expenses in total was **18.167,12 €**

- EFHOH BGM and IFHOH Conference May 2018 in Ljubljana	5.146,15 €
- EFHOH board meetings	2.599,11 €
- Participation in conferences, several meetings in Brussels, EU Commission, EU Parliament, Platform Meetings, Moscow and Lake Como	9.364,31 €
- Other expenses as follows: EDF membership fee, office address, website, administration costs, and bank charges	877,55 €
- overpayment (wrong payment from. Member)	180,00 €
	<hr/>
	18.167,12 €

Funds for our work stem from membership and sponsorship fees from 25 General Members, 2 Sponsor Members, 5 Gold Sponsors, and 2 Individual Associate Members.

At the end of the year we got funds for LTA project which we will start in the year 2019 in total amount 9,600,00 € and this money can be used only for this project.

## MEMBERS, THE BOARD AND OFFICE

### Members

By the end of 2018, EFHOH had 27 members, 3 Associate members, 6 gold sponsor members and 3 sponsor members.

EFHOH also has 5 individual members from Greece, Cyprus, Spain and 2 from Ireland. In addition to our members, EFHOH continue to have several persons of contact from countries where a hard of hearing association has not yet been fully established.

## The Board

The following people were members of the board in the year 2018:

President: Marcel Bobeldijk (The Netherlands) – elected 2017

Vice-President: Lidia Best (UK) – elected 2018

General Secretary: Aïda Regel Poulsen (Denmark) – elected 2017

Treasurer: Darja Pajk (Slovenia) – elected 2017

Member: Morten Buan (Norway) – elected 2018

## Board meetings 2018

February: Ljubljana, Slovenia

May: Ljubljana, Slovenia

October: Fredericia, Denmark

## Office

EFHOH has in 2018 not had the possibility to work with an internship.

Official postal address:

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3995 GA, Houten

The Netherlands

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## ANNEXES

### Annex 1

List of General members; associate members; Gold sponsors and sponsoring members as well as individual members as per 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

#### General Members (27)

#### Country

Österreichischer Schwerhörigenbund	Austria
Vereniging voor Hardhorenden "Onder Ons"	Belgium
Hörgeschädigte Ostbelgiens VoG	Belgium
Hrvatski Savez Gluhih I Nagluhah - HSGN	Croatia
Svaz neslysicich a Nedoslychavych v CR	Czech Republic
Ceskomoravska unie neslysicich z.s.	Czech Republic
Høreforeningen	Denmark
Eesti Vaegkuuljate Liit	Estonia
Kuuloliitto r.y.	Finland
Svenska Hörsel förbundet 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 Országos Szövetsége	Hungary
Nagyozhallók s Barátaik Országos Közhasznú Egyesülete - NABOKE	Hungary
Heyrnarhjálp	Iceland
Nederlandse Vereniging voor Slechthorenden	Netherlands
Nederlandse Federatie van Ouders van Slechthorende kinderen en van kinderen met Spraak-taalmoelijkheden	Netherlands
Stichting Plotsdoven	Netherlands
Hørselhemmedes Landsforbund	Norway
Polska Fundacja Osób Słabosłyszących	Poland
Zvesa Drustev Gluhih in Naslugnih Slovenije	Slovenia
Hörselskadades Riksförbundet	Sweden
pro audito schweiz	Schweizerland
National Association of Deafened People	United Kingdom
Action on Hearing Loss	United Kingdom

#### Associate Members (3)

#### Country

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

### **Sponsor Members (3)**

Oticon A/S	Denmark
Humantechnik GmbH	Germany
Sonova AG ex Phonak AG	Schwitzerland

### **Gold Sponsors (5)**

Cochlear Limited	Australia
GN ReSound A/S	Denmark
SIVANTOS GmbH former Siemens Audiologische Technik GmbH	Germany
Amplifon	Italy
Bernafon AG	Schwitzerland

### **Individual Associate Members (4)**

Kalia Nicolaou	Cyprus
Sofia Kolotourou	Greece
Freda Kenan	Ireland
Emma McAuley	Ireland

## 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 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 18 November 2001. EFHOH is the only European organization that represents all the 81 million hard of hearing adults (1 in 7 Europeans) in geographical Europe.

Its mission is to promote accessible communication, accessibility within the 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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