



EFHOH PRESIDENT LETTER

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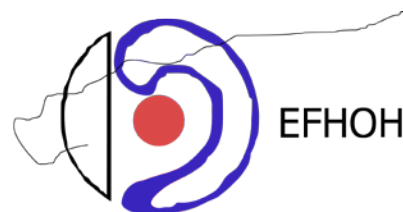
EVERYONE IS **DIFFERENT**

Read the story at page 14



CONFERENCE ON **ACCESSIBILITY**

Read the news at page 22





EFHOH President letter

Dear Friends,

I hope that you all had a good start of 2014. We as EFHOH board also had a good start, because we participated in different events. And we also participated in the making process of different European Union reports.

I hope also that we meet you at the next EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2014 in Jerusalem. In this EFHOH newsletter you can also find the first information about the EFHOH AGM 2015 in Essen/Germany. Please put the dates 10-12 April 2015 in your agenda.

Internet Access:

In February the members of the European Parliament showed their strong commitment to a more inclusive internet for all. The Parliament's report on the proposal for a Directive on the Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies websites has introduced extremely valuable changes to the EU Commission proposal. Unfortunately, the EU Council is lagging behind and has not started the negotiations on this important piece of legislation yet. For this reason, EFHOH, EDF, Age Platform Europe and ANEC call on all Member States, and especially the Greek Presidency, to

prioritize this dossier and endorse the Parliament's position: <http://bit.ly/NwHnIc>

EFHOH took part in this work via the EDF experts group on ICT. We are represented there by Lidia Best, Arnoud van Wijk and Marcel Bobeldijk.

VIENNA:

EFHOH vice president Knut Magne Ellingsen and OSB/Austria director Harald Tamaggar has participated in the Zero Project Conference in Vienna/Austria. This year the theme was Accessibility and Knut Magne Ellingsen was asked as one of the speakers at the first plenary session. More about this event you can read in this EFHOH newsletter.

European Union Parliament Elections 2014:

On 22-25 May 2014, 500 million citizens from 28 different EU countries will have the chance to elect the 751 Members of the European Parliament, who will represent them in the next 5 years.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- The European Parliament has a series of important powers: legislative, budgetary, democratic control and supervisory powers.

- For the first time in the EU's history, the outcome of the elections of the European Parliament will determine who leads the European Commission, the EU's executive body.
- The new political majority that emerges from the elections will shape European legislation over the next 5 years in areas from the single market to civil liberties.

- Every vote counts! In times of crisis, it's more imperative than ever before that the voice of every citizen is heard. Want to know more about the role of the European Parliament?

On 11 February, EDF (European Disability Forum) presented its manifesto on the European Union elections 2014, at the European Parliament. The event was organised in cooperation with the European Parliament Disability Intergroup and a lot of MEPs gathered; all of them expressed their full endorsement to the key priorities of the EDF manifesto. More about this events you can read in this EFHOH newsletter.

Jerusalem 2014:

If you like to know more about EFHOH AGM 2014, and the program of the IFHOH conference day, and the IFHOH BGM in Jerusalem please look at:

- Invitation to the conference: <http://goo.gl/EXrMiE>

- Registration form: <http://goo.gl/F8K6cK>
- Conference day program: <http://goo.gl/4eBSTx>

One of the important topics that the EFHOH Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2014 is the election for the EFHOH board.

In this EFHOH newsletter you can read short introduction articles as the three candidates for the position of EFHOH board member.

Twitter and Facebook:

Do you know that you also can follow EFHOH and also some EFHOH board members, the addresses are:

EFHOH @efhoh
Marcel Bobeldijk @marbob32
Lidia Best @best_lidia

Of course you can also follow everything via our EFHOH facebook page

Call for the next EFHOH newsletter:

If you have an article for one of the five EFHOH newsletters that we will publish in 2014, please send it to us! We make the EFHOH newsletter also for all the volunteers in your national and local organisation. You can send your article to our editor Niels-Hendrik and his email address is nh@niels-hendrik.dk

Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH President.

At the EFHOH AGM in Jerusalem where will be a election of a candidate for the position of a board member in the EFHOH board. There will be 3 candidates - they will introduce them self on the following pages.

Richard Darbéra

Vice-President of Bucodes-SurdiFrance



Statement

Before my poor hearing became a real handicap, I used to work as an international consultant, mainly in Latin America (I speak Spanish and Portuguese) and in Asia. I still work as a researcher at the University and will retire at the end of next year. My field of expertise is economic analysis of government policies.

