



## EFHOH PRESIDENT LETTER

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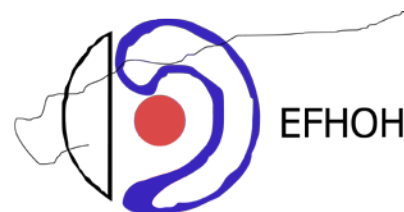
### 20 YEARS OF ESTONIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION

Report at page 8



### AWARENESS RISING AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY KUL, POLAND

Read the story p. 10





# EFHOH President letter

Dear EFHOH Friends,

Prague was the host city of our Annual General Meeting 2013 from 5-6 April.

We welcomed two new members:

- Hearing Impaired of East Belgium VoG
- Hungarian Hard of Hearing Association (HHOHA).

Ritva Liisa Schaeding was reelected as EFHOH's treasurer, Jam Lamby as EFHOH's general secretary and Marcel Bobeldijk as EFHOH president for a period of two years. We thank the EFHOH delegates for their confidence. EFHOH has witnessed a historic moment at the AGM in Prague. The EFHOH delegates have signed PRAGUE DECLARATION 2013, calling on EU institutions to support accessibility and equality rights of Hard of Hearing people in European Union. See our website for more information; <http://www.efhoh.org/#/news/c1j1n>

Special thanks to Sarka Prokopiusova and all the volunteers of SNNCR to make this Annual General Meeting 2013 and the conference day in Prague a success!

For your information the next AGM will be together with the IFHOH BGM in the weekend of 4 and 5 April 2014 in the historical city Jerusalem, Israel. More information about this event in the next EFHOH newsletter and IFHOH journal.

Brussels. In the European Parliament it was for the first time Hearing Awareness Days from 8-10 April. This was organized in co-operation with the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH). The days were hosted by MEP Adám Kósa. We would like to warmly thank Adám Kósa.

During the breakfast debate, representatives of the Irish Presidency, the European Commission, members of the European Parliament (MEP), experts and NGOs highlighted the burden and consequences of untreated hearing loss



in the EU. They offered concrete recommendations for a comprehensive, effective and affordable European policy on hearing loss and hearing impairments.

With hearing impairment being the biggest invisible disability in the world and untreated hearing loss costing an estimated € 213 million a year in Europe, the time is now for policymakers to act to help people in need.

225 persons, MEP's and staff had their hearing checked during the initiative which attracted wide interest on all three days. 10% were diagnosed with mild (25-40 decibel) or moderate hearing loss (40-55dB) in the tests carried out by Mark Laureyns, audiology lecturer at the T.Moore University in Antwerp and his team.

Athens was in the weekend of 26th of May the host city of the European Disability Forum's Annual General Assembly, gathering hundreds of leaders from its member organizations all around Europe. The focus was on the situation of persons with disability and the crisis, as well as the implementation of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) at national and European Union level. It was also marked by the renewal of EDF's governing bodies and the re-election of Yannis Vardakastanis (Greece) as EDF president.

EFHOH Board is proud to announce that our President Marcel Bobeldijk and our Vice President Knut Magne Ellingsen (Disability Council of Norway) are elected to the board of the European Disability Forum.

Also for the European Platform for Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deaf blindness it was a historical day: the election of Yannis Yallouros from Greece and he represent European Union of the Deaf (EUD) and Ricard Lopez Manzano from Spain and he represent Deaf blindness as new members of the EDF Board. Congratulations to all!

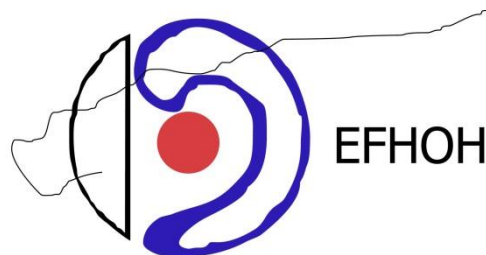
#### **Call for the next EFHOH newsletter:**

It would be fine if you are able to write an article for one of the EFHOH newsletters of 2013. We try to make 5 EFHOH newsletters for you and all your members. We make the EFHOH newsletter also for the board members and the volunteers in your national and local organisation. You can send your article to our newsletter editor Niels-Hendrik Hansen. His email address is [nh@niels-henrik.dk](mailto:nh@niels-henrik.dk)

Warm Regards,

Marcel Bobeldijk  
President of EFHOH.

## PRESS RELEASE



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

### PRAGUE 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013

**EFHOH** has witnessed a historic day today, when the delegates for EFHOH AGM have signed **PRAGUE DECLARATION 2013**, calling on EU institutions to support accessibility and equality rights of Hard of Hearing people in European Union.

See our website for more information;

<http://www.efhoh.org/#!/news/c1j1n>

Our Facebook group has photos from the event

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10151867839367468&type=1>

**EFHOH** is now working on the next stage of delivering letter to all MEP's and the European Institutions to make them aware of the Declaration and asking to actively support it.

Prague Declaration and it's signatures are attached with this letter and also can be found at

[http://media.wix.com/ugd///c2e099\\_d471c41b2d158b80775d26e4253f06cd.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd///c2e099_d471c41b2d158b80775d26e4253f06cd.pdf)

**EFHOH** urges all its members and other organisations working with hard of hearing people in Europe to use this Declaration as a benchmark for their work and lobbying at national levels of their countries.

Wishing you all great success in your efforts!

**EFHOH President**

Marcel Bobeldijk



## Prague Declaration 2013

*'A better quality of life for the hard of hearing people in Europe'*

### PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of the National Members of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People, **EFHOH**; members of the European Union and other European countries, believe in and strive for equal rights of hard of hearing people. We adopt the following declaration by mutual agreement and by full acclamation today as the closing of the conference entitled "The access of people with hearing disabilities to information" hosted by the Czech Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association and EFHOH under the support of Member of the European Parliament, Dr. Ādām Kořa.

