

Edited by Marcel
Bobeldijk, president of
EFHOH and Niels-Henrik
M. Hansen.

Deadline for the next
newsletter is February
15.th /2016.

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European Federation of Hard of Hearing People



EFHOH President letter

We as the EFHOH board were very active in the second part of 2015 for better Access to Opportunities for Hard of Hearing People in the European Union and other parts of Europe. This all starts by professionally approved, good quality hearing aids and assistive listening devices (ALD). Because it is the most effective access to a good education and further education opens the doors to employment, one of the important results of 2015 is the Essen Declaration 2015 which contains the title "Access to hearing aids is access to opportunity". You can find the Essen Declaration on our website.

ATHENS

For the first time in the history of EFHOH, we had our board meeting in Athens the capital of Greece. It was great to have Alper Coskun, the IFHOHYP vice president with us. This time we had the opportunity to discuss with Ioannis Vardakastanis, the president of the European Disability Forum (EDF), about different topics, such as what is the role of ENGOS and national NGOs for Hard of Hearing

People by the implementation process of the UN CRPD at the EU and national level.

Friday afternoon we had the opportunity to give a Hearing Awareness Workshop for deaf and hard of hearing people. This workshop was organised by the President of the Greek Organisation of Deaf People, Yannis Yallouros. At the workshop, we gave different presentations. Also Alper, Anna and Yannis from the Greek Organisation of Deaf People gave a presentation.

After the EFHOH board meeting on Saturday afternoon, we had an interesting meeting with our individual member in Greece, Sofia Kolotourou.

IFHOH UN CRPD workshop

The IFHOH UN CRPD workshop was a great opportunity to inform and train our members about the UN CRPD and learn from each other about what is happening in the different EFHOH member states. Additionally, it was also a great opportunity to view and visit the Danish Disability House in Copenhagen, the most accessible building in the



The offices of the Danish Disability Council

world. This house/office of the Danish Disability Council is a great example of how disability and design can work together. This UN CRPD workshop is also an example of the warm and important cooperation between the IFHOH and EFHOH. Thanks to Louise Carroll for coming from New Zealand to Europe and present this UN CRPD workshop. In this EFHOH newsletter there are two nice articles from two participants of the workshop. Special thanks to our guest speakers Simona Giarratano, policy officer of EDF and Signe Holjsteen, senior officer at the Disabled Peoples Organisations, Denmark, for their interesting presentations. We would also like to say some words of thanks to Birgit Rasmussen of Horeforeningen (our Danish member) for all her practical support!

World Health Organization (WHO)

We as the EFHOH board are very happy that the WHO has informed us that they renamed the International Ear Care Day on 3 March the World Hearing Day (from 2016 onwards). This change helps WHO to align the day with other such initiatives e.g. World Health Day, World Sight Day etc. A logo for the World Hearing Day has been developed, through a competition organized by the IDA Institute. The theme for 2016 is: Childhood hearing loss: act now, here is how! WHO plans to release a brochure on the theme and will share advocacy materials including theme posters and banners in advance of the day. This gives us, the EFHOH and our members, a great opportunity to promote this hearing awareness campaign.

EFHOH AGM 2016

We hope to meet you all at the next EFHOH AGM 2016 in Paris. We have informed our members in detail by email

but also in this EFHOH newsletter you will find some information about our AGM in Paris. Please contact us if you have some questions.

Follow us

We invite you to follow EFHOH via Facebook and Twitter. Our Twitter addresses are:

EFHOH	@efhoh
Marcel Bobeldijk	@marbob32
Lidia Best	@best_lidia
EDF	@MyEDF

It would be great if you shared the EFHOH impact report 2014 with all your volunteers and your contacts. Please contact us if you would like to have the paper version of the EFHOH Impact Report 2014.

Call for the EFHOH Newsletter

If you have an article for one of the next EFHOH newsletters that we will publish in 2016, please send it to us. You can also send your article to our EFHOH newsletter editor Niels-Henrik, his email address is nhmh@learning.aau.dk. Dear EFHOH members and friends, on behalf of the EFHOH board I wish you all, together with your family and friends, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2016!

Warm regards,

Marcel Bobeldijk
President of EFHOH.



IFHOH Updates from Its President

For only the second time in IFHOH's history a Congress is being held in North America. The first was in 2008 in Vancouver, my hometown and it was thrilling to have persons from all over the world attend. In 2016 the Congress will be held in Washington, DC. It will be our 10th Congress and 20th biennial meeting. Please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend from June 22-26, 2016. It is especially important that you attend the IFHOH BGM which will be held Wednesday, June 22nd.

Please note that the deadline for the Call for Proposals is December 4, 2015 with more information at <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/call-papers>.

Information is also available about the Grant from the Marcia Dugan Memorial Fund for the 2016 Congress. It is open to a hard of hearing person who demonstrates an interest in working with hard of hearing people and who is currently involved with hearing loss issues. More information is at

<http://www.ifhoh.org/ifhoh-papers/> and the deadline to apply is January 5, 2016.

We will hold a Workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on June 22nd in Washington DC with the application process to be announced early in 2016. IFHOH is very pleased with the recent collaboration with EFHOH to offer two CRPD workshops in Copenhagen and thanks Louise Carroll and Marcel Bobeldijk for their hard work in pulling this off. We are especially pleased that more members of our community have additional information and insight about hard of hearing issues as it pertains to the Convention, the most important treaty for persons with disabilities worldwide.

The work to use the CRPD as an instrument for change for our community continues and I am pleased that IFHOH remains a strong member of the International Disability Alliance. At recent meetings in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the achievement of our community in having disability mentioned in the United Nations new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable



Development (now more popularly known as the 'Global Goals') was celebrated. At the same time, we know that much work lies ahead to transform these goals into real change at the ground level for people with disabilities.

At the IDA conference in Sao Paulo I was especially pleased to meet three hard of hearing persons from Bolivia and will be keeping in touch. South America remains the one continent in which we do not have a foothold and so I was glad to meet individuals who are involved at an organizational level. Despite language barriers we were able to communicate through a mobile device translator system that involves speaking into the device which trans-

lates into the language of the receiver; the translation was in text which was perfect!

