



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2012

## The mission of EFHOH

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People exists to represent 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.

## MEMBERS, THE BOARD AND OFFICE

### Members

EFHOH consists of 24 general members, 4 associate members, and 8 sponsors as supporting members.

In addition to the members, EFHOH has several contact persons from countries where a hard of hearing organization has not yet been fully established.

### The board

The following persons were members of the board in the year 2012:

President: Marcel Bobeldijk, the Netherlands (elected 2011).

Vice-president: Knut Magne Ellingsen, Norway (elected 2012).

General Secretary: Jan Lamby, Sweden (elected 2011).

Treasurer: Ritva-Liisa Schäding, Germany (elected 2011)

Member: Lidia Best, United Kingdom, (elected 2012)

### The Board had three meetings during 2012:

1<sup>st</sup> time: 30<sup>th</sup> March in Warsaw, Poland

2<sup>nd</sup> time: 24<sup>th</sup> June in Bergen, Norway

3<sup>rd</sup> time 3<sup>rd</sup> November in Prague, Czech Republic

### Office

The "office" of EFHOH consisted of Ms Lilian Ebadi-Lindqvist, who worked as part-time employee. Her ordinary position is as Secretary at the Swedish Hard of Hearing Association, HRF. She has been taking care of traditional post, e-mail box and archive. Our mailing lists and the distribution of all EFHOH documents also belongs to her duty. Lilian Ebadi-Lindqvist participated in the AGM in Bergen, Norway.

The work done by Lilian Ebadi-Lindqvist was shared with IFHOH, on the same basis. The cost for this work was covered by a donation from the Swiss member Pro Audito Winterthur. Due the cancellation of the agreement between IFHOH/EFHOH and HRF, the assistance ceased with the expiration of the year 2012.

**Contact information, see Annex 2.**

### Note to the reader:

The headings and subheadings of the following three parts refers to the corresponding headings in the "Action Plan 2012-2013"

## ■ ACCESSIBILITY

- **subtitling**  
EFHOH continued the promotion and implementation of the "State of subtitling Access in EU – 2011 Report". One of the meetings this year was with representatives of the Digital Commission in Brussels in July. Also we are still happy to get the active support of the MEP Lidia Geringer de Oedenberg on this issue.  
On Dec 18 the UK organisation OFCOM launched a statement on new accessibility requirements for broadcasters. Since they started consultation within EU, this will affect all broadcasters.
- **public transport**  
The EDF e-mail expert group had focus on the implementation of the "Railway" directive.
- **built environment**  
In this e-mail expert group of EDF, the Secretary Jan Lamby is a member. No particular activities in this group during the year.

**For a full view of all meetings and conferences that EFHOH has participated in during the year, see page 5.**

## ■ ORGANISATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **encouraging new federations**  
In the end of March, the board met in Warsaw, Poland. At the same time they attended a seminar with the newly born Polish organisation PFOS, who later this year became a member of EFHOH. These events were the outcome of several contacts between board member Lidia Best and the Polish representatives.
- **partnerships and co-operation with other hard of hearing or deaf organisations**  
At the Generalassembly of EDF, the European Disability Forum in May, in Copenhagen, the final agreement on the new platform was signed. This forum for co-operation is called the "European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness".

On the 15 November the new Platform arranged its first activity: A half-day seminar called "Mind the data gap" in Brussels. Invited were members of the European Parliament; representatives of Eurostat and the Platform members. The aim of this seminar was to put the torchlight on the lack of reliable statistics on the number of deaf and hard of hearing in the EU members; the accessibility to assistive equipment, hearing aids and interpreters etc.

The continuing work of the Platform involves about 3 meetings a year in Brussels. At the last meeting of the year in November, the Platform agreed on an important step to increase its influence on EDF: To get at least one representative from of the member organisations elected to the new board of EDF, in the upcoming election in 2013. Instead of having 4-5 candidates from all member organisations, the idea is to focus on two. In such a way it will increase their possibilities to get elected. EFHOH planned to nominate our board member Lidia Best. The final decision will be made in the beginning of 2013.