### SUBJECTIVE

One condition for good quality of life is that all citizens have access to information. An accessible society for hard of hearing people benefits whole population.

EFHOH emphasizes that a hearing loss itself is no obstacle for full inclusion. In order to secure a good quality of life for all citizens, hard of hearing people should have access to fair working conditions, a good quality health care and meaningful social activities on the same conditions as others.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), it is obvious that persons with disabilities should have the same living conditions as others. An estimated 15% of the world population has some sort of a hearing loss and the World Health Organisation (WHO) lists hearing loss as one of the most frequent public health problems.

Article 9 in the CRPD points out that the convention state parties should take necessary measures to secure that persons with a disability have equal access to information and well-functioning communication, including information and communication technology (IT) and systems.

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## IFHOH, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People



Release: Immediate

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People is pleased to announce that it has appointed Louise Carroll to fill the newly-created position as Human Rights Officer. After a competitive process, Louise was selected for this part-time voluntary position to assist IFHOH and its member organizations around the world in its work with the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. IFHOH is an international network of organizations committed to advancing the access and human rights of persons with a hearing loss.

Louise Carroll, who is hard of hearing, is an experienced advocate for the disadvantaged and disabled. As CEO of The National Foundation for the Deaf in New Zealand, she works across sectors to address the issues and inequities facing the hard of hearing. A skilled negotiator and spokesperson, she has advanced their cause, whether working with individuals; strengthening community agencies; or addressing Members of Parliament.

She also chairs the New Zealand cross sector Deaf and Hard of Hearing Captioning Working Group and has spearheaded a Human Rights Tribunal Class Action for those seeking compensation for Noise Induced Hearing Loss.

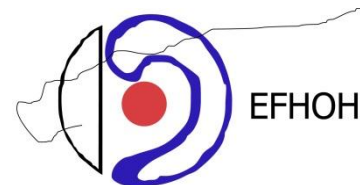
In 1996 Louise was awarded the Queen's Service Order for public services to New Zealand and she is currently completing a PhD on the marginalisation of New Zealand prisoners who have hearing loss.

IFHOH extends a warm welcome to Louise for undertaking a new challenge for IFHOH and we look forward to advancing our cause using the important CRPD as a tool for change.

With best regards,

Dr. Ruth Warick  
IFHOH President  
president@ifhoh.org

## PRESS RELEASE



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Brussels 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**EFHOH Board** is proud to announce the success of the first ever Hearing Awareness Week at the European Parliament. The event was co-organised with **EHIMA** (European Hearing Instruments Manufacturers Association) and under patronage of Adam Kosa MEP, the President of the Parliamentary Disability Intergroup.

We are now working towards repeat of this success on a yearly basis as part of Hearing Awareness Week activities in EU.

For more information please check Adam Kosa MEP official page.

[http://www.kosaadam.hu/news\\_display/untreated\\_hearing\\_loss\\_costs\\_millions\\_of\\_euros\\_every\\_year/](http://www.kosaadam.hu/news_display/untreated_hearing_loss_costs_millions_of_euros_every_year/)

To see our News page on EFHOH website

<http://www.efhoh.org/#!/news/c1j1n>

Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28392292467/>



In the picture from left to right;

Soren Hougaard, Nikolai Bisgaard, Adam Kosa MEP, Lidia Best, Lidia Geringer de Oedenberg MEP, Marcel Bobeldijk.

With thanks to Adam Kosa MEP and his team for support in organizing this.

**EFHOH Board**

5 th. episode :

# Ory and His New Hearing Machine



## The big meeting

Ory has been wearing his cochlear implant for six months now and he is still discovering new sounds. Sometimes he has to ask his friends about sounds he doesn't understand, but very often he recognizes them by himself.

Ory has been invited to a big meeting for "New hearing machine wearers". He is very pleased and self-confident as he's hearing so well. The meeting will be held in a big meeting room near the sea. He arrives a little bit too early, so he goes for a walk by the sea. The weather is good, the gulls are circling over the sea and the waves are rolling up the beach. The sounds of nature are so nice, he's relaxed. After a while, he goes to the meeting room and he's surprised to see old people, youngsters, families with young children and even babies with hearing machines. Children are playing and shouting, adults are chatting, so it's very noisy. Some of them move their hands very quickly, like a sort of mime. Ory doesn't know anybody, but he's happy to be there.

A young lady welcomes him with a smile at the door of the noisy meeting room and gives him the programme of the day. But when she starts to speak to him, Ory is very surprised; he doesn't understand anything. She smiles again and repeats the question. Nothing! How is that possible? Normally, he understands everything! She takes a piece of paper and writes down: What is your name? "Oh. Ory". "Welcome, Ory!"

Ory is upset and disturbed. He takes a seat and on the screen he reads: Welcome to you all!

That is nice, it is written down. The first speaker asks the new hearing machine wearers to put their machine on the T-coil. Ory has never tried that before, but when he pushes the button, the speaker speaks in his ear. No more noise, only the voice of the speaker. It will be a good day!

During the coffee break, Ory looks around. He sees a little girl with a hearing machine fixed in her pony tail with a nice pink ribbon, a small baby with the hearing machine on the back of his tee-shirt, a very old man with a blue one and a youngster with a black cap and black cochlear implant. So wearing hearing machines can also be funny! "I like green, and I'll buy a green cover for my hearing machine; that will be perfect with my green outfit."

At the end of the day, Ory goes home. He is exhausted. Listening for hours is still so tiring, even with the T-coil and the text on the screen. He promises himself to ask the speech therapist why it is so difficult to understand speech in noisy surroundings.

To be continued ...

