



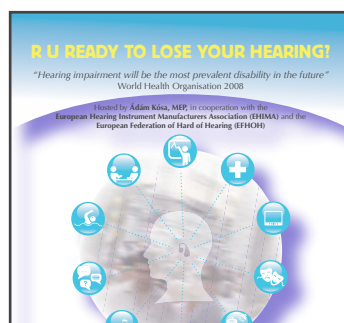
EFHOH PRESIDENT LETTER

See page 2



ORY AND HIS NEW HEARING MACHINE

Follow the adventure at page 7



HEARING AWARENESS WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Read the story p. 8-9





EFHOH President letter

Dear EFHOH friends,

It, today is Saturday (16 March) here in the Netherlands, this is the day when 'Book Week' starts. In the centre of our small city, Alphen aan den Rijn, I had bought two books and a newspaper. One of these books is a book about Ester Vergeer with the title 'Power and the Vulnerable'. Sport fans may know Ester Vergeer as a great sportswoman, in a wheelchair. In London, she won her fourth golden medal at the Paralympics Games and she also won in 2002 and 2008 the famous Laureus World Sport Award. Ester Vergeer lives in the same area as me, known as 'The Green Heart' of Holland and she is, for me and many others around the world, a great example that for disabled people everything is possible. Of course that costs energy and makes you vulnerable.

In many countries you have a 'Book Day' or 'Book Week', and also a day or week of hearing loss. So, as you may know, IFHOH try to put an international day of hearing loss on the United Nations calendar but to organize this is not so simple. We need to give IFHOH the time, and maybe the IFHOH board at the BGM 2014 in Israel, is able to give some more detailed information.

But first we go to the beautiful central European city of Prague for the EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2013. We, the EFHOH board are very happy that our member organisation in the Czech Republic, (The SNN CR) have made a very interesting programme. It is a combination of speakers from the CZ Republic and speakers from abroad. The main topics are:



- Personal witness: Lives of People with a hearing loss in the Czech Republic;
- Recent encounters in the digital world – progress in subtitling, with presentation on the European level by the EFHOH board and Czech organizations;
- Hearing Aids and technology;
- Rehabilitation for Hard of Hearing People.

At the end of this conference day we will sign the 2013 Prague Declaration on "A better quality of life for the Hard of Hearing People" in Europe.

Shortly after the EFHOH AGM in Prague on the 9th and 10th of April we have a very important event at the European Parliament in Brussels. We will have the first Hearing Awareness Week. Dr. Adam Kosa, MEP will be the host of this event arranged in cooperation with EFHOH and EHIMA. The event will feature an information booth where members of the European Parliament and their staff can have their hearing tested. See also the 'Press Release' in this EFHOH Newsletter.

We, as the EFHOH board are very happy that we are welcoming two new general members of EFHOH:

1. From Belgium, Hearing Impaired of East Belgium VoG ;

2. From Hungary, Hungarian Hard of Hearing Association with the short name Naboke (in Hungarian)

We wish both organizations good luck with all their work for Hard of Hearing People in their country.

The EFHOH board is very happy with the new European volume limits: building noise limitations in music players and sound equipment. All music players which are being sold within the European Union as of 25 January 2013, must have a volume limitation. The standard maximum level of the volume contains 85 decibel (dB). If the user of the equipment installs a higher standard, every 20 hours a warning will be shown on the display. The new telephones and MP-3 players must have a maximum volume of 100 dB. The European Commission intends to decrease the results of hearing damage, due to loud music.

See You in Prague

Yours,
Marcel Bobeldijk



PRAGUE

Annual General Meeting 2013 Preliminary Agenda

Friday April 5th 2013

12.00–13.00 Lunch

12.30–13.30 Registration

13.30–17.30 AGM EFHOH 2013

Saturday April 6th 2013

8.30–9.30 Registration

9.30–10.00 Opening Statements – Guests
Ádám Kósa (MEP from Hungary)

10.00–11.00 Personal witness: Lives of people with a hearing loss in the Czech Republic

Time	Name	Country	Topic
10.00–10.30 (including time for discussion)	Petr Dědeček	Czech Republic	My experience with job opportunities
10.30–11.00 (including time for discussion)	Romana Procházková	Czech Republic	My new life with a cochlear implant

11.00–11.20 Coffee break

11.20–12.50 Recent encounters in the digital world – progress in subtitling/captioning. Presentations on the European level by the EFHOH Board and Czech organisations.