As we head into the holiday season, let me take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best and continued health and happiness.

Fondly,
Ruth Warick
IFHOH President
Email: president@ifhoh.org



By Bryan Bong

30 years European Union of the Deaf

The European Union Deaf hosted a conference at the European Parliament in celebration of their 30th anniversary. Multiple representatives from various organisations throughout the world, especially those that represent the deaf, hard of hearing, and the deafblind, were in attendance. Representing the EFHOH was board president Marcel Bobeldijk and Bryan Bong. The topic of the conference was "Invisible in Europe: Exploring the meaning of reasonable accommodation from Deaf and Sign Language's perspective," was hosted by the deaf MEPs, Helga Stevens and Ádám Kósa.

Sessions included discussions regarding the current situation of Reasonable Accommodation in the EU Member States and identifying the capacities of legislation at the European level. Panellists also spoke of the importance of

access to sign language interpreting in employment and education.

Attendees were able to explore the definition of reasonable accommodation and engage politically with MEPs regarding issues such as the UNCRPD, European Accessibility Act, and legal recognition of sign language.

The conference was a great success with a turnout of over 150 attendees and brought even greater awareness to the needs and issues regarding the deaf community. The 30th anniversary of the EUD is a significant milestone of achievement and we look forward to celebrating their next milestone in the near future.

Warm welcome to EFHOH as member of hear-it.org AISBL

EFHOH is now member of hear-it AISBL and supports hear-it.org - a global website that informs about hearing loss and tinnitus".

On Tuesday 20th of October hear-it.org AISBL had their 15th General Assembly at the Admiral Hotel in Copenhagen, and EFHOH participated represented by EFHOH secretary, Aida Regel Poulsen.

Many very interesting topics were discussed about hearing loss and tinnitus, and the risk of cognitive decline in untreated hearing loss is getting more and more attention.

In EFHOH we look very much forward to cooperating with hear-it.org and suggest you inform your members of your national associations about hear-it.org and search this site for information related your situation with hearing loss. It comes in many different languages and therefor should be easy to read to many.

Among lots of good information hear-it.org also edit short videos on different aspects about living with hearing loss. These videos are of course texted.

Try this link (and find more on hear-it.org):
<http://www.hear-it.org/hearing-aid-users-experience-increased-quality-life>

We look forward to the cooperation with hear-it - you can find the website at: **www.hear-it.org**



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With 60 years' experience and more than 5,700 specialist centres in 20 countries, we're the world's leading dedicated hearing aid specialist.

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From our comprehensive hearing assessment to your programme of Free Lifetime Aftercare, we are committed to help you get the very best from your hearing.



EFHOH welcomes a new Intern!

EFHOH is pleased to announce the appointment of our new intern, Policy Officer Sophie Kleanthous. Sophie started on 2nd December and will stay with us for the next six months. She is based at Action on Hearing Loss in London, UK and managed by our Vice-President, Lidia Best. Welcome to the team!

Read here, what Sophie had to say:

Hi to everyone! My name is Sophie Kleanthous and I am the new Policy intern here at EFHOH!

I just graduated from University and straight away on my first day I have been thrown into action. We just completed 2 press releases and created a social media campaign for 'International Day of People with Disabilities'.

I can't wait to meet you all and look forward to getting stuck in and helping people who are hard of hearing in Europe.

Hire an EFHOH speaker!

Invite us to talk. We can travel to your event to present and share our work and lobbying experiences.

We may present about EFHOH Human Rights Toolkit and Prague Declaration, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including our subtitling lobbying work.

EFHOH representatives will never charge for their presentations, however we may request for travel and accommodation to be covered by the inviting party.

Please contact us at office@efhoh.org



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

European Federation of Hard of Hearing People Nominating Committee

10th, November, 2015

Dear General members of EFHOH,

The new board of EFHOH will be elected in the EFHOH Annual General Meeting (AGM), April 1th, 2015 in Paris, France.

The nomination committee needs formal proposals from the member organizations for the positions of the board:

a. candidates to the board:

Vice President Board member

Board member Jaana Linna (Finland) is not available for re-election.

All possible candidates must be nominated by a general member organization of EFHOH. A current EFHOH board member can be re-elected, but he/she has to officially communicate with his/her own general member organization about her availability of re-election.

The EFHOH Statutes states among others:

The Board consists of President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer and one Board member. Board members must be of age and qualified to act. The majority of the board members must be hard of hearing themselves and have to be a member of EFHOH general organization. Board members will be elected by a majority vote for a period of two years and can be re-elected.

The present Board comprises:

President:	Marcel Bobeldijk (The Netherlands)
Vice-President:	Lidia Best (United Kingdom)
General-Secretary:	Aïda Regel Poulsen (Denmark)
Treasurer:	Richard Dabéra (France)
Board Member:	Jaana Linna (Finland)



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

European Federation of Hard of Hearing People Nominating Committee

b. candidates to be the chair of the nomination committee.

Candidates must be nominated by a general member organization of EFHOH. The chair of the nomination committee can be re-elected, but he/she has to officially communicate with his/her own general member organization about her availability of re-election.

The statutes of EFHOH states among others:

Members of nomination Committee must be of age and qualified to act.

The nomination committee should be composed of at least three members. None of the members of nomination committee can be of the same nationality. Members of the nomination committee cannot be candidates in the board election.

Please send information of candidates at the latest by February 15th, 2015 to my e-mail address (Mr. Harald Tamegger): tamegger@oesb-dachverband.at

With kind regards

Chair EFHOH Nomination Committee
Harald Tamegger



Being an EFHOH Board Member

I have often come across the questions relating to the work in the EFHOH Board, how intensive that is?

It is not easy to give a simple answer, because there isn't one. There are times, when we have very intensive work and also times when it is quiet, often it is something we can't control as forces outside of EFHOH can also play role in the amount of work we may have.

So, what it is like, working at EFHOH Board?

It is exciting, rewarding, educational and exhausting at times! Exhausting feeling is after intensive Board meetings or the amount of travel we may have to put up with, but equally it is rewarding to see the positive impact we make with our work.

