



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

EFHOH Annual Report 2020

2020 was related COVID -19 a very special year for everyone and also for EFHOH. A lot of events were cancelled and some events were changed into online meetings.

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 for the year 2020 & 2021 are:

- Implementation of the UN CRPD (Committee of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities) in the EU member states.
We have followed EDF in their actions and IFHOH and IDA.
- 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).
Related the COVID-19 the Lunch debate was not possible.
- Inform about hearing loss and rehabilitation via www.efhoh.org
We did this via (limited) EFHOH newsletter and social media.

- Inform about hearing loss and dementia via www.efhoh.org
We did this via (limited) EFHOH newsletter and social media.
- Working toward a stronger position for EFHOH in the European Union.
We did this via EDF and via the triangle (EFHOH – EHIMA – AEA). Related COVID-19 this was very limited.
- Implementation of the European Accessibility Act (EAA) in the EU members states.
We did this via EDF and via participation in different EU online events, webinars and have given feedback via EDF to different policy papers.
- Transposition & Implementation of Article 7 (Accessibility) in the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).
We did this via EDF and have informed our members. Concrete example is the video that Mher Hako Bayan from EDF made related the AVMSD.
- Improving access to hearing aids, assistive listening devices (ALDs) and communication support.
We did this with our partners in the triangle (EHIMA and AEA). Related COVID-19, together with the triangle members we have asked for attention on access to hearing care in this pandemic period.

Strategy on Accessibility

In Action Plan 2020-2021, EFHOH members will find an update regarding the actions that the EFHOH board will take in relation to the European Accessibility Act.

Actions in 2020 & 2021:

- 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.

The board did this via newsletter, website and facebook.

EFHOH board participated in the EDF online workshop "Rolling Out Accessibility".

- 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.

We did this via EDF directly to the EDF staff members, via the expert group. And we have participated in different EU webinars.

- Collaborate with the European Broadcasting Union to improve accessibility across all audiovisual media in Europe. *We did this not directly via the EBU but indirectly via EDF and also via LTA project.*

Actions focused to the transposing of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) into the national legislation the deadline for this was 19th September 2020 and only Denmark Hungary The Netherlands and Sweden had notified transposition measure and declared their notification complete.

EFHOH board members had participate in the 7th International Symposium on Live Subtitling and Accessibility.

- *Participate in the EU Commission and Parliament meetings as well as the European Conference workshop on Accessibility.*
EFHOH board focused to accessibility of website and online / internet as well as focused to public transport (Railway and Ferries).
- Participate in the EU Parliament Disability Intergroup meetings. *Related the COVID-19 there no/limited intergroup meetings.*
- Have direct dialogue with the Digital Commission and work as part of the Contact Group with EU States Media Regulators.

We haven't the possibility to have a direct dialogue with the digital commission.

Related COVID-19 was it not possible to organise a face to face meeting.

- Continue our cooperation with the staff at EDF as member of the EDF ICT expert group, Human and Social right expert group and the Inclusive Education expert group and the Public Transport expert group.

EFHOH board did this very well and we have a good and close contact with the staff of EDF. We do this via the expert groups where in EFHOH volunteers/board members participate.

EFHOH president is also board member of EDF.

- Continue our contact with the European Commission.

We were not able to make contact with the new EU commission also related COVID-19.

EFHOH president participate in the European Days for Persons with a disability; an online event which was organised by the Commission of the European Union

- Give and share feedback via EDF and directly on the EU Commission consultation.

We did this via the staff of EDF with a focus to topics related accessibility and access to information via website, internet and media as TV.

- Continue to participate as partner in the LiveText Access (LTA) & TIN-ACT project and start up comm4CHILD project in 2020.

We were also in 2020 a very active partner of LTA and have made different products for the online training program of new speech to text interpreters.

See also the LTA project website www.ltaproject.eu

We were also in 2020 partner of the TIN-Act project and have participated in the TIN Act meetings. Good to know that since the death of Volker Albert from German Tinnitus Liga, only EFHOH president has represented EFHOH in the TIN ACT project.

See also <https://comm4child.ulb.be>

- Participate in different conferences/events as LTA symposium.
EFHOH participated and also gave a presentation in the LTA symposium, which because of COVID-19 was carried out as a virtual event. Because the LTA symposium went online, it had many more participants than first expected and many participants from outside Europe.