## **EDF**

The European Disability Forum held their Annual General Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark, in May. EFHOH was represented by President Marcel Bobeldijk. Also Vice President Knut Magne Ellingsen participated as a representative of the Norwegian Disability Federation.

EFHOH is still represented in the e-mail expert groups of EDF: Built Environment; Transport and ICT.

During the year EDF put pressure on the European Commission to finalize the new European Disability Act. However, no proposal was ready during 2012.

In February the EDF launched their so called Freedom Guide, a booklet that explains how to remove the barriers that still prevent people with disabilities to fully benefit from the EU internal market and freedom of goods and services.

EFHOH made a contribution to the booklet, in the part called "Voices from the disability movement", where Marcel Bobeldijk wrote about e-accessibility and ICT, Information and Communication Technologies

### The Youth Committee

Karina Chupina President of IFHOHYP, nominated from EFHOH, was a member of the Youth Committee during 2012.

The Committee is still concerned with the fact that young people are poorly represented in EDF and their Annual General Assembly (AGA). One of the actions during 2013 will be to write a letter to the EDF members, stressing the importance of including young people as candidates for elections to the EDF governing bodies.

Karina Chupina was also involved in a work called European Commission – Council of Europe Partnership in the Field of Youth Policy framework text: "Youth and Disability – EU and CoE policies framework".

### EDPD in Brussels

As usual EFHOH was represented on the annual policy conference conference to mark the European Day of People with Disabilities, EDPD. The conference was hosted by the European Commission (EC) in close co-operation with the European Disability Forum (EDF). EFHOH Secretary Jan Lamby attended the conference, which was held on Dec 3-4. Focus was on active participation of people with disabilities in different areas of public life, such as politics, media and sports.

Now established as a tradition (for the third year), an important part of the conference was the "Access City Award", the European Award for Accessible cities. The winner was Berlin, whose representatives got the prize from the hands of EC Vice President Viviane Reding. There were two "runners-up" : Nantes and Stockholm.

Reports from the conference are found in the EFHOH Newsletter December 2012 issue. More about the Access City Award at [www.accesscityaward.eu](http://www.accesscityaward.eu).

You find the presentations of the conference at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/events/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/events/index_en.htm).

#### European Parliament of People with Disabilities, EDDP

For the third time ever, there was the European Parliament of People with Disabilities on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Brussels. The day was dedicated to discussions on disability issues with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), representatives from the disability movements on both national and European level. EFHOH Secretary Jan Lamby attended the EPPD. Reports are found on the EDF site: [www.edf-feph.org](http://www.edf-feph.org).

### **Other meetings, conferences and representation**

During the year EFHOH attended several meetings in Brussels, concerning different fields of our work. A full table of all these meetings is found on below showing the range of our advocacy work on high European level.

**FACILITIES  
AND  
SERVICES**

February	Conference in Brussels with EDF; launching of the new "Freedom Guide". (Marcel)
March 2-3	European Accessibility and Inclusion Conference in Copenhagen; (Marcel and Lidia)
March 30-31	Board meeting of EFHOH in conjunction with a seminar with the new Polish organisation PFOS. (All)
May 24-25	EDF AGA in Copenhagen; Signing of the agreement for the European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness. (Marcel)
June 25 - 28	IFHOH World Congress in Bergen, Norway (All)
July 18	Consultative meeting with the Digital Commission regarding the Subtitling report (Marcel and Lidia)
September 27	Accessibility consultation with the EP Greens in Brussels (Lidia)
October	International integration Congress, Katowice, Poland (Lidia)
November 15	Meeting with the Platform and a half day seminar "Mind the Data gap" in Brussels. (Marcel, Jan and Lidia)
November 21	AVMS Contact group, hearing on the State of Subtitling in EU report, Brussels. (Lidia and Marcel)
December 5	European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities, Brussels (Jan)
December 5	CSI/DTG Audiovisual user experience conference, London (Lidia)

### **uality of induction loops and other assistive listening systems**

EFHOH has supported and promoted the planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International conference on Hearing Loops, to be held in Eastbourne, UK, in October 2013. The conference will be hosted by Hearing Link, UK (member of EFHOH).