When the Board meets, it is a long day work from 9 am till 5- 6 pm. So many issues to discuss, we need to have time for exchange of views, plan ahead. The second day of the Board meeting is usually a half day, quite often we try to have a half day seminar with hard of hearing people and the national organization. We have found that it is important to meet with our members and help them with raising awareness of what EFHOH does on behalf of HoH people in Europe. It is important that members understand how Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities shapes EFHOH Board action planning and work plan.

The type of work we are engaged in is from preparing EFHOH response to EU Commission EU Directives review and making sure hard of hearing people needs are taken into consideration, to preparing different reports such as hearing loss statistics, state of subtitling and public speaking/ lecturing invitations. Ability to work under pressure and strict deadlines is as important as multitasking! Recently, we have worked with EDF on Alternative Report for UN CRPD Committee and also attended the 14th UN Committee meeting in Geneva. We have also attended

WHO- ITU Stakeholder meeting in Geneva in relation to Save Listening Campaign, actively participating in stakeholder discussion.

We are working closely with the European Disability Forum, being part of different expert groups. At times, we get quite a few emails weekly, asking for EFHOH response and inviting us to different meetings. Not always it is possible to attend as many meetings as we would like to and we need choose our priorities.

You may think, we get to travel to some many different countries and see wonderful cities! Yes we do, we often admire how well functioning the airport and public transport is, test hotel facilities and then get on with work. We usually venture out for the evening stroll and a meal after work. Sadly, we do not have much time to see what our wonderful hosts have to offer, gaining fleeting glimpse of the city before heading off back home. How exciting is that?

However, there are perks. We attend meetings, where we can influence decision makers while develop our own understanding of complex EU wide issues. We develop our knowledge of Human Rights issues and different mechanisms available to us as part of the legal framework. We meet local hard of hearing people, learn from them to understand their situation. As Polish proverb says "Travels broaden horizons" – I could not argue with that! I have definitely learned a lot while at EFHOH. All the skills I have learnt are so called "transferable skills", which I am already applying in my own working life.

Lidia Best Vice-President



Lidia Best, Vice-president EFHOH and Richard Darberá, treasurer of EFHOH at the meeting.

WHO-ITU joint stakeholders **consultation** on **safe listening** devices

1.1 billion young people worldwide are at risk of hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices.

On the 1st of October 2015 WHO, Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss, was hosting the first meeting ever in Geneva on this very important issue.

The purpose of the meeting was to uncover the possible mechanisms that can make the young people change their listening-habits.

According to WHO 40 percent are exposed to too loud music in their free time - and they listen too long at high levels. A large amount of stakeholders were represented at the meeting that was arranged together with ITU - United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (e.g. working with standards for smart-/cellphones). About 80 persons including hearing professionals, producers of music devices like Apple, Sony and Bose, public health authorities, hard of hearing organizations, experts and researchers from all over the world participated.

Not volume alone

The challenge is that prevention of hearing loss might look easy by simply turning down the volume - but how can we make the youth understand this?

The stakeholders presented a lot of obstacles:

- Earplugs ruin the quality of sound.

- The users want the loud music experience (I take the risk).
- It's hard to define safe listening
- Should the risk be minimized or eliminated?
- The recommended measurements vary from device to device - so though you get the 85 dB warning notice on your personal music player, it might not be the sound-level reaching your ears through the earphones.
- It is hard to sell devices with a lot of warnings on.
- Ear-protection is the responsibility of many different authorities - none has it as a main area.
- Awareness takes education.

Next step is to raise awareness, promote research and define standards for safe listening devices. The WHO programme for prevention of deafness and hearing loss has a vision: A world where no one experiences hearing loss due to preventable causes and those with unavoidable hearing loss can achieve their full potential through rehabilitation, education and empowerment.

EFHOH Vice President Lidia Best attended the meeting and among other subjects she participated in the debate on how to abolish low cost amplifiers similar to hearing aids but with outputs of 125-137 dB that can damage the hearing immediately.

Text: Irene Scharbau, head of communication, the Danish Association of the Hard of Hearing.



CRPD – an efficient **tool** to **advocate** for the hard of hearing people

I had a very good reason to visit Copenhagen on October 22-23, 2015- to attend the IFHOH European Human Rights Train the Trainer Workshop. I was nominated by the Estonian Hard of Hearing Association and was pleased to receive a place in the second workshop.

The training was held in the Danish Disability House- the world's most accessible building for disabled people. It is a real dreamhouse that was opened on 12.12.12 and it houses many Danish organisations for persons with disabilities. The workshop focused on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) - how to use this convention as a tool to advocate more efficiently for hard of hearing people's rights on a national level.

The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol on 13 December 2006. My country, Estonia, signed it in 2007 and ratified it together with the optional protocol in 2012. Although our government has taken responsibility to ensure the rights in the Convention are used in policy and practiced in my country, there is still a long way to go to ensure the participation of hard of hearing people in all areas of life.

The workshop in Copenhagen enabled us to fully participate as there was speech to text (STT) interpretation available. Laura Harrison was a talented and professional palantypist, we hardly missed any words or expressions during our training days. STT services have already been available in many countries for years. Recently my country has taken the first steps to improve the situation - the first 4 STT interpreters are getting trained in Finland at this moment. In order to ensure the general obligations of CRPD, the conception of STT service is being developed. There are several reforms going on as well in my country, i.e. Working Ability Reform that also covers the rehabilitation system, provision, and use of technical aids (private and public). CRPD makes a difference!

It was also useful to learn about the challenges that organisations for hard of hearing people in Europe are working on and the good practices they have used to achieve developments in different areas. Although our achievements are on a different level we all had one common concern- how to enable hard of hearing people better access to information and inclusion in society. The group discussions focused specifically on the practices concerning access to hearing aids, provision of captioning, and the challenges HOH people and their organisations are facing in their countries.