I started to get involved in hard of hearing people associations some 15 years ago. I was elected president of the Bucodes-SurdiFrance in 2009. Bucodes-SurdiFrance is the national Federation of the French associations of the hard of hearing, and is a member of the EFHOH. After stepping down from the presidency of Bucodes-SurdiFrance in 2013 to the vice-presidency, I was elected as president of the

ARDDS, the main component of the Bucodes-SurdiFrance, especially important in the Paris Region.

As an economist, I carried out or analysed several surveys. All of them are available online on institutional websites or on our association's.

2011 - National survey of discomfort and psychological distress of the deaf, the hard of hearing, and the people with tinnitus:

<http://www.surdifrance.org/publications/rapports-bucodes-surdifrance>

2012 - The experience of people with a cochlear implant, a survey.:

<http://www.surdifrance.org/publications/enquetes> with the video available at the Inserm-CNRS webcast site: <http://webcast.in2p3.fr/videos-surdite>

2013 - Are the French hard of hearing under-equipped with Hearing Aids? on the CNSA website:

www.cnsa.fr/IMG/ppt/BUCODES_RD130530-Audiopros.ppt

2013 - For the French National Service (DREES) I analysed the Disability-Health Survey and extracted from the 40,000 sample the socio-demographics of the deaf and hard of hearing. The final report should be very shortly published by the DREES.

We feel that it is very important that hard of hearing of Europe unite across borders for two main reasons: first, we must voice our needs at the European institutions, second, by exchanging information we can have better knowledge of how the policies directed to the hard of hearing vary from one country to the other and thus provide benchmarks we can use to influence our respective governments.



Jaana Linna

Project coordinator for Abilis Foundation

Hello,

I have been asked to write a brief bio for the EFHOH newsletter since I am a candidate for the EFHOH board in the next EFHOH Annual General Meeting in Jerusalem in April.

My name is Jaana Linna and I am from Finland. I have been hard of hearing since the age of four years. My hearing loss was progressive, and by my teens I was practically deaf. I managed by using two powerful hearing aids and by lipreading. I am sure everyone knows how exhausting that can be. I have used a cochlear implant (Med-El) since 1999. The CI helps me a great deal, even though I still rely on lipreading also, especially when speaking English. I also use sign language interpreters and text interpreters when necessary.

I work as a project coordinator for Abilis Foundation (www.abilis.fi). Abilis Foundation supports the activities of persons with disabilities in developing countries, mainly with funds granted by Finland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Through my work I have gained extensive

knowledge of working with persons with disabilities in developing countries, mostly in Africa (Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ghana, Sierra Leone) but also in Asia (India, Nepal, Pakistan). I am also familiar with the challenges faced by hard of hearing and late deafened people in Finland since I have volunteered in different positions in the Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing.

I believe my professional and personal qualifications make me a good candidate for the Board of EFHOH. I am highly motivated and will do my very best if I get elected. Hope to see many of you in Jerusalem!

Sincerely,

Jaana Linna



Patrick Hennings

President of „HOB VoG“, political speaker for „Deutsche Cochlear Implant Gesellschaft“ and „Cochlear Implant Verband Hessen - Rhein-Main“, speaker for inclusion by parties „B90/Greens“ in Germany and by „Ecolo“ in Wallonie.

Dear friends of EFHOH,

I am president of „HOB VoG“ in Belgium, political speaker for „Deutsche Cochlear Implant Gesellschaft e.V.“: <http://dcig.de> and „Cochlear Implant Verband Hessen - Rhein-Main e.V.“: <http://www.civhrm.de> speaker for inclusion by parties „B90/Greens“ in Germany and by „Ecolo“ in Wallonie.

I'm member for a green party, but, I'm working with all parties, it's about our cause, our mission and our duty.

The same I doing this in Wallonie and Eastbelgium. F.I. maybe I have soon reached that remote interpretation (E.g. VerbaVoice) is funded by the State there. Now deaf in the Wallonia sign interpreters can take free claim, if you are a member of a federation. The costs are funded by the State. I've reached that the Ministry of Social Affairs will soon check to build a similar model for hard of hearing.

I work since around twenty years in culture and politic. I would like to make much more, and is a great destination to be able to work for EFHOH.

When I am a member of EFHOH Board, following tasks would take, if you agree that:

I want my political contacts with the European Parliament, better use best for us and expand. And I would like to help to expand our network. I find it particularly important to strengthen relations with various State Governments, to achieve more cooperation.