- **Support of the EU Written Declaration 35/2011 on accessible 112 emergency service**

EFHOH is supporting this declaration, illustrated by a pictogram shown on our website. This WD campaign was initiated by the Romanian Deaf Association in 2011, and continued in 2012.

The Written declaration calls for all member states to provide access to the 112 emergency service by SMS or other text media.

## **EFHOH General Meeting - AGM – Conference**

The EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2012 was held in Bergen, Norway, in conjunction with the IFHOH World Congress. In the end of June, the city showed its best side, and the arrangements of the AGM shared the same high level as the world congress.

24 delegates from 23 members were participating, at the meeting on June 25. After the usual formal points like acceptance of the Annual and Financial Reports and the Auditors report, elections were performed. The Vice President Knut Magne Ellingsen, Norway; and board member Lidia Best, UK, were re-elected unanimously since there were no other candidates.

In the Nominating Committee, the Chairperson Eija Isaksson, Finland, was re-elected. Other members in the Committee are Kees Twilt, the Netherlands, and Harald Tamegger, Austria.

Petra Feinkohl, Germany was again appointed to the office of Auditor.

### **Motions**

There was a motion from the Nordic members of EFHOH: Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, proposing amendments of the Statutes. The amendments meant to add some paragraphs about the work of the Nomination Committee. The board of EFHOH also proposed some amendments. The motion was handled through voting on the amendments paragraph by paragraph. The greater part of these amendments were passed by the required two-third majority.

The amendments have to be registered at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce. To proceed, the Minutes from the AGM have to be fully accepted by the members. The deadline for this was set to December 1, 2012. No complaints have been received, and consequently the registration will probably be completed in the beginning of 2013.

### **Action Plan 2012-2013 and Budget plan**

The action plan for the following two years and the budget plan were accepted unanimously.

## ■ FINANCIAL REPORT 2012

This short report gives an overview of the financial situation of the year 2012. Incomes in year 2012 were **EUR 11.408,34**; the amount of membership fee from our members was EUR 8.920,00.

The amount of all our expenses was total **EUR 12.919,30**. The main items of these expenses were: IFHOH Congress in June 2012 in Bergen / Norway with EFHOH AGM for EUR 4.893,21, EFHOH Board meetings in March 2012 in Warsaw / Poland and in November 2012 in Prague / Czech Republic for EUR 3.687,99 and different Conferences for EUR 2.242,00.

The loss for the year 2012 was **EUR 1.510,96**.

## ■ IFHOH

Formally EFHOH constitutes itself as a region of the **International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, IFHOH**, but working independently within Europe according to our Statutes.

The president of EFHOH (Marcel Bobeldijk) is by the constitution of IFHOH, a permanent member of the IFHOH board.

In 2012 work of IFHOH naturally had its focus on the World Congress in Bergen. Reports are found both in IFHOH Journal and EFHOH Newsletter.

Also important was participation in the meetings of IDA, International Disability Alliance. The work in IDA involves the implementation of the UN CRPD.

At one of the meetings, held in New York, EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk participated as a representative of IFHOH.

More information about IFHOH at the website: [www.ifhoh.org](http://www.ifhoh.org)

## ■ IFHOHYP

**IFHOHYP**, the International Federation of the Hard of Hearing Young People, was also very active during 2012. The AGM was held in Bergen, Norway, in conjunction with the World Congress. EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk represented EFHOH at this AGM.

In order to improve the co-operation between IFHOH and IFHOHYP, these two organizations have established a document called Memorandum of Understanding. In the end of the year EFHOH invited IFHOHYP to discussions how to increase the co-operation between IFHOHYP and EFHOH on the EU/European level.

More information about IFHOHYP at the website [www.ifhohyp.org](http://www.ifhohyp.org)

## EFHOH Media and information

### **Newsletter**

The Newsletter was published in five issues 2012. Editor was as previous year Niels-Henrik M. Hansen, Denmark.

At the release date, every member and contact-person etc. get an e-mail link direct to the website and then new issue.

