

EFHOH

European Federation of Hard of Hearing



HIGHLIGHTS 2019

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 and Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) patients . Our federation consists of 26 members from 19 countries and 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 highlights of our activities

This report gives an overview of our activities during 2019 and what our main targets are. Some examples are very concrete others are more in the field of creating awareness and the process of spreading knowledge

March 2020

Marcel Bobeldijk
president

★ EFHOH AGM first time in Zagreb, Croatia

★ European Accessibility Act approved by European Parliament

★ WHO completed a standard on safe listening

★ EFHOH celebrated World Hearing Day with a Lunch Debate in the European Parliament together with EHIMA and AEA. The theme was "Protect and Check Your Hearing"! EFHOH focus was **Social Aspects of Early identification.**



World Hearing Day 2019 Lunch Debate in the European Parliament

EFHOH collaborated with AEA and EHIMA to join forces in a lunch debate in European Parliament to celebrate World Hearing Day. The WHO theme was this year: “Protect and Check Your Hearing”! Our treasurer Darja Pajk from Slovenia gave a presentation about Social Aspects of Early Identification. The new Bridget Shields report was officially launched at this event in the European Parliament in Brussels.



WHO shared material ‘Hearing for life’ for the World Hearing Day which EFHOH distributed to our members.



Under WHO there is also World Hearing Forum (WHF), where EFHOH is represented by Vice President, Lidia Best, and Treasurer, Darja Pajk

Focus is safe listening and WHO has completed a standard on **safe listening**



EFHOH president continues as board member of the European Disability Forum (EDF) and has participated in the different EDF board meetings and EU conferences. The EU seminar on Accessibility of Transport and Built Environment of Persons with Disabilities in Helsinki was held in Helsinki.. Earlier this year at the EU conference about Youth employment and disability in the European Union took place in Bucharest/Romania.



Make Listening Safe

CAPAC Delphi project



An independent, international, expert panel - has been established to undertake a Delphi process as a step towards international expert consensus in relation to the treatment of adults with Severe to Profound Sensorineural Hearing Loss.

EFHOH was invited to cooperate with user perspective on cochlear implantations in an independent, international, expert panel, which worked through special method in a systematic way to prepare standards for implantations of adults. EFHOH treasurer, Darja Pajk, participated

Audiologist of the Year

EFHOH participated in the Jury of the Audiologist of the Year and we also took part in the Winner Awards event at the EUHA expo in Nuremberg. The Best Audiologist of 2019 was **Paula Cook** from UK.

At the EUHA expo in Nuremberg EFHOH, AEA and EHIMA also had our **Triangle Meeting** as well as we had the **19th Hear-It AGA**



Media4All

Media4All 2019 took place in Stockholm. This conference was accessible by loop in each room as well as speech to text. Even at the opening reception as well as the gala dinner, we had access to speeches via speech to text.

From EFHOH, Lidia Best chaired a panel discussion and Aida Regel Poulsen did a joint presentation with Finnish Sami Virtanen from Kuuloliitto on implementation of our rights and good standards both at European level as well as on national level.

The program for Media4All can be viewed from <https://www.tolk.su.se/english/media-for-all-8>

[There is an article by Aida and Sami in EFHOH Newsletter December 2019 on page 12 and 14 .](#)



EFHOH is partner in the ERASMUS+ LTA project

LTA project is an EU co-funded project that addresses inclusion and innovation. It is an ERASMUS+ project, and EFHOH is partner in this project.

LTA focuses on three European priorities:

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

In October the LTA project partners were ready to introduce the project for students from around Europe at the University in Pisa.

EFHOH participated and gave a presentation on the HoH population's needs and were able to also be specific on our needs in speech to text and subtitling.

You can read more about the LTA-project here: www.ltaproject.eu





REMOTE CAPTIONING

A joint effort of international experts at International Telecommunication Union lead by EFHOH has resulted in international standard on remote captioning which sets out both requirements and expectations to ensure hard of hearing people can enjoy full access to speech to text support on equal terms with others.

On ITU website the document is available to all and free to share :<https://www.itu.int/pub/T-TUT-FSTP-2018-ACC.RCS>

MAKE LISTENING SAFE INITIATIVE

EFHOH participated in development of WHO-ITU joint initiative from the beginning, providing input towards development of new global standard for WHO-ITU global standard for safe listening devices and systems. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/safe-listening-devices-and-systems-a-who-itu-standard> We have provided direct input toward developing toolkit for implementation of safe listening initiative. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/toolkit-for-safe-listening-devices-and-systems>.

Our vice President Lidia Best is a core member of the working group on Making Listening Safe, part of World Hearing Forum, responsible for key implementations of the guidelines



Make Listening Safe



World Health Organization

EVOTION

EVOTION was a three-year Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation project funded by European Union with the objective to develop prototype platform that enables insights from and analysis of big data hearing health data which ended in March 2020. EVOTION further adds the dimension of big data supporting hearing health policies. Lidia Best as their Advisory Board Member was able to provide direct input into development of the user questionnaire. The data collection is completed after 1000 hearing aid users used the EVOTION hearing aids for 12 months. The results will be published later this year. We can use all those findings further and influence different areas of policy that matter to those living with hearing loss.



In November 2019, Kentalis <https://www.kentalis.com> held a conference in Haarlem, Amsterdam on deaf learners. EFHOH was present and this conference was accessible by loop, speech to text and sign language interpretation.



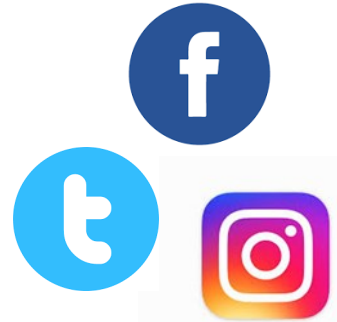
In the opening of the conference, Harry Knorr stated that:
“Deafness isn’t a learning disability! But it may result in cognitive problems that would influence learning negatively”.

WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

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



NEWSLETTER

In our Newsletter you will find 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 will from 2020 be published 9 times per year and is edited by president, Marcel Bobeldijk, and EFHOH web master, Bryan Bong



OFFICE AND CONTACT

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

President **Marcel Bobeldijk**, The Netherlands

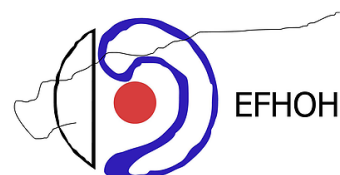
Vice President **Lidia Best**, United Kingdom

Secretary **Aïda Regel Poulsen**, Denmark

Treasurer **Darja Pajk**, Slovenia

Board member **Morten Buan**, Norway

You can contact us via website or office@efhoh.org



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