Accessible Public Transport for Hard of Hearing People

Actions in 2020 & 2021:

- 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.
EFHOH carried this out via the staff of EDF.
- 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.
Related the COVID-19 we were not able to do this.
- EFHOH members should try to persuade their national governments to participate in the Commission's working groups in 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 board needs the feedback from our members on how successful they were in this topic in 2020.

Accessible Telecommunication for Hard of Hearing People Across Europe

Actions in 2020 & 2021:

- Two EFHOH board members and a technology expert (volunteer) are working in the EDF ICT Expert Group. *We did this also in 2020 and EFHOH has two members in this expert group.*
- *EFHOH new board member represents EFHOH at the ITU online meetings to provide input on accessibility. EFHOH board member has participated in the ITU meetings on accessibility standards. Also EFHOH vice-president has participated in these ITU meetings.*
- 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. *EFHOH has been in contact with the triangle (EFHOH – EHIMA – AEA) and EFHOH is also represented at the IHAC (international hearing accessibility committee) meetings.*

Strategy on Rehabilitation

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

Actions in 2020 & 2021:

- Updated the EFHOH policy papers providing information about reimbursement of hearing aids. Follow up on Essen and London Declarations and Hearing Reimbursement Report 2018 to improve access to hearing aids and rehabilitation. *It has not been possible to update the EFHOH policy papers.*

- 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).
EFHOH has been in contact about this via our triangle partners and via IHAC and IFHOH.
- Inform about hearing loss and rehabilitation via www.efhoh.org
This was carried out via website, EFHOH newsletter and social media.

Inform about hearing loss and dementia via www.efhoh.org
This was also carried out via website, EFHOH newsletter and social media. See also the link: <https://www.efhoh.org/hearing-loss-dementia/>

- Participate in WHO and World Hearing Forum.
*EFHOH did this and is member of the WHF.
EFHOH also in the safe listening project activities, as well as EFHOH board also participated in the WHO meeting with the theme: Glimpse into the World Report on Hearing – launch of World Hearing Day advocacy materials.
EFHOH has also published on the EFHOH youtube channel the HLF video on noise included hearing loss in young people.*
- Continue our partnership in the TIN-ACT project (Tinnitus).
We did this and EFHOH president was also in 2020 member of this project.

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 2020 & 2021:

- Hold Hearing Awareness workshops in some European countries.
EFHOH was represented at a meeting for Nordic CI work group in January 2020.
Related COVID-19 these meetings were not possible the rest of 2020, but attempts were made to carry out virtual events on the topic.
- Participate in the different Platform meetings.
Related COVID-19 this was not possible, but there was a good contact between the members of the platform via email.
- Participate in the different EDF board meetings and EU conferences.
In the beginning of 2020 EU conferences were carried out face to face and later in 2020 webinars and conferences were done online. Eg. the Conference organised by the EU commission related the European Accessible City and the European Days of Persons with Disabilities. This event is a part of the EU's wider efforts to promote the mainstreaming of disability issues and to raise awareness of the everyday challenges faced by persons with disabilities and this conference was also a possibility to discuss the upcoming Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 and the impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities.
- Participate in the IFHOH (skype) board meetings.
EFHOH president also did this in 2020 and the IFHOH board meetings were online and with speech to text support. EFHOH board participated in different IFHOH Webinars such as the IFHOH webinar about Inclusive Education. And at the two IFHOH CI users webinars was EFHOH's treasurer one of the speakers. EFHOH board members also participated at the IFHOH COVID-19 workshop where the Global report of COVID-19 on hard of hearing people was discussed. IFHOH and EFHOH presidents have also participated at the EU conference of Inclusive International Co-operation.