Aisa Cleyet-Marel  
March 2013



From the left: Kalle Tervaskari (Finnish KL), Viljar Parm ja Kylliki Bode (EVL), Antero Penttinen (Finnish KL), Uno Taimla ja Andrus Helenurm (EVL)

## 20 years of Estonian Hard of Hearing Association

Hard of hearing issues were already addressed around 30 years ago in Estonia. On 1988 a research „Hard of hearing people and their problems in Estonia“ by the scientists of Tartu University was published. There was a big need for more information about hearing issues and demand for instructions and advice of getting and using hearing devices. In March 1993 The Estonian Hard of Hearing Association (EVL) was founded. Uno Taimla was elected the first chairman of the board. He had more than 20 years of experience as a deputy chairman of the Association of the Deaf.

During the first years seminars and trainings were arranged in cooperation with the Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing. The first newsletter was published in 1995. The first regional clubs in Pärnu and Tartu were founded the same year.

Since 1996 EHHA has been the member of IFHOH. Young hard of hearing people have participated in several international seminars and conferences, our representatives have taken part in the IFHOH congresses in Helsinki(2004) and Bergen (2012).

Thanks to the cooperation with the colleagues of the Swedish Association of Hard of Hearing People between 1999 and 2002, local clubs for hard of hearing were founded in every county in Estonia and leaders, board members were trained. In 2002 there were 16 local clubs in Estonia. The number of members increased steadily reaching 1150 by now. Hearing Aid Days and information seminars were arranged all over the country. Flyers, booklets, prints were compiled and published in Estonian and Russian languages.

Awareness raising has led into the bigger demand for hearing devices and various hearing aids. Applying for state





„EVL 20 anniversary reception after the conference“

Antero Penttinen- Finnish KL president congratulating the president of EVL Uno Taimla and the members of the board Kylliki Bode, Rein Järve, Viljar Parm, Hilja Makara, Andrus Helenurm (behind Antero:)

support and reducing the waiting lists for hearing devices has been one of the priorities of EVL. Hard of hearing people can apply for 90% reimbursement for hearing devices and around 3500 people a year get it. The real need is much bigger.

Access to information is essential for hard of hearing people. In Estonian Public Broadcasting TV 40% of the program (rebroadcasted) is provided with subtitles. But not many conference or concert halls, theatres have ensured good conditions for people with hearing disabilities. One of our biggest theaters Vanemuine in Tartu installed a hearing loop system this year that enables hard of hearing people enjoy (hear) the performance almost equally to other people. That is why EVL celebrated its 20th anniversary arranging a conference in Theatre Vanemuine, Tartu on May 9th 2013. The conference focused on the access to cultural events and public halls for hard of hearing people. The conference brought together our members and partners, hearing specialists from Tartu University and Viljandi Culture Academy, the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People and good friends from Finnish Hard of hearing Association with the president Antero Penttinen.

The conference awarded the title „The clearest voice on ETV 2013“ to Mihkel Kärmas according to the results of the survey about broadcasting.

Better quality of life for hard of hearing people – this is the main focus for Estonian hard of hearing Association today and tomorrow.

*Uno Taimla*

The chairman of the Estonian Hard of Hearing Association  
e- mail uno.taimla@gmail.com





## Awareness rising at Catholic University KUL, Poland

It was a very nice surprise to be invited by Dr. Ewa Domagala-Zysk to deliver Hard of Hearing Awareness and Assertiveness to hard of hearing students at the world-renowned Catholic University of Lublin.

The University, for the past 10 years, has been pioneering work with their disabled students. The Ombudsman for the Disabled Students at KUL is Prof. Bogusław Marek, OBE, who is well known for his work with blind students. His Chair of Methodology of Teaching English to the Blind was the first in Poland to teach English to blind university students.

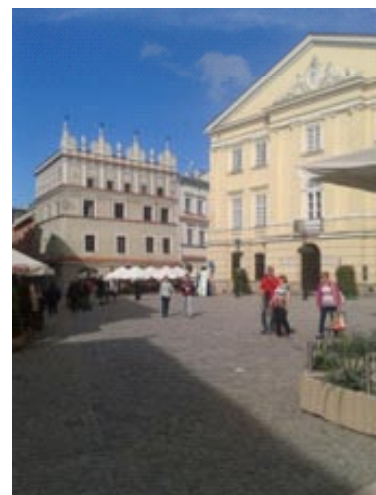
Meeting Prof. Marek was a pleasant meeting of like-minded individuals, his passion is just contagious!

The second like-minded individual is Dr. Ewa Domagala-Zysk who set up English classes for deaf and hard of hearing students as part of the Pedagogy Department and Centre of Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing KUL. It is worth a note that Dr. Ewa is also a pioneer in her work

in Poland and today is well regarded for her publications and methodology textbooks supporting teachers of English in practical guidance for teaching English to students with hearing difficulties.

Dr. Ewa encouraged her students to take part in international seminars and to attend IFHOH World Congress last year in Norway. Her students also took part in Assertiveness training in Warsaw, organised during an EFHOH Board meeting. Last October she and her students organized International Workshop "English as a Tool of International Co-operation", in which 24 deaf and hard of hearing students from Poland (KUL and UAM University from Poznań) and the Czech Republic (Masaryk University) participated. Workshop lasted a week and consisted of classes, games and presentations where English was a main means of communication.

I was taken aback by the deep knowledge the staff possesses and their genuine drive towards inclusive teaching





practices. On Friday, I had a chance to meet with Pedagogy Director rev. prof. Marian Nowak and the staff from surdo-pedagogy, where we engaged in an exchange of our knowledge. This was a good opportunity for me to learn more about the problems the University has with current Government policies and how they do (or do not) fit the specific needs of hard of hearing students.

Hearing Loops, speech to text and note taking are still things that are not part of standard student support. With some of possible support like portable FM, lack of assertiveness and 'denial' plays big role in exclusion of students from lectures. The University, like all modern buildings, is a very noisy place for anyone but especially for hard of hearing students, due to echo generated by a lack of carpets and wooden paneling. I was able to discover that myself! During the first weekend on June, students of KUL and other universities attended workshops designed to improve their knowledge of issues affecting deaf and hard of hearing people, which I designed specifically for Polish students.