The workshop trained us to use UN CRPD as a tool advocating for the realisation of equal rights and equal access for hard of hearing people in our countries. I personally became more confident at referring to specific articles. For example, Article 9 states that persons with disabilities must be ensured access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communication, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas etc. Back at home I can apply my improved knowledge regarding CRPD and advise the board of the Estonian Hard of Hearing Association and activists fighting for wider accessibility to information and communication. It is important to keep asking and demanding that our governments, state officials, and employers ensure the implementation of CRPD and that we also have the opportunity to be included in the monitoring and decision making process due to our competences.

It's not only the topics that made the workshop useful and interesting but the people who contributed to it. Thank you, Marcel Bobeldijk, for all the arrangements and

EFHOH's contribution to CRPD at a European level. Special thanks to Sindre Falk from Norway, Richard Darbera from France, Stephan Wilke from Germany, Volker Albert from Bavaria, Heikki Niemi and Victor Rehn from Finland, Zvravka Bastijan from Croatia, Paulina Lewandowska from Poland, Martin Novak from Czech Republic and Aida Regel Poulsen from Denmark. I hope you don't mind that I share your front-line challenges and good practices with the hard of hearing people in Estonia. IFHOH board member, an inspiring speaker and facilitator, Louise Carroll, shared good practices from New Zealand and encouraged participants to take many small steps on the journey towards achieving full human rights for disabled people, especially advocating for people with hearing impairments. Just make CRPD an efficient tool in your country too!

Pille Ruul
Estonian Hard of Hearing Association
Participant of the IFHOH European Human Rights Introductory Training Workshop

Train the Trainers session

My recent visit to Copenhagen for the IFHOH, Train the Trainers session was certainly a worthwhile visit that introduced me to the ways in which other countries deal with their citizens who are hard of hearing.

This two day session was held in the most magnificent building dedicated to those with disabilities. The building built for purpose catered for all disabilities and had a track from the local station to its front door for those with sight loss.

Our group was made up of participants from all over Europe. As was their diversity of culture so too was the diversity of experiences and treatment. In the end the consensus was that the most common factor affecting us all was access to, technology, information and the cost of hearing aids.

The leaders first introduced us to the Articles of UNCRPD. We split into groups and reconvened to discuss the individ-

ual concerns within our countries for people who are hard of hearing. We then reshuffled and addressed concerns and applied them to a specific article and bolstered the argument with other articles, principles and conventions. With this in tow we are now in a position to further our aims with the support of EFHOH and other members to bolster arguments for the ratification of the convention for hard of hearing people within our communities. The tool kit to which we were supplied is a valuable tool forward our campaign for the UNCRPD to come into being. I must say a word of thanks to Marcel and Louise for organising such a great event, it certainly gave me the courage to embark on a campaign for hard of hearing people in Ireland.



Presentation of Asia-Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD)

Dear EFHOH Friends,

It's a precious chance to hello you all and talk about us – Asia-Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD).

Being a young organization at region level, APFHD was founded in 2012 by hard of hearing and deafened representative of 10 Asian countries. Most of our members are from developing Asian countries and in initial stage of establishing their associations/groups in their respective countries. After the very successful workshop of foundation in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2012, we had the first BGM in 2014 in Thailand, and also achievements at each country member.

Our best outcome is to sign the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with The International Federation of the Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) in 2013. The MOU is to ensure open and mutually supportive working relationship between APFHD and IFHOH towards improving the quality of life of hard of hearing adults and young people, deafened people, who become deaf, CI-users, and their

families, persons who suffer from a hearing disorder, and who use speech as means of communication, persons who suffer from Tinnitus or Ménière etc regardless of the language, the communication system or the assistive technologies they use (hearing aids and cochlear implants) to strengthen the UN CRPD and the IFHOH accessibility guidelines as regards to participation in society. Until now we had two skype meetings to plan for our collaboration, and APFHD is glad that will have two board members to addend the Human Right Training Workshop in January 2016 in New Zealand.

VietNam The Centre for Research and Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CED) is a local Vietnamese social organization headquartered in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam that provides assistance and support to Vietnamese people with hearing loss, with strong focus on children with hearing loss from poor families in the south who would otherwise have no chance of an education. Established in 2011 by its founder and director, Ms Duong Phuong Hanh, CED is the only hearing-impaired organization that looks beyond "deaf education" and instead undertakes a holistic approach to hearing issues of the poor in Vietnam. CED is

professionally developing a Vietnamese caption/speech-to-text interpreting service for persons with hearing loss in Vietnam and the project reach will in time extend throughout Vietnam. They also will be looked forward to be the main services of a social enterprise which CED will establish around Sep 2016.

Nepal SHRUTI (National Association of Hard of Hearing and Deafened Nepal) was established by its young Hard of Hearing (HoH) and Deafened founding members, to advocate for the rights of HoH and Deafened people across Nepal, raising up their morale and raising public awareness of their needs for overall development. It is a founder member country of Asia-Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) and is working in the field of HoH and Deafened people of Nepal. Since SHRUTI was launched in 2012 it has built a network and a presence nationally as well as internationally. It is playing an active role in mainstreaming HoH and Deafened to ensure their equal participation in education, social, cultural, economic activities and in advocating for their rights. It has successfully completed projects to raise awareness of the situation of Hearing disabled people and piloted early identification of hearing problems among young children, raising awareness of how they are a barrier to educational success and lobbying the government to take these problems seriously. SHRUTI is a pioneer organization in raising voice on rights of HoH and Deafened people, who are not considered as a disabled. Current main activity of SHRUTI is continuously advocating the rights of hard of hearing on equalization of social and economic opportunities, inclusive education and employment to incorporate in policies and laws of Nepal. An inclusive society without communication barrier where Hard of Hearing and Deafened people live a dignified life is its vision.

Bangladesh Mr. Ishaque Mia – Vice President of APFHD – is President of Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association where hard of hearing people lead and manage the organization and we highlight our issues and concern. Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association is a young organization formed by 16 hard of hearing young people of the country. The organization conducts regular meeting and share hard of hearing issues among them. One important issue of this organization is self-advocacy for employment of hard of hearing people. In Bangladesh, most of the hard of hearing people specially children and young students do not have hearing aids to listen properly due to financial crisis and these hearing aids are so expensive for them. Therefore, Bangladesh Hard of Hearing association is trying their best to support these young people about hearing aid. Mr. Mia, as typically dynamic Asian HOH person, has around 15 years of working experience as disability activist in various national and international organizations. At present, He is working as Country Coordinator of Disability Rights International (DRPI) which is an organization of York University, Canada. He also has working experience with Action on Disability in Development (ADD), Global Disability Rights

Library (GDRL), Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity (BPKS-Disabled People organization) and DRPI.