- EFHOH board has been able to have frequent board meetings using the EFHOH Zoom account and with use of speech to text / subtitles Meetings have been monthly.
- Continue our contact with EHIMA (European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association) and the AEA (European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals). *EFHOH has had a good contact via e-mail in 2020 and online meetings.*
- Participate in high level meeting with hearing aids developers. *Related COVID-19 was this not possible in 2020. Different events as the EUHA conference and expo and also the award event of the European Audiologist of the year was cancelled.*
- Participate in Late Deafened event(s) and continue contact with national/regional Late Deafened organisations and workgroups. *We did this and EFHOH treasurer participated in different online meetings.*
- Participate in the ITU standardisation meetings (continue developing closer relations). *EFHOH board member represented EFHOH at the ITU online meetings.*
- We participated and also became a part of a global community of Cochlear Implant Users – CIICA (Cochlear Implant International Community of Action).
- We continued to cooperate in CAPAC project (Consumer and Professional Advocacy Committee) with users perspective. The Consumer and Professional Advocacy Committee was formed to ensure the Cochlear Implant users' voice was considered during the Delphi consensus process.

Strategy on Youth

Actions in 2020 & 2021:

- IFHOHYP former president is, on behalf of EFHOH, a member of the EDF youth committee.
- EFHOH will continue the good contact between the board of IFHOHYP and EFHOH.
There is a good contact between the two boards and special with the IFHOHYP president is there a good contact and co-operation.
- EFHOH will participate in the next IFHOHYP AGM.
We shall, and related covid 19 is the IFHOHYP AGM 2020 online January 2021 and EFHOH treasurer will represent EFHOH at this IFHOHYP AGM.
- IFHOHYP president or other board member will be invited in the EFHOH board meetings. *Related COVID-19 was this not possible.*
- IFHOHYP will be invited in the EFHOH Hearing Awareness workshop(s). *EFHOH, IFHOHYP and IFHOH worked together in different webinars about CI and also about COVID-19*

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 2020 & 2021:

- Publish 9 EFHOH newsletters per year.
We did this via an EFHOH news bulletin and we have found

two new editors and have publish a new newsletter in a new style.

- Impact report 2019 .
We did and related COVID-19 only an online version.
- Promote the new EFHOH Website.
In the promotion we have focused to more use of the only members session on the EFHOH website by EFHOH members.
The website has also had added sections with more general information on hearing loss and living with hearing loss as well as a section on hearing loss and dementia.
- Update the EFHOH flyer and other PR materials
Related the COVID-19 EFHOH board sent out transparent face masks to all members.
- Facebook. EFHOH board has closed the EFHOH Facebook Page and we concentrate now to EFHOH Facebook group. The group has 742 members/followers.
- Twitter. *We have published different Tweets and we have 714 followers*

EFHOH in Numbers in 2020:

	2020	Background info
Members:		
EFHOH General members	22	
EFHOH Associate members	2	
EFHOH Individual members	3	
EFHOH Gold sponsors	5	
Management:		

EFHOH board members	5	
EFHOH webmaster	1	
EFHOH newsletter editors	2	
Board meetings face to face	1	
Board meetings online	8	
Social Media		
Website		
Facebook	743 friends 146 post	EFHOH had at the end of 2020 only a Facebook Group
Twitter	714 followers	
Projects:	2	LTA and TIN-ACT

Strategy on Fundraising

Actions in 2020 & 2021:

- Just before the Pandemic we sent invitations to various potential sponsors to support us, but unfortunately there was no feedback.
We would like to try to find one or two new (Gold) sponsors.
- We will apply as a partner to one or more EU projects. *We have tried that different this in co-operation most the time with the university of Barcelona. Maybe good to call here the different project for we apply or is that not needed. Or we can write here that we have apply for +/- 7 project and all without success.*

EFHOH and Members

EFHOH Annual General Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic 2020, EFHOH was not able to meet our members at the scheduled AGM in Budapest in May 2020.

The EHOH Annual General Meeting 2020 was carried out via e-mail and the elections were done via Survey Monkey. The responses from members and results of the elections were presented in a recorded Zoom Pro meeting by:

EFHOH president, Marcel Bobeldijk
Secretary General, Aida Regel Poulsen
Treasurer, Darja Pajk

This presentation was shared with EFHOH members via www.efhoh.org in Members Only on Wednesday 27th May 2020.

The Annual and Financial reports as well as the Auditor's report were all accepted.

Chair of nomination committee informed the board about the results of the elections:

During the elections, vice president and board member positions were open.

Morten Buan, HLF Norway was elected vice president of EFHOH by 33 votes.