There were 284 receivers on the mailing list during 2012.

### **Information and PR**

At the World Congress, EFHOH released an updated version of our flyer/brochure. EFHOH had together with other organizations, the possibility to display information at a table in the congress venue. Our information material also included a sample of the "EFHOH History", a booklet prepared by Marcel Bobeldijk and Kees Twilt from the Netherlands.

### **Website**

The work with EFHOH's new website continued during 2012, and by the end of the year the new site was put in operation.

With a new fresh layout and improved interactivity possibilities, the site is now in level of common standards of today. For the creation and design of the site

EFHOH are grateful to board member Lidia Best, who was assisted in this work by her son Simon Best.

### **Facebook:**

There is since 2008 an EFHOH friends group at the Facebook site, and by the end of 2012 we had 312 friends in this group.

## FINAL WORDS

Finally, the board members want to thank everyone; individual persons, members, member organizations, co-operating organizations and, last but not least, the sponsors who in different ways have given support to EFHOH in the work to make a create a barrier-free Europe for all hard of hearing citizens.



February 2013, The EFHOH Board:

*Marcel Bobeldijk*

*Knut Magne Ellingsen*

*Jan Lamby*

*Ritva-Liisa Schädling*

*Lidia Best*

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1

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#### GENERAL MEMBERS (26)

as per 31 december 2012

Austria	Österreichischer Schwerhörigenbund - ÖSB
Belgium	Vereniging vor Hardhorenden "Onder Ons"
Croatia	Hrvatski Savez Gluhih I Nagluhah - HSGN

Czech Republic	Svaz Neslyšících a Nedslyšících v ČR Česka Unie Neslyšících
Denmark	Høreforeningen
Estonia	Eesti Vaegkuuljate Liit
Finland	Kuuloliitto r.y.; - FFHOH Svenska Hörsselförbundet rf
France	Bureau de Coordination des Associations de Devenus-Sourds et Malentendants - BUCODES
Germany	Deutscher Schwerhörigen Bund e.V. – DSB Deutsche Tinnitus-Liga - DTL
Hungary	Siketek es Nagyothallok Országos Szévesége -SINOSZ
Ireland	Irish Hard of Hearing Association- IHHA
Netherlands	Nederlandse Vereniging voor Slechthorenden - NVVS Federatie van Ouders van Slechthorende en Spraakgebrekkige Kinderen - FOSS
Norway	Hørselhemmedes Landsforbund – HLF
Poland	Polska Fundacja Osób Słabosłyszących - PFOS
Slovakia	Slovenský Zväz Sluchovo Postihnutých
Slovenia	Zveza Drustev Gluhih in Naglusnih Slovenije
Sweden	Hörselskadades Riksförbund - HRF
Switzerland	Pro Audito Schweiz
Turkey	Türkiye İşitme ve Konuşma Rehabilitasyon Vakfı
United Kingdom	Hearing Concern Link Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID, Royal National Institute for Deaf) National Association of Deafened People - NADP

### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (3)**

Germany	Internationaler Verband für Schwerhörigen-Seelsorge e.V.- IVVS
Italy	Associazione Luca Coscioni Per la libertà di ricerca scientifica
Switzerland	FoRom écoute, La Fondation Romande des Malentendants

### **SPONSORING MEMBERS (7)**

Bernafon AG	Switzerland
GN Resound A/S	Denmark
Oticon A/S	Denmark
Phonak AG	Switzerland
Pro Audito Winterthur	Switzerland
Siemens Audiologische Technik GmbH	Germany
Widex A.P.S.	Denmark

## **Annex 2**

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### **EFHOH facts and history**

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing – EFHOH - was created as a legal entity and as an independent region of IFHOH, the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, on the 31 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 of Utrecht, the Netherlands, on the 18 November 2001. EFHOH is the only European organization that represents all the 81 million hard of hearing adults (one in seven Europeans) in Europe (member and non-member states of the European Union).

Its mission is to promote accessible communication, accessibility to travel and 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 in the European Disability Forum – EDF with the right to representation in the Annual General Assembly.

### **Contact information**

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