In the first part they learned some facts, terminology and have made constructive suggestions for improving communication and access during lectures. Some were surprised to learn that they are part of such a variety in deafness sector! The important part of this session was to show how access is seen in other countries in Europe to reinforce the message that it is NOT the student's problem that they can't hear and not much can be done, but the fact that the society often creates barriers and it is society which must make sure people with hearing loss experience quality of life on an equal level with their hearing colleagues.

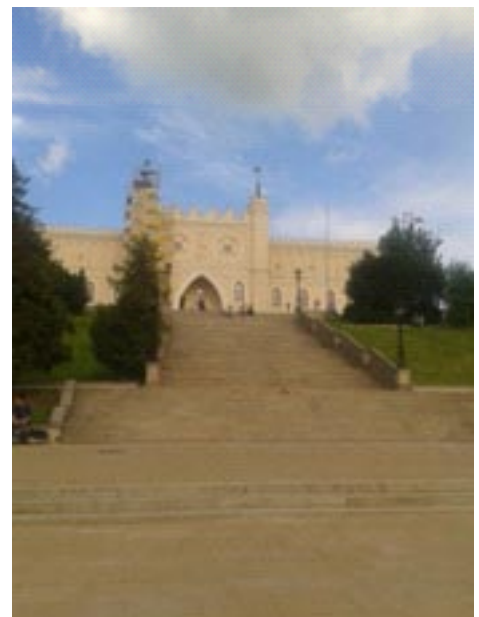
The second part related to rights, disability models, UNCRPD and the European Strategy 2010- 2020. It was particularly important to deliver the consistent message of disability movement, which states "Nothing about us without us"

### **I hope they did not find it a bore!**

The third part was an assertiveness (confidence building) session, with real life examples, discussions, exercises, all designed to help students to understand what assertiveness means and how their assertiveness is affected or, for a better word, influenced by their hearing difficulties.

I was pleased to see how engaged they were during our time together and observing their assertiveness developing. Well done to all!

I had managed to enjoy free time and hospitality of the hosts. Lublin has a beautiful Old Town, with welcoming cafes and restaurants. Worth making a visit!



## European Parliament Disability Intergroup About Successful solutions in vocational education and training

Press Release by MEP Ádám Kósa

On 8th May in the European Parliament, MEP Ádám Kósa, President of the Disability Intergroup hosted the launch of the latest European study on Vocational Education and Training (VET) with active involvement of distinguished professionals and representatives of international bodies and European Institutions. The study highlighted that every citizen must be equipped with the skills needed to live and work in the new information society and special attention must be paid to young disabled people in particular, being one of the most vulnerable groups in Europe.

In his opening speech MEP Kósa highlighted the importance of the everyday practice and proved solutions. He pointed out: "This study is worth considering because its focus is on 'what works' in VET for learners with Special Education Needs (SEN) and/or disabilities as well as 'why it works' and 'how it works'. Therefore it is always important to support policy guidelines with real and living examples so that good practices could be spread. To this Hungary has always been and remains committed."

Per Gunnvall and Cor Meijer, Chairman and Director of the European Agency animated the presentation and pointed out that the VET could be a key tool at national, European and international levels. Detailed results were also presented by Mary Kyriazopoulou and Harald Weber from the European Agency.

Professor Serge Ebersold provided the link between results and theoretical evidence: "Now that we know what works in practice, we need to know if it works in theory". Rory O'Sullivan, Principal from Killester College, illustrated clear and convincing evidence through an example of practical implementation. He said that "if our students don't learn the way we teach them, we must learn how to teach them."

After the deliverance of professional presentations, five key respondents contributed to the active discussion, namely: EPP Group MEP Heinz K. Becker, Dana Carmen Bachmann Head of Unit from the European Commission (DG Education and Culture), Olympia Stylianou, Permanent Secretary of the Cypriot Ministry of Education, Rudi Delarue from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Simona Giarratano from the European Disability Forum and Don Mahon, representative of the Irish Presidency.

Background: The study has been conducted by the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education, following a request from its member countries. 26 countries were involved in the study, 55 national experts have participated and 28 local practices were analysed. The key outcome of the project analysis is that what is good and efficient practice for learners with SEN/disabilities is good for all learners. The focus is to be placed on learner's abilities and the added value of the disability. It has further been concluded that changes for improvement are indeed possible and real involvement from all stakeholders concerned in the field of VET is crucial.

## International Hearing Loop **Conference 2013** Hearing Loops For All

Sunday 6th - Monday 7th October  
2013

Hello and welcome!

The 3rd International Hearing Loop Conference, called Hearing Loops for All, will be hosted in the autumn of 2013 by UK hearing loss organisation, Hearing Link.

The Conference will be held in the beautiful coastal town of Eastbourne in the south east of England. Eastbourne is easy to access by air, rail and road, and is around 80 km from London.

The aim of Hearing Loops for All is to identify opportunities and options for encouraging hearing loop technology to become more widely available and accessible to hard of hearing people. Take a look at what's on offer:

Conference Programme  
Let's Get Acquainted  
Reception  
An Audience with Composer  
Richard Einhorn  
Sponsorships/Exhibitors  
Call for Papers  
Accommodation  
Travel

If you have any questions please contact Julie Leggett, Conference Manager at [loopconference@hearinglink.org](mailto:loopconference@hearinglink.org) or look at the website of HearingLink [www.hearinglink.org](http://www.hearinglink.org)

We look forward very much to hearing from you and meeting you!