Alf Lindberg, HRF Sweden was elected board member of EFHOH by 32 votes.

Financial Report

EFHOH European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

17.01.2021

INCOME STATEMENT 01.01. - 31.12.2020

INCOMES

Funds		9.235,00 € LTA
Membership fee from Members	6.253,50 €	
Membership fee from Individual Members	33,00 €	
Sponsor fees from Gold Sponsors	7.495,00 €	
	<hr/>	
	13.781,50	

TOTAL INCOMES

23.016,50 €

EXPENSES

AGM		
Accommodation, transfers, other cost	87,17	
Funds /events paid with funds		2.429,37 € LTA
Board Meetings		
Accommodation, transfers, other cost	344,95 €	
Conference, Seminar and Meetings		
Accommodation, transfers, other cost	1.308,78	
Other Expenses		
Administration cost	192,96	
Bankcharges	144,40	

TOTAL EXPENSES

2.078,26

TOTAL EXPENSES including Funds (EFHOH+LTA)

4.507,63

RESULT OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD 2020

18.509,07 €

European Federation of Hard of Hearing People
Treasurer: Darja Pajk

17th January 2021

This EFHOH report gives an overview of the financial situation of the year 2020.
EFHOH has made a positive financial result.

The balances of our bank accounts in ABN AMRO Bank in Netherlands and cash account were:

	EFHOH + LTA	EFHOH	Project LTA
Current account 40.21.25.576	23.488,25 €	14.060,62 €	9.427,63 €
Savings account 40.21.30.642	20.171,85 €	7.052,48 €	13.119,17 €
Assets in the year 2020	43.660,10 €	21.113,10 €	22.546,80 €

Surplus from previous years:

	EFHOH + LTA	EFHOH		Project LTA
Current account 40.21.25.576	4.979,38 €	1.994,38 €	+	2.985,00 €
Savings account 40.21.30.642	20.171,65 €	7.052,48 €	+	13.119,17 €
Assets from previous years:	25.151,03 €	9.046,86 €	+	16.104,17 €

At 31th December 2020 EFHOH had own 43.660,10 €.

Incomes in year 2020 were EUR 23.016,50 €.

The amount of membership fee from members and sponsors were 13.781,50 €

We got founds from LTA project in total amount 9.235,00 €.

The amount of all our expenses were 4.507,63 €.

Costs for the events paid from FHOH founds 1.715,26 €:

- EFHOH AGM in May 2020 online – 87,17 €.
- EFHOH Board meetings in Denmark – 344,95 €.
- Conferences, meetings in EU Commission, EU Parliament and Platform Meetings in Brussels – 945,78 €.
- Other expenses (administration, bankcharges) – 337,36 €.

Costs for the events related LTA project was paid from Funds (LTA project) 2.792,37 €.

22 General Members, 2 Associate Members, 5 Gold Sponsors, 3 Individual Ass. Member – total 32, have paid membership fees and sponsorship fees in the year 2020 in total amount of 13.781,50 €.

Darja Pajk
EFHOH Treasurer

No. 40482609 by Kamer van Koophandel
Utrecht / Netherlands

Bank connection:
ABN AMRO Bank, Amsterdam/Netherlands
IBAN: NL50ABNA0402125576
BIC: ABNANL2A

EFHOH Board:

President: Marcel Bobeldijk / Netherlands
Vice-President: Morten Buan / Norway
General Secretary: Aida Regel Poulsen / Denmark
Treasurer: Darja Pajk / Slovenia
Board Member: Alf Lindberg / Sweden

EFHOH

European Federation of Hard of Hearing People
Darja Pajk, Treasurer
Frankovo naselje 60, 4220 Škofja Loka
Slovenia
Phone: +386 40 650 034
Email: efhohtreasurer@gmail.com

Heyrnarhjálp – the Icelandic association – has not paid membership in 2020 and their membership has stopped.

MEMBERS, THE BOARD AND OFFICE

The Board

The following people were members of the board in the year 2020:

President: Marcel Bobeldijk (The Netherlands) – elected 2019

Vice-President: Morten Buan (Norway) – elected 2020

General Secretary: Aïda Regel Poulsen (Denmark) – elected 2019

Treasurer: Darja Pajk (Slovenia) - elected 2019

Board Member: Alf Lindberg (Sweden) – elected 2020

Board meetings 2020

Because of the Pandemic, EFHOH board was not able to meet physically around in Europe during the year 2020.