Cambodia Mr. CHHIM Kim Hean is a pioneer of voice of HOH advocacy in Cambodia. Mr CHHIM advocates for voice of HOH via HOPE Cambodia that has allowed him to absorb new ideas, progressive thinking and advanced skills and technology. The major human rights advocacy challenges facing Cambodia are awareness raising such as UNCRPD, National Law of Persons with Disabilities, where many people lack of awareness due to financial and lack of education programs; however, Mr. CHHIM Kim Hean envisions that he and HOPE Cambodia can improve advocacy outcomes of UNCRPD as well as National Law of Persons with Disabilities through awareness raising program.

Philippines Being a baby group, the Hard of Hearing Group Philippines (HOHGP) has already started to map out plans in order for them to become an association in the future. Grassroot level projects are already in place to reach out to more HOH in the country. Partnerships with other sectors are also in the works too. HOHGP was appointed as this year's Vice Chair for the national Deaf Awareness Week. Recently, HOHGP became a partner of Save The Children, an international NGO that promotes children's rights, provides relief, and helps support children in developing countries. HOHGP has done has been active in speaking engagements related to Hard of Hearing and hearing loss. In this way, they were able to spread the advocacy on HOH persons. HOHGP is also gaining support from other PWD sectors and also from National Council on Disability Affairs, the Philippines' government agency that caters to persons with disabilities. Slowly but surely, the HOHGP is motivated to reach their goal in the future to become an Association in order for them to reach out to more HOH Filipinos.

Of course we still have some members such as Pakistan, Mongolia and the new ones including Japan, and New Zealand. We will share about them in the next. If everything will not change, we will be preparing for our next BGM 2016 in Nepal. You can see we – Asian HOH leaders made much achievements to raise voices for ourselves and the peers as well. In efforts to empower ourselves, we love learning from you and sharing what you have done so far. In efforts to integrate in the International level, we hope to have certain events that we – EAST meet WEST – together collaborate for Rights of HOH People all over the World.

Ms. Duong Phuong Hanh
President of APFHD

Hearing Matters **Report** UK

Eleven million people in the UK have hearing loss – that's around one in six of us. Our new Hearing Matters report presents the most up-to-date facts and figures from across the UK on the prevalence and impact deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss – and calls for urgent action to improve services, invest in hearing research and remove the barriers preventing people with deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss from living the life they choose.

A growing problem

As the population ages, the number of people with hearing loss is set to grow in the years to come. By 2035, there will be approximately 15.6 million people in the UK with hearing loss – that's a fifth of us. People with hearing loss may find it difficult to communicate with family and friends and have an increased risk of social isolation, anxiety, depression and dementia. There is good evidence that hearing aids reduce these risks and improve quality of life, but people are waiting too long to get their hearing tested. Evidence suggests that there is a ten year delay before people seek help for their hearing loss.

Hearing aids are under threat

Government strategies for hearing loss are now in place across the UK, but we want national priorities to be translated into local action. In October 2015, North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) became the first CCG to stop providing hearing aids to most people. Under the CCG's new policy, people with mild hearing loss will no longer receive hearing aids and people with moderate hearing loss will have to pass an eligibility test to get them. Four other CCGs are proposing to follow in the steps of North Staffordshire, meaning the cuts could affect over 145,000 people. Hearing aids are the only viable treatment for people with hearing loss. It's vital they continue to be provided free of charge on the NHS for all those who could benefit.

Technology and Treatments

Our understanding of the biological causes of hearing loss and tinnitus is improving all the time. With further investment, drug treatments could be available for tinnitus and hearing loss by 2020 – and we could find cures within a generation. But hearing research remains chronically underfunded. It receives less than 1% of public and chari-

table research funding – that's just £1.11 for every person affected.

Equality

Despite better legal protection, many people with deafness and hearing loss face barriers when trying to access shops and services, public transport, and health and social care. Those who need communication support such as a working hearing loop, speech-to-text-reporter or notetaker often don't get one. It is vital that NHS England's Accessible Information Standard, which provides clear guidance on what GPs, hospitals and care homes must do to make their services accessible for people with deafness and hearing loss, is properly implemented and enforced. Also, the recent introduction of a limit to Access to Work awards could make it difficult for people with deafness and hearing loss to get the support they need in the workplace, and the impact of this change must be properly monitored.

New technologies are transforming lives, but all too often, people with deafness and hearing loss are left behind. For example, video on demand services have transformed the way we watch our favourite TV programmes but, in a recent survey, three-quarters of people with hearing loss told us they'd been prevented from enjoying a programme, film or series because of the lack of subtitles. The UK government should extend legislation to require subtitles on television programmes, regardless of where and how they're delivered.

Taking Action

Hearing Matters makes a compelling case for change. It sets out clearly the practical action across the UK to improve the lives of people with deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss – and remove the barriers in their way. For more information and to take action in your where you live area, please visit www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearingmatters



Press Release

The use of hearing aids reduces cognitive decline

Hearing loss accelerates cognitive decline in elderly adults, but the use of hearing aids counters this acceleration. A new scientific longitudinal study shows that those who use hearing aids have about the same cognitive level as those with no hearing loss.

Self-reported hearing loss is associated with accelerated cognitive decline in elderly adults, according to an extensive 25 year long scientific French study. The study also documents that the use of hearing aids almost eliminates this cognitive decline.

The study documents that self-reported hearing loss is independently associated with accelerated cognitive decline in elderly adults. However, the opposite statistical trend is observed in participants who used hearing aids. Cognitive decline of those in the study who used hearing aids was not significantly different from the control group (those who reported no hearing loss). Elderly hearing aid users had similar rates of cognitive decline as those with no hearing impairment.