Time	Name	Country	Topic
11.20–11.50 (including time for discussion)	Lidia Best	EFHOH/UK	European Commission for closed captioning

11.50–12.20 (including time for discussion)	Věra Strnadová	Czech Republic	Closed captioning in the Czech Republic from the user's perspective
12.20–12.50 (including time for discussion)	Vladimír Salzman	Czech Republic	Closed captioning in the Czech Republic from the provider's perspective – Czech Television

12.50–14.20 Lunch

14.20–16.00 Hearing aids and technology

Time	Name	Country	Topic
14.20–14.50 (including time for discussion)	Sören Hougaard	EHIMA, Denmark	The results of a survey conducted among hearing aid users in 7 countries
14.50–15.20 (including time for discussion)	University of West Bohemia	Czech Republic	Development of a technology for an automatic simultaneous transcription
15.20–15.50 (including time for discussion)	Birgit Nofftz	Kombia, Germany	Speech to text in Europe

15.50–16.10 Coffee break

16.10–17.20 Rehabilitation for Hard of Hearing People

Time	Name	Country	Topic
16.10–16.40 (including time for discussion)	Wendelina Timmerman	Hooridee, Netherlands	Special tools for hearing loss at work
16.40–17.10 (including time for discussion)	Jaroslava Příhodová,	AIMA s.r.o., Czech Republic	Cochlear implants in the Czech Republic

17.10–17.40 **Closing remarks of the conference/ [Signing of the Prague Declaration 2013](#)**

18.00–19.00 Guided walk through the Prague Castle

19.00–22.00 Final Gala dinner (Location will be announced later)

Sunday April 7th 2013

9.30–12.00 Free time for all participants

12.00 Lunch

Initial phase of German **Tinnitus** League study **completed!**

Since May 2012, the Deutsche Tinnitus-Liga e. V., DTL (German Tinnitus League) has carried out a scientific research project to "evaluate the effectiveness of DTL self-help group activities". The study is intended to provide scientific evidence as to what benefits and added values participants of self-help groups have in comparison with non-participants. In this context, the question arises how important the qualification measures are which DTL offers to voluntary group spokespersons with a view to promoting their expert knowledge and increasing the quality of self-help work.

Project Managers are Dr. Christopher Kofahl of the Institut für Medizinische Soziologie, Sozialmedizin und Gesundheitsökonomie (IMSG) (Institute of Medical Sociology, Social Medicine and Health Economics) of the Hamburg-Eppendorf University Hospital and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Goebel, Vice President and Speaker of the DTL Specialist Advisory Committee. The three-year progressive study is sponsored by IKK classic until April 2015.

The initial, explorative study phase is completed. In this phase, a total of 26 interviews were conducted with instructors, DTL counsellors, trained and untrained self-help group spokespersons as well as group members. The aim was to obtain a comprehensive picture of the importance of self-help group activities and the significance of training measures.

Both qualification measures offered by DTL – counsellor training as well as qualification of group spokespersons – are assessed very positively by all persons interviewed. From their point of view, acquiring tinnitus-related basic professional knowledge and communicative competence are key topics. The knowledge imparted is not only seen as a personal enrichment by the trainees, but also viewed positively by group members and therefore considered beneficial for group activities. The group spokespersons feel "more self-assured" by the qualification measures. In the final analysis, this leads to a strengthening of their own health competence – and, in their function as multipliers, also to that of group members – in coping with tinnitus, Morbus Menière and sudden hearing loss.

Moreover, the analysis of the interviews shows that participation in a self-help group reduces tinnitus strain in the long run. Although especially group spokespersons have become very competent in coping with their tinnitus over the years and would get along quite well without the group, they underline the additional and personal benefit

they draw from being with the group. Getting to know additional, unusual and new aspects of living with the disease, experiencing social cohesion among the persons affected and finding personal reward and satisfaction in one's commitment are particularly appreciated.

Conclusion: Due to their participation in qualification measures, group spokespersons have more expert knowledge and greater competence in the fields of organisation and communication leading to sustained group stability. This is unanimously confirmed by the group members interviewed. Thus, all respondents agree that the money spent by DTL on training members to become counsellors and group spokespersons is a wise investment towards increased quality and effectiveness of self-help group activities.