After the EFHOH AGM in May, EFHOH board has met every 3 – 4 weeks via the EFHOH Zoom Account.

Office

Official postal address:

Hoormij, NVVS

Randhoeve 221

3995 GA, Houten

The Netherlands

E-mail: office@efhoh.org

ANNEXES

Annex 1

List of General members; associate members; Gold sponsors and sponsoring members as well as individual members as per 31st December 2020.

1	Austria	Österreichischer Schwerhörigenbund
2	Belgium	Vereniging voor Hardhorenden "Onder Ons"
3	Belgium	Hörgeschädigte Ostbelgiens VoG
4	Croatia	Hrvatski Savez Gluhih I Nagluhah – HSGN
5	Czech Republic	Svaz neslyšících a Nedslyšících v CR
6	Czech Republic	Ceskomoravská unie neslyšících z.s.
7	Denmark	Høreforeningen
8	Estonia	Eesti Vaegkuuljate Liit
9	Finland	Kuuloliitto r.y.
10	Finland	Svenska Hörselförbundet rf.
11	France	Bureau de Coordination des Ass. de Devenus Sourds et Malentendants- BUCODES
12	Germany	Deutscher Schwerhörigen Bund e.V. – DSB
13	Germany	Deutsche Tinnitus-Liga e.V.
14	Greece	Hellenic Federation of the Deaf – HFD
15	Hungary	Siketek es Nagyothallok Országos Szövetsege – SINOSZ
16	Netherlands	Stichting Hoormij
17	Netherlands	Stichting Plotsdoven
18	Norway	Hørselhemmedes Landsforbund
19	Slovenia	Zveza Društev gluhih in Naglušnih Slovenije
20	Sweden	Hörselskadades Riksförbundet – HRF
21	Switzerland	pro audito schweiz
22	United Kingdom	National Association of Deafened People – NADP

Associate Members (2)	Country
Internationaler Verband für Schwerhörigen-Seelsorge e.V.	Germany
Aures	Georgia

Gold Sponsors (5)	
Cochlear Limited	Australia
GN ReSound A/S	Denmark
SIVANTOS GmbH former Siemens Audiologische Technik GmbH	Germany
Amplifon	Italy
Bernafon AG	Switzerland

EFHOH has 3 Individual Associate Members.

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 as registered in the Register of Commerce in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 18th November 2001. EFHOH is the only European organization that represents all the 82 million hard of hearing adults (1 in 6 Europeans) in geographical Europe.

It's 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

Address **EFHOH**
c/o Hoormij NVVS
Randhoeve 221
3995 GA, Houten
The Netherlands

E-mail office@efhoh.org

Website www.efhoh.org

ABBREVIATIONS:

AEA – Association of European Audiologists
ALD – Assistive Listening Devices
ALS – Assistive Listening Systems
AVMSD – Audio Visual Media Service Directive
BAHS – Bone Anchored Hearing System
CAPAC – Consumer and Professional Advocacy Committee)
CI – Cochlear Implant
CIICA – Cochlear Implant International Community of Action
Comm4CHILD – Communication for Children with Hearing
Impairment to optimize Language Development
EAA – European Accessibility Act
EBU – European Broadcasting Union
EDF – European Disability Forum
EFHOH – European Federation of Hard of Hearing
EHIMA – European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers
Association
EU – European Union
EUD – European Union of the Deaf
EUDY – European Union of the Deaf Youth
HA – Hearing Aid
HL – Hearing Loss
ICT – Information and Communication Technology
IDA – International Disability Alliance
IFHOH – International Federation of Hard of Hearing
IFHOHYP – International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young
People
IHAC – International Hearing Accessibility Committee
ITU – International Tele Communication Union
LTA – Live Text Access
NGO – Non Governmental Organisation
PR – Public Relation
TIN-ACT – Tinnitus Assessment Causes Treatment
UN CRPD – United Nations Rights for Persons with Disabilities
WHO – World Health Organisation