# News from the 112 Newsletter

## HeERO project update

At European level, the HeERO project is preparing, coordinating and carrying-out pre-deployment pilot projects of the EU-wide eCall (based on the common European emergency number 112). The consortium is currently testing and validating in real conditions the common European eCall standards defined and approved by the European Standardisation Bodies. Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Romania and Sweden are committed to the same high-level objective: developing the local 112 eCall infrastructure needed in order to provide sustainable eCall service for European citizens and share their experiences with the other EU Members and Associated States. On 1st January 2013, 6 other countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain and Turkey) joined the 9 current pilot sites.

## Report on the caller location meeting at the European Commission

22 May 2013, Brussels - EENA made a presentation to the European Commissions' EGEA meeting to highlight some of the real-life examples where enhanced mobile caller location is needed by the emergency services. With the help of data received from its members and other sources, EENA was able to quantify some of the time delays and the associated economic loss incurred when meaningful location information is not available to the first responders. Investment in high accuracy location technologies would be of 250 million EUR to cover all EU inhabitants, while the economic savings would be of at least 4 billion EUR annually. EENA has since distributed its presentation to its members and we will continue to call for a harmonised approach with mandatory EU-wide targets.

Check the EENA presentation at EGEA (479KB)  
For more information, please contact Gary Machado at gm@eena.org

The project is partially funded by the European Union under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

# Report from the IFHOHYP AGM in Stockholm April 13, 2013

On a rather cold and rainy day in April, I went to the young hard of hearing people's association, IFHOHYP's, AGM in Stockholm, Sweden. The venue was a secluded spot outside Stockholm, where all participants also stayed. The Swedish hosts had done a great job, getting all technical equipment working including a speech-to-text service. Chair of the meeting was Jesse Oikarinen from Finland, and he did it well.

The longest agenda point was about the financial reports and budget. Since there had been some turbulence in the previous year, it took some time to resolve the figures and measures. A lot of questions were asked, many of them by the delegate from Sweden. Also there was a discussion about the grant from the EACEA, the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency. This is an official authority belonging to the European Commission. IFHOHYP got a grant both in 2012 and in 2013.

Finally the AGM was ready to accept both the Annual Report 2012 and the budget for 2013.

Among the motions there was one that proposed to create a position as External Auditor.

It was refused by the AGM; and so was the proposal to establish a position as Honorary President. Both motions meant amendment of the Constitution, so they required a two-third majority.

The board elections caused a lot of changes:  
Vice-President: Maggie Plattner (new election), Switzerland; Secretary Astrid Ferj, Denmark, (new election); board member: Nomy Bitman, Israel (new election); Treasurer Ana Vita Ross, Denmark.

Also we got a quick presentation of the IFHOHYP's new website. Looks OK, but still under construction.

Actions/future meetings: AGM in 2014 in Jerusalem; 2015 and 2016: not decided. The latter will probably be in the US hosted by the new US member; Summer camp 2014 will be in Germany, 2015 in Poland.

Stockholm in May 2013  
Jan Lamby



## Hearing **aids** for the poor **children** with hearing loss in Vietnam

Center for Research and Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CED)

By Ms Duong Phuong Hanh,  
CED Founder/Executive Director

Dear European friends,

I am very happy to be back with you at this newsletter to update some information on hearing aid fund for the poor children with hearing loss in Vietnam to you.

The fund has officially supported the community since March 2012 and presented 44 second-hand hearing aids for poor children with hearing loss who live in Hochiminh City, Dong Thap province. We chosen Dong Thap since the school board has been very interested in their students, specially, they has an expert in early intervention who is

not famous in the Dong Thap province but the Mekong Delta. Be supported "the ears" and supplied the lessons on listening and speaking, the children in our program made much progress and accessed the inclusive education. Thao Nguyen Thi Phuong was an example. She got the CED's hearing aids at age of 12, three months later, we consulted with her parents and introduced her to study grade 1 at a Center for Continuing Education. The other young children under 3 years old, got hearing aids and studies the normal primary schools. Their behavior are improved with good social interrelations.

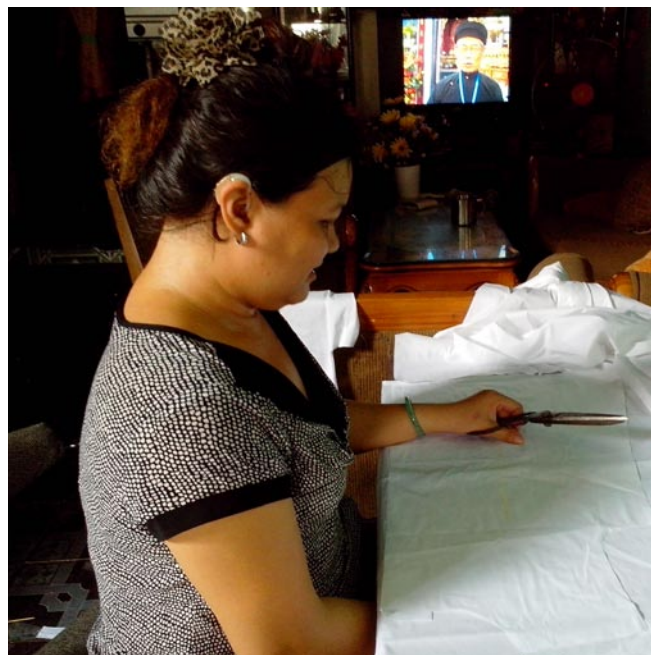
Since the congenial children with hearing loss are profound deaf and the second-hand hearing aids do not meeting their hearing, many children have not had hearing aids while the fund still remains some. Through our networking, CED had a meeting with the Enfants Et Development (EED) working about family social work, and agreed to present



hearing aids to persons with hearing loss who are in the working age. "They were fixed the used hearing aids and looked very happy. It's so glad to see that they can hear again with hearing aids. They clustered talking and laughing. This one asked that the other that he/she could hear well. I looked at them and had a sweet feeling" (said by the audiologist).