The partners:

DTL, a large membership association, owes its existence to civic involvement and has for more than 25 years provided self-help services to the approx. 3.5 million persons with tinnitus, acute hearing loss and Morbus Menière – including relatives – and has represented their interests.

IKK classic has a longstanding history of promoting and giving high priority to self-help. It encourages and supports self-help activities and initiatives for the prevention and rehabilitation of diseases and disabilities.

One of IMSG's main tasks is in the fields of teaching and research, where the focus is on health services research. Parallel to the area of research, patient orientation, self-help and social networks are also topics in the field of teaching.

Contacts for journalists:

DTL: Volker Albert, telephone number: 08841 489 55 18

Michael Bergmann, telephone number: 0202 24652-41

IKK classic: Georg Hensel, telephone number: 02204 912-482

IMSG: Dr. Christopher Kofahl, telephone number: 040 7410-54266

4 th. episode :

Ory and His **New** Hearing **Machine**



Summary : Ory has got a cochlear implants and he discovers new sounds.

Ory has been wearing his new hearing machine for a week now. In the car on his way to the speech therapist, he listens to the radio. Yes of course, he's hearing sounds, but is that music or speech? He tries to distinguish between the two informations. BIP-BIP-BIP, bip-bip,bip; yes he's sure, that's music, it sounds rhythmical. Bip- BIP, bip- bip- bip, BIIIP, that's speech. He's concentrating more and more. It is like learning a new language.

Ory does exercises with the speech therapist. He has to tell the difference between dogs barking, ducks quacking, elephants trumpeting, cats meowing, cows mooing and lions roaring. He's so tired!

"Go out, take a walk and have a rest." The hospital is by the sea, the weather's nice and sunny. He walks along the beach. The sound of the seawater is like rolling marbles. He sees gulls wheeling over and over, but he can't hear them. The speech therapist didn't teach that. He's so tired, he puts his head on the warm sand and immediately falls asleep. In his dream, Ory has got a new telephone, a nice red one with an apple. He phones everybody, chatting and laughing for hours and hours. A gull is sitting on his shoulder and all around cats and dogs, elephants and lions are making a lot of noise.

Someone wakes Ory up. "It's time to do your exercises, Ory" At the end of the day, he takes off his new hearing machine, but then he discovers the silence again. No information, no communication, he's like a prisoner in a jail of silence. That's not a solution!

To be continued...

Aisa Cleyet-Marel

R U READY TO LOSE YOUR HEARING?

"Hearing impairment will be the most prevalent disability in the future"
World Health Organisation 2008

Hosted by **Ádám Kósa, MEP**, in cooperation with the
European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) and the
European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH)



TEST YOUR HEARING

at the **Hearing Awareness Week**
information stand from Monday 8 April until
Wednesday 10 April 2013.

Join us at the **Cocktail Reception**
on Wednesday 10 April 2013 starting at 18:30



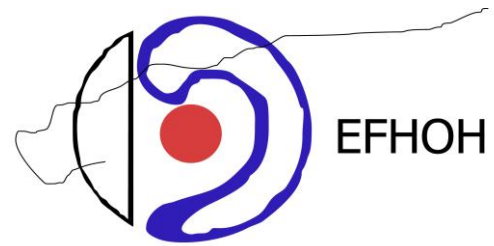
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS
Altiero Spinelli Building,
Ground floor, G Zone
Main Hall Area



Interpretation: INT. SIGN LANGUAGE/EN

If you do not have an access badge to the EP please register until 3 April 2013 for the
Cocktail Reception at: hearingawarenessweek@ehima.com

Press release:



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Hearing Awareness Week in the EU Parliament in Brussels

On **April 9 – 10**, MEP Adam Kósa will officially host an event inside the EU Parliament in Brussels aimed at raising awareness about hearing, hearing loss and hearing rehabilitation. Arranged in cooperation with EFHOH and EHIMA, the event will feature an information booth where MEPs and staffers can have their hearing tested. There will be a demonstration of what a hearing loss may “sound like”, as well as the opportunity to speak with people from EFHOH, EHIMA and MEP Kósa’s office.

On **April 10**, a breakfast meeting will be held with guest speakers including MEP Kósa, Mrs Lidia Smolarek-Best from EFHOH and a UK private dispenser, Curtis Alcock. The meeting will be attended by MEPs, staffers and other stakeholders from the organizations and associations having an interest in hearing loss and other disabilities.