Improving hearing ability helps

The study does not document that hearing loss has a direct effect on cognitive decline, but that the mental and social consequences of a hearing loss probably mediate the relation. Therefore, improving hearing ability by using hearing aids or cochlear implants reduces the negative mental effects of a hearing loss and increases the ability to participate in cognitively stimulating activities such as social activities, and thereby slows cognitive decline.

Facts about the study

PAQUID is an extensive French study among 3,670 randomly selected individuals aged 65 and older. The study began in 1989-1990 and the participants have been evaluated regularly for 25 years. The study has been led by Professor Hélène Amieva, Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2, in France.

In the study, the participants made self reported statements about their hearing loss. Cognitive decline was measured by using a so-called Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE). The strength of the study is the very long period in which people have been followed and measured and the number of participants. The study has been published in Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

“At Hear-it we are profoundly grateful to Professor Hélène Amieva for having documented, what we have known for decades, but not been able to prove scientifically: That hearing aids help the hard of hearing stay cognitively and mentally fit”, says Secretary General Kim Ruberg, Hear-it AISBL.

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Hear-it AISBL is the world's largest information resource for all issues related to hearing loss, and runs the leading website on hearing loss: www.hear-it.org

"We know from many other scientific surveys that the use of professional hearing solutions helps hard of hearing people live better lives, participate in social activities, keep a job and in general gives them a higher quality of life. All this helps the hard of hearing to better health, better social functions and therefore better mental health. Now Professor H       Amieva has documented that untreated hearing loss is associated with cognitive decline and that those who use hearing aids have about the same cognitive level as those with no hearing loss", says Kim Ruberg.

Find out more about Professor H       Amieva's research, the consequences of hearing loss and the benefits of using hearing aids by visiting the world's largest hearing information resource at www.hear-it.org.

For further information, contact Hear-It Secretary General, Kim Ruberg, +45 40 300 500 e-mail: kim@ruberg.dk



Family Centred Early Intervention

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FAMILY-CENTRED EARLY INTERVENTION FOR
CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

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Sharing Research, Global Perspectives &
Evidence-Based Practice from
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SAVE THE DATE



EFHOH Annual General Meeting and Conference in Paris, France April 1st to 3rd 2016

YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

First name _____	Last name _____
Street _____	
City _____	Post Code/ZIP _____
Country _____	
Telephone _____	Email _____

Participate as: ☐ delegate ☐ observer

BOOKING PACKS

Deadline for reservations: **January 15th, 2016.**

Variant A

Conference fees 350€ (single room) / 400€ (double room) for a two-nights hotel stay at the Résidence Internationale de Paris (see description below), which includes for 1 person:

- Attendance to the EFHOH Annual General Meeting on April 1st, 2016
- Attendance to the conferences: April 2nd, 2016
- Catering during the whole Conference (starting on Friday noon)
- Special dinner Saturday evening
- Tours in Paris on Friday night and Sunday morning

- ☐ I choose this pack with single room for 350€
☐ I choose this pack with a double room for 400€

To add catering and attendance to conference for an accompanying person, please add variant B.

Variant C

Conference fees: 100€ (single room) / 125€ (double room) for a night-one stay at the Résidence Internationale de Paris (see description below), which includes for 1 person:

- Attendance to the conferences: April 2nd, 2016
- Catering Saturday during the whole Conference day

- ☐ I choose this pack with a night on
☐ Friday **or** ☐ Saturday
☐ Single room (100€) **or** ☐ Double room (125€)

☐ I subscribe to the Saturday evening special dinner for an additional cost of 50€ (*attendance limited*)

To add catering and attendance to conference for an accompanying person, please add variant C.

Variant B

Conference fees: 200€

- Attendance to the EFHOH Annual General Meeting on April 1st, 2016
- Attendance to the conferences: April 2nd, 2016
- Catering during the whole Conference (from Friday noon - lunch to Saturday noon - lunch),
- Special dinner Saturday evening
- Tours in Paris on Friday night and Sunday morning

☐ I choose this pack for 200€

This variant is for delegates/observers who would have booked for themselves an hotel outside the Résidence Internationale de Paris or for accompanying persons (except for the first point of the pack).

Variant D

Conference fees 25€

- Attendance to the conferences: April 2nd, 2016
- Catering Saturday during the whole Conference day

☐ I choose this pack for 25€

☐ I subscribe to the Saturday evening special dinner for an additional cost of 50€ (*attendance limited*)

This variant is for observers who would have booked for themselves an hotel outside the Résidence Internationale de Paris or for accompanying persons (except for the first point of the pack).

Extra nights will be charged 69.50€ for a single room and 97€ for a double room if your request is made during the booking period. Rooms have been kept for us at the Résidence Internationale de Paris but variants A and C will be subject to availability.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

This registration form should be submitted to:

Association Bucodes

MDA 18 (boite 83)

15, passage Ramey,

75018 Paris

France

Mail: booking@surdifrance.org

Registration closing date: January 15th, 2016

Bucodes will validate registration only upon reception of the payment. An email will be sent confirming this validation.

All payments should be made by bank transfer to

Bucodes:

LA BANQUE POSTALE

IBAN: FR76 2004 1233 6671 8S03 378

BIC: PSSTFRPPSCE

BUREAU COORDI ASSOC DEVENUS SOURDS

MAISON DES ASSOCIATIONS 20EME

1 RUE FREDERICK LEMAITRE

75020

PARIS

Latest date of payments: January 22nd, 2016

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation received by 29/01/2016: no charges

Cancellation received by 15/03/2016: 50% of the total booking value will be charged

Cancellation received after 15/03/2016: 100% of the total booking value will be charged

ACCESS INFORMATION TO THE RÉSIDENCE INTERNATIONALE DE PARIS

The event will take place in the 20th district of Paris, at the Résidence Internationale de Paris, located at 44 rue Louis Lumière.