Last time, I attended the IFHOH World Congress in Norway in June 2012 and met with many young persons with hearing loss in Europe who spoke very well and very confident. I also knew that with the good social security they got hearing aids free and changed them very each four years at the hospital. With the cold climate in Europe and carefully keeping, the used hearing aids could be still in good working condition. By this idea, I discussed with Mr. Marcel Bobeldijk – EFHOH President to collect the second-hand hearing aids for CED. It's lucky I got his enthusiastic help as well as the EFHOH board. I really appreciate with this collaboration.

The children with hearing aids in Vietnam are almost profound deaf that make them much difficulties to access the second-hand hearing aids. The ones with strong power just meet them. CED is looking forward to receiving your collaboration to bring more opportunities for the poor children with hearing loss in Vietnam. Your supports, your share and your contribution for whatever you can do will bring the changes focusing on "A better quality of life for the hard of hearing".







## The **visit** to the German **President**, Mr. Joachim Gauck, in the Bellevue Palace

Patrick Hennings, Chairman for HOB VoG, got an invitation from Mr. Gauck. He was invited as a citizen ambassadors. In total, around 100 active citizens were invited from Mr. Gauck. Citizens who stand up for Europe. Mr. Gauck leads a forum to work with select citizens together to find the right way for Europe.

12 Working groups have been formed, depending on the thematic focus. Patrick Hennings participated in the group "Work and life" in Europe. For this working group was also the theme of inclusion important and an important focus.

### **The resultat of this working group:**

The Inclusion refers not only to persons with an impairment, but for all different groupings in our society. To implement the various findings and proposals from the different working groups, all of them have mentioned the wish that a new foundation should be founded. Then we citizen ambassador which were invited should work for this new foundation.

In the first step the foundation should help persons who do not have enough money to be able to study in another





**Patrick Hennings  
with his inter-  
preter, Susanne  
Lipka**



country. Other goals for the foundations should be discussed with the next Bellevue Forum.

The president, Mr. Gauck, also wishes this foundation. He hopes very much that with this measure, Germany makes an important contribution to Europe. He knows that Germany is not popular with his neighbors. He hopes he can show a good example by Germany with this forum, and the new Foundation. A European Germany (and not a German Europe). He would be glad if we support it and work on it. The big foundations, which help in this forum want to do it also.

#### **The 12 foundations:**

Allianz Kulturstiftung, Bertelsmann Stiftung, BMW Stiftung Herbert Quandt, Gemeinnützige Hertie-Stiftung, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Schering Stiftung, Schwarzkopf-Stiftung, Junges Europa, Stiftung Genshagen, Stiftung Mercator, Volkswagen-Stiftung, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin.

Therefore, the chances in near future are very good. Of course we must wait for how it develops. But on every case it is a big honour that our Member Patrick Hennings is a part of this forum and also will represent there our EFHOH. He represents a German who lives in Belgium and as a politician for the Greens in Germany and in Belgium. He continues to work and fight for human rights, equality, justice, inclusion, for our common Europe.





## EP POLITICAL GROUPS JOIN FORCES TO SUPPORT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Today, the leaders of the main political Groups in the European Parliament announced strong action to support the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe. The announcement came following a high level meeting between Joseph Daul, Chairman of the EPP Group, Hannes Swoboda, President of the S&D Group, Anneli Jaatteenmaki, Vice-President of the ALDE Group, Rebecca Harms, co-President of the Greens/EFA Group, Gabriele Zimmer, President of the GUE/NGL Group, and EDF President Ioannis Vardakastanis. They all signed a declaration to take up a series of important initiatives aiming at ensuring the full inclusion of persons with disabilities as well as the enforcement of their rights.

## EDF CONTRIBUTES TO THE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT DIRECTIVE

The Employment Directive 2000/87/EC is currently being reviewed by the European Commission. The European Parliament's Employment Committee is writing a report on the implementation of the Employment directive. The Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) is currently preparing an opinion on this report. EDF took this opportunity to provide the rapporteur of the opinion with some suggestions to bring the Employment Directive more in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and its non-discrimination principle for persons with disabilities.

## EDF PUSHES FOR A MORE AMBITIOUS STEP TOWARDS ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC WEBSITES

The Proposal for a Directive on Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies' Websites presented by the European Commission last December is currently being discussed by the parliamentary groups; the draft of the rapporteur of this Directive, MEP Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, is expected to be released by the end of this month. EDF has met all the key actors in order to demand a broader scope and an effective enforcement mechanism that ensures web accessibility, not only on some public sector bodies' websites, but also in every publicly available service that is provided online, regardless if it is public or private agent.

All these efforts have had as a result the common agreement that the scope of the proposal should be updated and widened.

## A COLLABORATIVE PORTAL OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES IS ABOUT TO COME!

Assistive Technology and Inclusive Systems for All (ATIS-4All), is an EU thematic network on Assistive Technology (AT) and digital accessibility, whose purpose is to create a web portal and an on-line community consisting of users, providers, researchers, and developers of AT and accessibility throughout Europe. The portal will be officially presented at the end of this month.

The portal will provide content regarding Assistive Technologies and accessibility and all the tools to interact with other members to share best practices, documents, and a wide range of information. ATIS4all project is funded by the EU's Policy Support Programme - Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, and EDF is member of the consortium.

## BOOKLET ON THE COLLECTIVE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

The European Social Charter is a Council of Europe treaty which guarantees social and economic rights of all citizens of the state parties to the Charter (43 states have ratified, including almost all EU member states). The rights guaranteed under the Charter concern housing, health, education, employment, the movement of individuals, as well as the protection, in particular of persons with disabilities, elderly people, children and their families. The Charter also provides that these rights must be secured without discrimination on the ground of disability, among other grounds.

The European Committee of Social Rights supervises the honouring of the commitments made by the states by ratifying this Charter. This Committee monitors the compliance of a state in two different ways: through 'reports' drawn up by state parties and through 'collective complaints' lodged by the social partners and certain international non-governmental organisations, holding a participatory status with the Council of Europe.