In the evening of April 10, a cocktail event will gather a larger crowd who can network, hear speeches, - and learn about the outcome of the hearing tests.

The WHO warns that hearing loss will be the most prevalent disability in the future, yet very few people know much about what it implies – and what can be done to improve one’s hearing and hence one’s quality of life. It is the hope of the organizers that we can raise the awareness of hearing and hearing loss, not only among EU parliamentarians but also in the general public. The issue is simply much too important to be ignored.

March 6, 2013

For further information, kindly contact:

Jan Lamby

Secretary general, EFHOH

efhoh@hrf.se



VDNR – Nordic Council of Late-Deafened People

Since 2008 there is a Nordic cooperation group who works to give late-deafened people the same circumstances, rights and possibilities as other citizens. The name of the group is VDNR (in Swedish VuxenDövas Nordiska Råd) and consist of members from hearing associations in Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

VDNR:s purpose is to

- exchange information about developments and other changes for late-deafened
- monitor and control the development in different hearing fields in the Nordic countries
- arrange seminars about signs, speech to text, educational and social problems
- involve other organizations and countries in the council
- appoint the organization and country for the Nordic summer weeks - organized every second years

You can get more information about us from our homepage www.vdnr.org.

Stieg Vennström, secretary

WELCOME TO THE NEXT EFHOH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PRAGUE