Access:

Underground: Porte de Bagnole (line 3), Porte de Montreuil (line 9)

Bus lines: 57 or PC2, bus stop: Vitruve

Tram: line 3b, station Mairie de Miribel

Ring road exit: Porte de Bagnole

Parking at the Résidence Internationale de Paris for persons with reduced mobility only

☐ I need a parking space for my car (for persons with reduced mobility only)



ACCESSIBILITY MEASURES

Hearing loops

Individual Headsets

Transcription: speech to text

Translations (French to English & English to French)

Bedrooms and lifts are accessible to blind persons

Full accessibility to persons with reduced mobility

PROGRAMME OF THE STAY

A more detailed programming will be available in the coming weeks.

April 1st working day

- Board meeting
- Lunch at the Résidence Internationale de Paris
- General Meeting of the EFHOH
- Dinner at the Résidence Internationale de Paris
- Tour in Paris by night

April 2nd conference day on difficulties met by hard-of-hearing people and solutions

- Breakfast
- Conferences, debates and animations. Conferences will be in English and French with translations into both languages
- Lunch and special dinner at the Résidence Internationale de Paris

April 3rd sightseeing day

- Tours in Paris: Musée Carnavalet, promenade in Montmartre
- Free afternoon

THE RÉSIDENCE INTERNATIONALE DE PARIS

The Résidence Internationale de Paris is a facility located in the eastside of Paris, near the inner ring road, metro, bus and tram, which welcomes visitors to its 102 individual bedrooms but also welcomes groups or seminars where participants can be accommodated on site and fed into one of the 3 restaurants.

The Résidence Internationale of Paris is part of the ethical chain which includes non-profit hostels. Located in the same building as the Disabled Sports Federation (sport practiced by people with disabilities), the Résidence Internationale of Paris is very attentive to the reception of persons with disabilities.



The reception desk of the International Residence of Paris is equipped with an induction loop - a result of the organization of our second event in these premises.

Indeed, it is at the Résidence Internationale of Paris that Bucodes SurdiFrance held its last Congress on September 27th, 2014. On this occasion, over 300 people were invited for a day of conferences.

The prices charged by the International Residence of Paris are very attractive in the Parisian context where the supply of hotel rooms for groups or seminars is limited compared to the ever increasing number of visitors staying in Paris.

We are aware that the Résidence Internationale de Paris comfort level is not living up to what has been proposed in the last EFHOH Annual General Meeting. Those who wish to find the same quality of comfort will be spoiled for choice, as Paris is well endowed with hotel infrastructure. However, we advise you to book early.

You will find all information about the Résidence Internationale de Paris, by consulting their website: www.ee-rip.com/en

TO CONTACT US

As hard-of-hearing people, we prefer being e-mailed but you can also call us in hours mentionned below.

E-mail: booking@surdifrance.org

Telephone : + 33 9 72 45 69 85, on Monday and Thursday, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm

We are very pleased to welcome you to Paris. The Bucodes SurdiFrance is a federation of 42 hard-of-hearing people associations in France. A complete team of volunteers will escort you during your stay.

To learn more about the Bucodes SurdiFrance: surdifrance.org



TSI-PRM NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS: CONTACT YOUR MINISTERS

As you maybe know, the new TSI-PRM (Technical Specifications for Rail Interoperability for Persons with Reduced Mobility and Disabilities) which entered into force in January 2015, allow for DPO involvement in establishing the so-called “national implementation plans” (NIPs).

These plans are used to draw up priorities and a timeline for the implementation of the TSI-PRM. The NIP will contain a strategy on how to eliminate barriers to accessibility gradually and the time frame as well as the priorities have to be defined in them, so it is a very important document. That means in practice that your organisation could influence which stations will be made accessible and when. If you haven't done so already, EDF thus strongly recommends that you approach your national Ministry of Transport as well as the National Safety Authority responsible for rail to participate in the drafting of the NIP.

In some Member States, such as Denmark, a national steering group and a separate working group on persons with disabilities and reduced mobility (PRM) have already been established and will take up their work soon. Ideally, this will be the case in all EU Member States.

For further guidance and information, contact: marie.deninghaus@edf-feph.org.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF REFUGEES AND THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES WITH DISABILITIES

Representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe gathered together this weekend in Brussels for EDF's Board meeting. The meeting focused on the UN's recommendations to the EU on how it should better implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A special focus was also given to the refugee crisis and persons with disabilities including women and children.

“The EU is confronted with a serious economic and migration crisis but that should not serve as an excuse for the governments to re-allocate their funding leaving some people behind. Additional funding should be allocated to cope with the refugee crisis and all actions should take into consideration the needs of migrants with disabilities. The EU has to find a human-rights way out of this situation taking all people on board”, said EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis.

Representatives from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and Red Cross gave their own perspective on the migration crisis in Europe.

Valentina Otmacic from UNICEF in Croatia talked about UNICEF's work in this emergency situation saying that

20% of migrants are children and they are exposed to cold, lack of shelter, long time of travel, physical and emotional exhaustion, family separation, stress and trauma. She emphasised that advocacy is needed to make these children visible.

The Regional Representative for Europe of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jan Jařab, expressed serious concerns regarding the current situation of refugees, and the approach of the EU. He pointed out that the focus of the EU on security measures, and building fences is misplaced- it is driving refugees into the hands of smugglers, and to their deaths in the waters around Europe. He suggested the redirection of the EU policy and financing towards managing the proper reception of refugees.

Eberhard Lueder from the EU office of the Red Cross stressed the huge work done by volunteers in the different boarder countries to help refugees and other migrants and to ease their integration. According to him there is a major difficulty linked to the non-coherent approach with the European institutions and the lack of a defined migration policy.

In closing the EDF Board, John Dolan from the Disability Federation of Ireland gave his personal reflection on the role of EDF and its members towards refugees with disabilities in Europe. He said: "We can speak in terms of policy, but we also have to translate this into something more tangible, in welcoming and supporting these people who are our disabled brothers and sisters."

EDF WELCOMES 3 NEW MEMBERS

EDF warmly welcomes: leder'in as Dutch National Council, the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) as ordinary member and the Vit-time Italiane Talidomide (VITA) as associate member.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

On 19-23 October, the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (FHOHP), held a Human Rights Introductory Workshop for its members, in Denmark. Organisations from across Europe met and discussed how to promote the rights of hard of hearing people in their countries by actively participating in the political processes and in monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). EDF contributed to the discussion sharing its experience during the EU review process and in highlighting the main fundamental rights issues addressed by the EU.