EDF has obtained this participatory status and can therefore lodge a complaint with the Committee, requesting them to investigate a collective violation of economic and social rights of persons with disabilities in a state that is party to the Charter.

## SUCCESSFUL SOLUTIONS IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

On 8th May in the European Parliament, MEP Ádám Kósa, President of the Disability Intergroup, hosted the launch of the latest European study on Vocational Education and Training (VET) with active involvement of distinguished professionals and representatives of international bodies and European Institutions. The study highlighted that every citizen must be equipped with the skills needed to live and work in the new information society and special attention must be paid to young disabled people in particular, being one of the most vulnerable groups in Europe.

### HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

EDF took part in the High Level Group on persons with disabilities on 24 April in Brussels and was represented by Donata Vivanti, EDF Vice President, and Carlotta Besozzi, EDF Director. Chaired by the European Commission, the meeting gathered representatives of all EU member States and some observers, as well as civil society organisations.

The main issues discussed related to information on the process for submission of the National Reform Programmes (NRPs): 12 April was the deadline to submit NRPs by member States and country specific recommendations on employment will be approved end of May by the Council. The study on the impact on the crisis on persons with disabilities by the European Foundation Center was also presented. It was agreed that the Commission will see how the High level group could liaise with Social Protection Committee and the Employment Committee (European Commission and member States) on what can be done in order to place the impact of the crisis of persons with disabilities on their agenda.

The European Commission presented a proposal for setting up a project working group on the European model disability-card, bringing together representatives of

interested countries, the EC, and EDF. The group will look at feasibility and start preparations for a project that will be funded by the European Commission through a call for proposal. The Card will focus on advantages (discounts, free access) in the area of transport, leisure, tourism, and culture. Member States must by the 22nd of May express their interest on the topic in writing. The European Commission introduced plans for the Work forum, which is a platform of actors involved in the implementation and monitoring of the UNCRPD (focal points, monitoring mechanisms, DPOs).

The preparatory study to the EU report to the UN CRPD committee was presented by Gerard Quinn (Galway), Mark Priestley (Leeds) and Marcel Zwamborn (Human consultancy). They are examining article by article of the UN CRPD and see indirect and direct implications to the Treaties or secondary legislation, soft law policies and programmes.

Information was also given on a new pilot project will be launched on real time sign language. The project will be developed to be applied in the European Union institutions. It will be implemented in 2013-2014 as well as on a study on Autism spectrum disorders. The Commission also presented the new edition of the Access city award 2013.

## IRISH PRESIDENCY URGED TO END THE MISUSE OF EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS

On the 3rd of May, the Centre for Disability Law & Policy of the University of Galway, Ireland, in cooperation with the Irish Presidency of the EU, held a conference on the use of the EU Structural and Investment Funds to promote community living for persons with disabilities.

EDF, represented by its Executive Member, Pat Clark, Chief Executive of Down Syndrome Ireland, participated and argued for the EU to end the practice of using taxpayers' money to build expensive and needless institutions for persons with disabilities and others.

The conference unanimously called on the Irish Presidency of the Council to take a lead in the negotiations and to urge the necessary changes on its partners.

Everyone is agreed that the Funds have to play a more strategic role in advancing key European priorities – especially the generation of a 'smart, sustainable and inclusive' economic and social model. Eliminating waste and inappropriate expenditure is especially important in times of fiscal restraint. Since the EU has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), this too should form an inseparable part of this overall agenda for change.

## Statement on the Social Dimension of the European Monetary Union

Adopted by the Annual General Assembly of the European Disability Forum meeting in Athens on 25-26 May 2013

The European Disability Forum welcomed the Council decision of December 2012 to address the social dimension of the European Monetary Union (EMU) during the Council meeting on 27 and 28 June 2013.

As the Member States will address the social consequences of the economic choices on the lives of the European citizens and on the development of the social policies in the EU, EDF wants to send a clear message to all governments.

Heads of states and EU institutions must negotiate and plan the economic governance of our European Union considering that:

The EMU is not synonymous of the European Union as such. It only concerns the convergence of the economies of the Eurozone member states. As a consequence, achievement of the EMU is only one part, mainly an instrument, of the political and social European integration process. The EU has an increasingly important international human rights role, notably by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) it has acquired a special role as a Regional Integration Organisation, and must therefore honour its commitments. The EU member states are parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and they have a legally binding obligation to progressively improve universal access to goods and services such as healthcare, education, housing and social security and to ensure just and favourable conditions of work, without discrimination, in accordance with established international standards. Over the years, European Citizenship has become part of the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. 16% of the EU citizens, 80 million people, are persons with disabilities, and one in four Europeans has a family member with a disability. The debate on a social dimension of the EMU must take this important part of the population into account.

When defining the new context in which they operate, MSs cannot ignore the economic crisis and its impact across Europe. Austerity measures have contributed to higher unemployment and social exclusion. Investments in welfare play an important role in stabilising incomes and protecting the most vulnerable groups at times of crisis.

EDF calls for fundamental rights, to be guaranteed and put forward by new policy instruments developed by the EU. EDF regrets that the Social Investment Package (SIP) does not address adequately persons with disabilities as a specific target group but only as a category of persons that will benefit from the package.

The SIP has failed to include concrete actions and recommendations on to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities. Following the active inclusion principles, MSs are to ensure sufficient income support, accessible labour markets and quality support services, to allow people with disabilities, including those who need more intense support, to be active part of their society.

Investment on education of persons with disabilities should promote reforms in the education systems to improve education support policies in mainstream education and should not lead to segregation to special schools. Education is the basis for access to the labour market. All of the above, including non-discrimination and accessibility for persons with disabilities, must be acknowledged in all the economic governance instruments. This includes the Europe 2020, but also the National Reform Programmes and the development of the Country Specific

The EMU is not sustainable if it's not backed up by strong and cohesive societies. This is why Member States shall invest in social protection measures to compensate for lack of work-related income by ensuring affordable access to healthcare and long-term care as well as support to families.