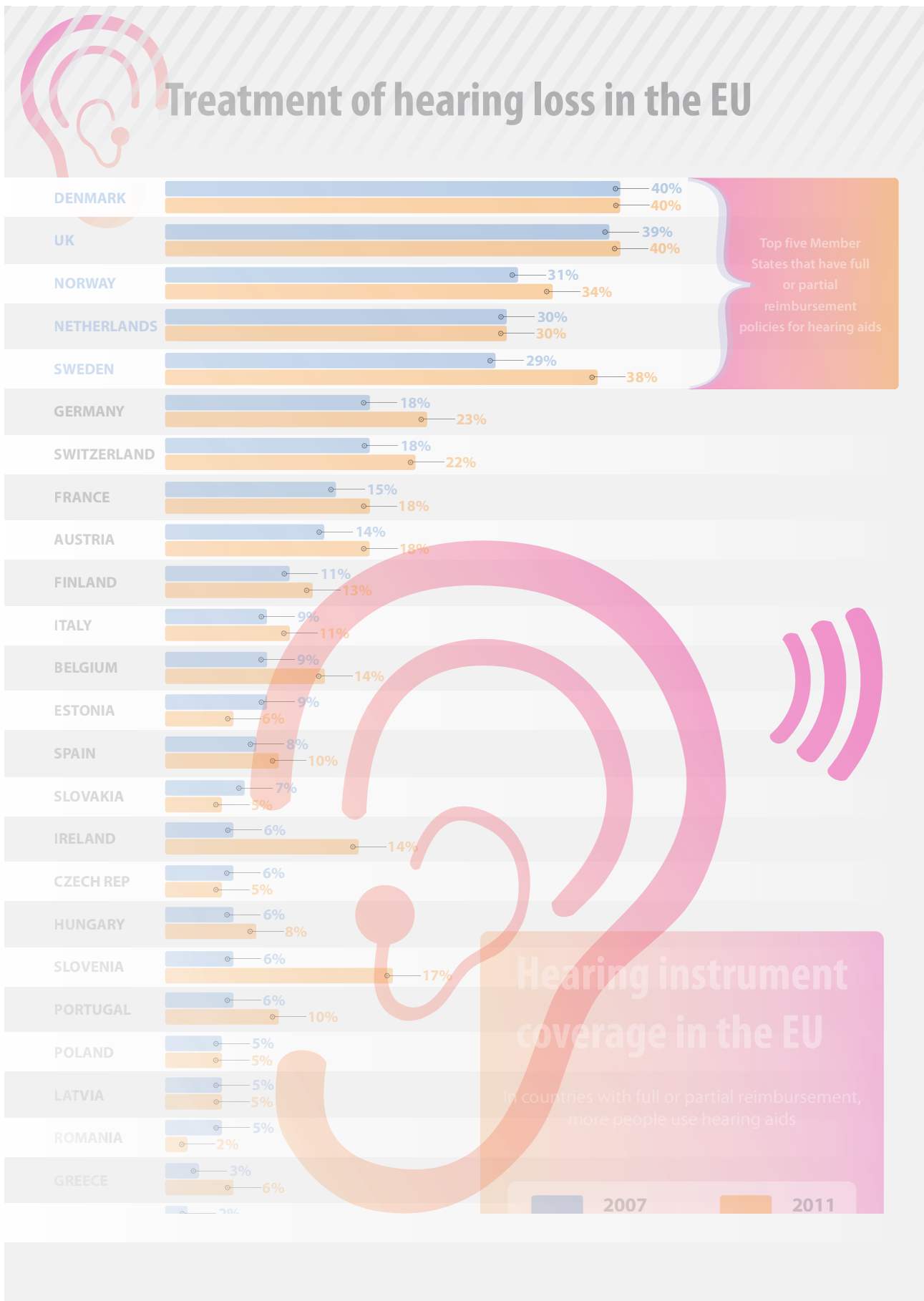
„The *Heart* of Europe“

CZECH REPUBLIC 2013 April 5th – 7th



We invite all EFHOH-members and delegates to Prague.

From November 2012 you can make a mailing list registration and programm at the website www.snnrcr.cz





1. Overview

In the hope to contribute towards the scientific discussion of issues pertaining to the theme of “inclusion”, and within the spirit of the **IPL (+) INCLUSIVO Project**, the Inclusion and Accessibility in Action Research Unit (iACT), of the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, is now organizing an **International Conference for Inclusion – INCLUDiT** – to take place in **Leiria, Portugal, on July, 5 and 6, 2013**.

This meeting aims to stimulate a dialogue amongst researchers from different domains so as to take on a multidisciplinary approach to themes such as identity, discrimination, multiculturalism, disability, physical and mental health, among others. It is still our aim to make this a forum for sharing best practices and stimulating new ideas.

During the two conference days there will be plenary and parallel sessions, poster sessions, think tanks and space for informal discussions. There will also be time and space for the arts, excellent means for the promotion of inclusion.

We hope this Conference will be enriched by enlightened and interdisciplinary debates, allowing for the development of critical views and the stimulation of innovative avenues for research. So that the exchange of ideas may be challenging to all, it is our wish to bring together young entrepreneurs and specialists and artists of high repute, from all parts of the world, working on interesting projects. New talents and new ideas are particularly welcome, a contribution for a better future.

A selection of the best papers will be published after the event.

Further to the scientific program, a rich social program is being organised.

1.1 Themes

- Arts and culture
- Social Sciences
- Communication
- Education
- Health and wellbeing
- Law and regulations
- Management
- Technology
- Heritage and architecture
- Natural environment
- Mobility
- Tourism

2. Calendar

A The conference will take place on 5 and 6 July 2013, at the Higher School of Education and Social Sciences, Polytechnic Institute of Leiria. Registrations (limited to 250) until 21 June 2013.

Deadlines:

- Call for Papers and Posters – 20 March 2013;
- Information about acceptance – 31 March 2013;
- Full texts (.doc/.txt) – 25 May 2013;
- Posters (.pdf) – 25 May 2013.
- Registration – 31 June 2013.

3. Call for Papers and Posters

We are inviting papers and posters on the themes proposed for this conference, to be presented in parallel sessions as shown in the Provisional Program.

At the end of the conference a **Prize will be awarded to the best Paper and the best Poster**. The winner will be selected in view of the following criteria:

- scientific rigour;
- innovation;
- contribution towards inclusion;
- written and oral skills;
- scientific debate.

Only contributions (full papers and posters) that are handed in by 25 May 2013 will be considered for the prizes.

4. Registration

Attendance is free of charge but participants are required to register by filling in the Registration Form below.

Given that space is limited to 250 participants, please only register should you really be taking part. Should you decide not to attend, please inform the organization (includit@ipleiria.pt) so that somebody else may be given the opportunity to attend.

5. For further information:

E-mail: includit@ipleiria.pt

Website: <http://includit.ipleiria.pt>





UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - IT'S TIME FOR IRELAND!

Dublin, 24 February 2013 /// The European Disability Forum (EDF) and the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) call on the Irish Government to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the implementation plan for the National Disability Strategy without any further delay.