RAIL ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On 20 October, EDF gave a presentation at the "PASSAGE" working group of the International Union of Railways (UIC) on rail accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The group was created from a project with the same name and is the forum for discussion for disability and accessibility experts in the railway industry. They invited EDF to hear more about the point of view of passengers with disabilities and their experience when traveling.

The industry experts were also very interested in issues such as the European Disability Card that might have an effect on railways if transport will be included. EDF is happy to keep the discussion on-going to make sure that the message of passengers with disabilities is heard by the rail industry.

Contact: marie.denninghaus@edf-feph.org

The findings of DISCIT project were discussed at its final conference

On 9-10 November, the DISCIT project held its final conference to discuss the results of its 3-year research about active citizenship for persons with disabilities. Researchers from the project, EDF as partner of the project and other civil society organisations, leading scholars in the field, and various policy makers, gathered in the Norway Mission to the EU in Brussels to discuss the potential impact of the project's findings on EU social policies.

DISCIT project has run from February 2013 and it will officially end in January 2016. Its aim has been to produce new knowledge that will enable the EU, its Member States and affiliated European countries to achieve full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society and the economy in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

Based on the key themes of the project, there were several panel discussions during the final conference:

- Community living in Europe,
- Life courses of persons with psycho-social disabilities,
- Labour market and participation of persons with disabilities,
- UN CRPD and the opportunities of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations
- Accessible technology for persons with disabilities

WHAT'S NEXT?

Provisional findings from DISCIT have been published as working papers and policy briefs at the website www.discit-project.eu.

discit.eu. In the coming two months, the final results will be published there as well. The EU and its Member States will use the results for future policy making. At the closing session of the project, the Deputy Head of Unit for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the European Commission, Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, suggested a meeting with the Disability High Level Group, in which the researchers can present the findings of the project to officials from the European Commission and EU Member States.

MORE INFORMATION

EDF has created a video that explains what active citizenship means, how the situation is for 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe and what DISCIT project is all about. Watch the video here with subtitles and voice over.

Find out more about DISCIT at www.discit.eu.

EDF MET COMMISSIONER THYSSEN ON THE UN'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS

Today, EDF Executive Committee met the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen and engaged in an open and constructive dialogue on the rights of persons with disabilities. The meeting was timely since in August the EU was reviewed for the first time by the UN Committee on the work it has done to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Therefore, the discussion focused on the Concluding Observations that the UN has addressed to the EU and the next steps towards their implementation.

The Commissioner shared the European Commission's priorities and listened to the priorities of the disability movement, in particular the need to include the perspective of persons with disabilities in the European Commission agenda on employment and education, fight against poverty, accessibility and European funds. With regards to European funds, the Commissioner underlined that, if needed, European funds will be suspended in case Member States do not respect the conditions agreed in the regulations.

Furthermore, Commissioner Thyssen confirmed that the Commission is taking stock of the implementation of the European Disability Strategy in the light of the UN's Concluding Observations.

"The UN Concluding Observations to the EU require a new approach towards disability law and policy making. The EU has now a strong mandate to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. It has to make sure that especially in times of crisis –economic, migration, human rights crisis–

nobody should be left or forgotten behind", emphasised EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis.

EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT: COMING IN DECEMBER

During the meeting, Commissioner Thyssen confirmed that the long awaited European Accessibility Act is ready and will be discussed and possibly approved by the Collage of Commissioners on 2 December. Upon agreement, it can be published on 3 December, which is also the European Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Commissioner stressed the importance of the Accessibility Act in ensuring that innovative, affordable and accessible goods and services will be available for persons with disabilities in the EU internal market.

How broad the scope of the Act will be and the areas that will cover are still unknown. EDF has been long campaigning for a strong binding legislation with a broad scope that will bring a real change to the lives of 80 million people with disabilities. We are looking forward to seeing an ambitious legislation published and we are ready to engage in the legislative process.

A NEW STATE OF THE UNION

EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, reminded the Commissioner of the commitment to have a new State of the Union on disability with the three Presidents of the EU institutions, as well as a meeting with the College of Commissioners and the Directors General to discuss the UN's Concluding Observations. Commissioner Thyssen responded positively to these possibilities acknowledging that regular contact and close cooperation are necessary.

EFHOH MEETINGS 2016 & 2017

2016	2016	2016	2016
15-16 January	London	EFHOH board meeting	EFHOH board
24-26 January	Auckland/New Zealand	IFHOH board meeting	Marcel
28 January	Brussels	EDF-ENGO's meeting	
1-3 April	Paris / France	EFHOH AGM	All EFHOH board members
14-16 April	Varese/Italy	EURO-CIU	Lidia
20 April	Brussels	Platform meeting	Marcel
21 and 22 May	Dublin/Ireland	EDF Assembly	Marcel and
2-4 June	Como/Italy	HEAL	Lidia
9 June	Brussels	EDF-ENGO's meeting	Marcel
22 June	Washington DC/USA	IFHOH BGM	Marcel, Aida and Lidia
23-26 June	Washington DC /USA	IFHOH World Congress	Marcel, Aida and Lidia
26-28 August	Berlin	ECOS 2016	
22 September	Brussels	EDF-ENGO's meeting	
14-15 October	Dublin	EFHOH board meeting	EFHOH
25 October	Copenhagen	Hear It AGM 2016	Aida
December	Brussels	European Day of Disabled People	
2017	2017	2017	2017
20-22 April	Finland	EURO-CIU AGM	

Version: 08-12-2015

EFHOH - European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People consists of National Associations of/for Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened People, Parents' Organisations and Professional Organisations.

EFHOH comprises the European members of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) and was established in 1993. It has its own board and secretariat. The federation has non-profitable and benevolent aims and it is a non-political and non-sectarian organisation. EFHOH is a general member of the European Disability Forum (EDF). We also work in good co-operation with IFHOH and our official language is English.

The Board members of the EFHOH carry out their work on an honorary basis.