The social dimension of the EMU, should include strong political decisions to put in place all necessary instruments and guarantees that will effectively protect persons with disabilities, including those who need more intense support, from the consequences of the economic crisis and to invest on their potential, preventing them to develop further disabilities and dependency.

Therefore EDF calls on the EU and its member states to put in place a system of social guarantees as through the design and monitoring of public and private services according to principles of equity and compensation, including the realization of social and economic rights of persons with disabilities.





## ***Hearing Loops for All***

### **3rd International Hearing Loop Conference**

### **Saturday 5th - Monday 7th October 2013**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Hearing Loop Conference, called *Hearing Loops for All*, will be hosted in the autumn of 2013 by UK hearing loss organisation, Hearing Link.

The Conference will be held in the beautiful coastal town of Eastbourne in the south east of England. Eastbourne is easy to access by air, rail and road, and is around 80km from London. The Conference will begin with an evening reception on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, with the main events taking place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

*Hearing Loops for All* will provide an exceptional opportunity for hard of hearing people to learn about the benefits offered by hearing loops and related technology, and to find out how they can encourage this technology to become more widely available where they live. It will also provide a rare chance for suppliers, service providers and relevant professionals from all over the world to share views, knowledge and information about current and emerging hearing loop technology.

The overall aim of *Hearing Loops for All* is to identify opportunities and options for encouraging hearing loop technology to become more widely available and accessible to hard of hearing people. The Conference, which is held every two years, was previously took place in Zurich in Switzerland and Washington in the USA.

#### **Hearing loops – what are they?**

Hearing loops and related technology are an unobtrusive and cost effective way for people with 'T' coil compatible hearing aids and cochlear implants to hear and communicate more effectively. This provides real benefits to hard of hearing people. Hearing loops can be made available in shops, banks, theatre halls, public meeting places and other venues, and can encompass small areas, such as customer service desks, or large areas, such as conference halls. They are also known as Audio Frequency Induction Loop Systems.

#### **Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities**

A variety of highly attractive options are available to organisations, businesses and professionals wishing to feature or promote their services and products at the Conference. This includes Gold, Silver and Bronze packages that will help Sponsors and Exhibitors to gain maximum exposure and benefit from supporting and being part of the Conference.

#### **About Hearing Link**

Hearing Link is the UK hearing loss organisation that makes it easy for people to find the right information, appropriate services and ways to connect meaningfully with others. The organisation focuses on helping people to adjust to and manage the practical, emotional and social challenges that hearing loss can bring to all aspects of life. It is a valuable point of contact for people with any degree of hearing loss and for partners, family members and friends. Find out more at [www.hearinglink.org](http://www.hearinglink.org)



## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

*Hearing Loops for All* will offer an exciting and varied programme that will provide learning, networking and social opportunities. This includes:

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Get Acquainted

An evening reception with light food and refreshments will be served as Conference guests are warmly welcomed to Eastbourne and the UK. It will take place in the fabulous Ocean Suite, a venue offering dramatic and beautiful views over the English Channel.

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October – The Main Conference

The main Conference will be held in the Winter Garden, a unique Victorian venue built in 1875, originally used as a skating rink in the winter and a concert hall during the summer. The programme of events will feature workshops, presentations, exhibition stands, and networking opportunities.

#### Conference sessions will include:

- Internationally recognised speakers
- Experiences from around the world
- State of the art Hearing Loop Technology
- Stakeholder perspectives (User, Audiologist, Service provider, Hearing aid Manufacturer, Loop Manufacturer, Architect, Installers and maintainers, Advocates)
- The Hearing Loop Benefits Cycle and the role that each stakeholder plays
- 'Lets Loop' campaigns in the United States and the United Kingdom
- Technical Workshops
- The impact of legislation
- Installations and understanding complex Hearing Loop Systems

### Sunday Evening entertainment - The Best of British Gala Dinner

Enjoy a wonderful dinner in the luxurious surroundings of the 5 star Grand Hotel, known locally as 'The White Palace', which offers breathtaking views of the sea and the nearby dramatic cliffs.

### Monday Evening entertainment – The 'Voices of Light' at the Congress Theatre

Sit back and relax whilst watching the spellbinding Voices of Light. This critically acclaimed show merges one of the greatest films ever made, the legendary silent film *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, with a live performance from the award-winning deafened composer Richard Einhorn. This incredible evening will bring the Conference to a dramatic close.

For more information about *Hearing Loops for All* and to register your interest in attending, contact Julie Leggett, Conference Manager: [loopconference@hearinglink.org](mailto:loopconference@hearinglink.org)

For more information about Hearing Link, contact Sally Shaw, Communications Manager: [enquiries@hearinglink.org](mailto:enquiries@hearinglink.org)

connecting  
peopleHearing  
Link

## 3rd International Hearing Loop Conference

To be held in Eastbourne in the south east of England on 6th & 7th October 2013. Hosted by Hearing Link, the UK hearing loss organisation. An event for everyone interested in Loop Systems & related technology.

**Attend Sponsor Exhibit Speak**

FIND OUT MORE: [loopconference@hearinglink.org](mailto:loopconference@hearinglink.org)

Join Us  
October  
2013

Eastbourne: a beautiful English coastal town  
easily accessible by road, rail & air



### Hearing Link

27-28 The Waterfront, Eastbourne  
East Sussex BN23 5UZ  
Tel/Text: 0300 111 1113  
Fax: 01323 471260  
SMS: 07526 123255  
[loopconference@hearinglink.org](mailto:loopconference@hearinglink.org)

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[www.hearinglink.org](http://www.hearinglink.org)

## 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.