At the EDF board meeting, which took place on 23-24 February in Dublin, Ireland, hosting over 70 delegates from organisations representing persons with disabilities across Europe, the urgent need for Ireland to ratify the CRPD was considered. They noted the significant progress made by Ireland in adopting a comprehensive disability strategy and its determination to address the CRPD commitments through the implementation of the National Disability Strategy. The imminent publication of a whole of government implementation plan for the disability strategy was also welcomed.

EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, stressed the urgent need for Ireland to follow the example of most EU member states and ratify the CRPD: 'Ireland is among the last 3 countries in the EU -together with Finland and the Netherlands- which have not yet ratified the CRPD. Ireland is also among the EU countries that have been most strongly hit by the economic crisis. What we face today in the EU has nothing to do with what we have faced in the past. However, times of crisis are the right time to take action and protect vulnerable categories of citizens, whose rights are threatened. Holding right now the EU Presidency, Ireland should take the opportunity and ratify the CRPD, which is the first international human rights treaty that the EU itself has ratified. This way, it will make a real change in the life of

its citizens with disabilities and will leave Finland and the Netherlands close the EU circle.'

John Dolan, CEO of DFI, stated: "The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities has been ratified by the vast majority of European States and the European Union itself. The Irish Presidency of the EU is an ideal time for it to be ratified in Ireland, and we would urge that this happen in tandem with the publication of the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan. Ireland is now lagging behind our European counterparts in the implementation of this key international human rights agreement which recognises that people with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else to freedom, respect, equality and dignity."

INDEPENDENT LIVING

EDF's Board had a special focus on understanding article 19 of the CRPD on independent living as a fundamental right for all persons with disabilities: 'Independent living is not just a legal issue, it is a profound political issue and we need to look into it in connection with the social and political environment that we live in. To be included in the society is the backbone of the CRPD and has to be addressed in connection to all other rights, such as the right to legal capacity or equal recognition before the law, the rights to family life etc. All the austerity measures taken in all countries question and undermine the concept and the practice of independent living and we need to tackle both. We need to make them a real instrument for fighting for the most precious thing we have, to be included in society', underlined EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis.

John Dolan | DFI Chief Executive officer | johndolan@disability-federation.ie | +353 86 7957467

EDF CALLS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

Brussels, 8 March 2013 /// The International Women's Day 2013 finds Europe at a stage where significant efforts have been made in terms of gender equality and empowerment of women in society. However, discrimination against women still exists and Europe often fails to protect the rights of its female citizens. Women with disabilities, in particular, have to deal with a double challenge: the discrimination they often face for their gender, and the discrimination they face due to their disability. On today's occasion, EDF calls the EU to take measures to promote gender equality and to empower the active participation of women with disabilities in society.

Promoting the equal rights of women and girls with disabilities is at the core of EDF's work, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN

CRPD). The 8th of March is a day to celebrate what women have achieved throughout the last years. However, it's also a day to raise awareness about women with disabilities in the EU, whose rights are still threatened: women who are still succumbed to forced sterilisation, violence or institutionalisation, women who are deprived of their right to vote and of their right to be active citizens in society. Ensuring those women's equal rights and putting an end to their discrimination is the challenge that the EU has to face and this has to happen today.

Lila Sylviti, lila.sylviti@edf-feph.org
www.edf-feph.org

WEB ACCESSIBILITY DIRECTIVE: THIS IS WHAT THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT EXPECTS

Brussels, 11 March 2013 /// On 3 December 2012, the European Commission released a legislative proposal on the accessibility of public websites addressing public sector bodies' websites, such as those of municipality services, those for income taxes declaration, job search services, education, health related services, etc. Having analysed and scrutinised the proposal, EDF presents its view on the proposal and its proposal for changes to make web accessibility a reality for 80 million of European citizens with disabilities.

Despite the commitment taken by EU member States in Riga in 2006 and the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), which foresees the right of persons with disabilities to have access on an equal basis with others to all information and communications technologies, including internet, today 2/3 of public websites in Europe are still not accessible. The European Commission's proposal is a good opportunity for the EU to implement the UN CRPD, as well as a test of its real commitment to this aim. To this end, the European disability movement believes that only a proposal with a wider scope and a binding enforcement mechanism will bring a real change.

In the framework of the EDF Top Campaign on the theme of "Freedom of Movement", one of our objectives has been to promote the adoption of an ambitious and legally binding European Accessibility Act. In these terms, EDF welcomes the European Commission's initiative and presents the views of the disability movement on this upcoming European Accessibility Act.

The Act represents an opportunity for the Commission to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), which has been signed by all Member States and ratified by a majority of EU countries and by the EU itself. The political will and ambition of the European Commission and subsequently of the European

Parliament and the Council will be a test of the real commitment of the EU to the implementation of the UN CRPD. We consider that only an ambitious and legally binding Act based on the principles stated in the UN CRPD and covering as many services and goods as possible could be a first step to implement the accessibility provisions of the UN CRPD.

ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC WEBSITES IN THE HEART OF THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT'S MEETING IN IRELAND

The right of persons with disabilities to have access on an equal basis with others to all information and communications technologies, including internet, is clearly laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), that the EU has ratified. Nevertheless, up until now, only a limited percentage of public websites in the EU are fully accessible for persons with disabilities, while almost all private websites remain inaccessible. Last December, the European Commission released a legislative proposal on the accessibility of public bodies' websites.

In the framework of EDF's Board meeting taking place in Dublin, Ireland, on 23-24 February, EDF and Disability Federation Ireland (DFI) in cooperation with the National Disability Authority of Ireland, organise a seminar entitled: 'Accessibility of Public Websites – legislative and practical perspectives'.

The Irish Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte will open the seminar, which will focus on the scope of the Commission's legislative proposal, its limitations and possible avenues to extend it in order to cover more areas. The issue of enforcement mechanisms will be discussed, as well as the reporting methodology that will be further approved.

EDF REPLIED TO THE EUROPEAN RAILWAY AGENCY'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON RAILWAY ACCESSIBILITY

EDF reacted to the ongoing revision performed by the European Railway Agency (ERA) to the Technical Specifications on Rail Interoperability to Persons with Reduced Mobility covering the Union railway system (TSI PRM), following the mandate given by the European Commission.

Contact EDF: guillaume.dufresne@edf-feph.org

EDF EVALUATES THE EMPLOYMENT DIRECTIVE

EDF has answered the European Commission's request to evaluate the transposition and implementation of art. 9,2 Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (hereafter, the Employment Directive).

This position paper 'Evaluating the Defence of rights under the Employment Directive' was prepared in consultation with all EDF membership. EDF warmly thanks all those that have actively contributed to the drafting of this paper.

09/04: LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN YEARBOOK OF DISABILITY LAW AND RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM, BRUSSELS

The launch of Volume 3 of the European Yearbook on Disability Law will be celebrated at a seminar in the European Parliament in Brussels. The Yearbook is unique in capturing in one place all the relevant European policy and legal developments in the preceding year concerning disability. It is intended as a service to policy-makers, civil society, NGOs, lawyers and students. It is a joint project between Marian Harkin (MEP), Mairead McGuinness, MEP, Maastricht University and the National University of Ireland, Galway.

The seminar will be the occasion for a broader reflection on the past and, more importantly, the future of EU legal and policy scholarship on disability.

EDF President will be one of the main speakers.

03/06: CONFERENCE ON 'THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY LIVING', GALWAY IRELAND

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy at National University of Ireland, Galway, in association with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU will hold a conference on - 'The Future Role of the EU Structural Funds to Advance Community Living for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities'.

11-13/06: 11TH EUSE CONFERENCE, DUBLIN

The European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE) holds its 11th conference in Dublin. The theme of the conference is "Building an Inclusive Europe through Supported Employment".

13-14/06: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FUTURE PUBLISHING & ACCESSIBILITY, COPENHAGEN

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Denmark and the DAISY Consortium, Nota - the Danish National Library for Persons with Print Disabilities is organising an international conference entitled "Future Publishing and Accessibility". The conference will take place in Copenhagen on 13-14 June focusing on who is to guarantee future accessibility for users with special needs. User organisations are encouraged to use an online forum and ask questions which will be passed on to some of the keynotes. The online forum will be available from March.



Hearing Loops for All

3rd International Hearing Loop Conference

Saturday 5th - Monday 7th October 2013

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 80km from London. The Conference will begin with an evening reception on Saturday 5th October, with the main events taking place on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th 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



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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

Saturday 5th 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 6th and Monday 7th 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

For more information about Hearing Link, contact Sally Shaw, Communications Manager: enquiries@hearinglink.org

connecting
people

Hearing
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

Join Us
October
2013

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



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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.