And my participation in the EFHOH Board will help significantly to improve the poor support for the hard of hearing in Wallonia (Belgium). I see it as a major motivation in Wallonia, if they have an own man on the Board of Directors for EFHOH. If we win many members, it is good for us all, including to the policy.

It is terribly important that politicians throughout Europe understand, it's not just about sign language, but it also involves us. I already proved that I can sit through, even when it's hard.

So I please for your trust and voice for my candidature to the EFHOH Board.

Yours passionate
Patrick Hennings

<http://malentendants.net>
<http://hoergeschaedigte.be>



European Citizens **Dialogue** with **Commissioner** Reding in London.

On 10th of February 2014 Commissioner Viviane Reding met with the audience in London. UK Minister of State for Europe David Lidington was also present.

All participants who have signed up for the event were able to propose questions to the speakers. I was one of those; EFHOH's question was: "Europeans with disabilities are eagerly awaiting news on European Accessibility Act. What is the progress of the work on the Act and how will this Act strengthen the rights of people with disabilities in EU? What will be covered by the Act and how will it be implemented?"

Sadly the theme of disability was overshadowed by the anti-European and anti-immigration tensions throughout the whole event, and I did not get concrete answers from Commissioner.

The audience was also invited to watch the election video the EU Commission played and unfortunately when we had an English person speaking, the subtitles were not supporting it. At the end of the event, everybody was able to come up to Commissioner and ask more questions. I pointed out the lack of subtitling, as clearly the subtitles

were only translating foreign speakers. It was clear from the Commissioner's response that she did not understand the nature of complaint until it was explained in detail. This event has shown that we have lots of work to do in raising awareness and educating decision makers about the needs of hard of hearing people. It will require all of us to get involved in the dialogue and attending events where we will be able to point what we need to be fully included. EFHOH Board can't do it alone. We need all of you to engage, attend political or social meetings and keep asking for inclusion, be it in the form of hearing loops, subtitling or speech to text reporting. The more common the requests are the better the impact they will have.

So, are you attending the next European Citizens Dialogue event in your country/city? Have you attended previous events? Please share your thoughts with us.

Lidia Best

Support our sponsors! They support us!



The world's leading dedicated hearing aid specialist

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

All our hearing care is tailored to each person's hearing and lifestyle needs and is delivered by professionally qualified hearing aid audiologists.

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

Hire a EFHOH speaker!

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

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

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

Please contact us at office@efhoh.org

NADP 30th Anniversary Conference and AGM

Southampton, 26th April 2014

The Conference this year is being held in Southampton, the first time an NADP Conference has been held on the South Coast.

The venue is Southampton Solent University Conference Centre which is right in the centre of the town. The theme will be how communication has changed in the 30 years of NADP's existence. Details of the programme can be found on our website www.nadp.org.uk. The conference will be opened by the Mayor and we are hoping to have 10 stalls including Association of Lipspeakers, Association of Teachers of Lipreading to Adults, Hearing Link and PLOD (Hampshire Constabulary Liaison Officers for the Deaf).

Southampton is on the edge of the New Forest, only just over an hour by train from London, just over an hour from Weymouth, and five hours direct from Newcastle (no need to travel via London). There are many places to stay in the town and surrounding area, camp sites, hostels, B&Bs,

Guest Houses, Hotels. Ibis, Novotel, Premier Inn are a few minutes walk (though there is a steep hill) from the venue whilst Jury's Inn and Southampton Park Hotel are a few minutes level walk across a park to the venue. The tourist board website is <http://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/>

A registration form can be found on our website or you can register online but you will need to use EventBrite, and the site can be accessed from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-association-of-deafened-people-30th-anniversary-conference-agm-tickets-10322409605>

The Mayflower Theatre will be showing a captioned performance of West Side Story on Friday night 25 April 2014. You will need to book tickets yourself. Their website is <http://www.mayflower.org.uk/> and their telephone number 02380711811. The rows available to NADP are R and S (a little further back than usual) and you will need to quote NADP when booking.

International Ear Care Day: 3 March 13

Hearing loss is the most common sensory disability globally. In view of the prevalence, preventability and public health impact of this condition, 3 March is observed as the International Ear Care Day.

This date was selected due to the shape of the numbers in 3.3, being representative of the two ears.

In 2007, China Rehabilitation Research Center for Deaf Children (CRRCDC), Beijing, China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) and WHO jointly hosted the First International Conference on Prevention and Rehabilitation of Hearing Impairment in Beijing. A key output of this conference was the "Beijing Declaration" which included the following prominent recommendation: Establish "Interna-

tional Ear Care Day," for promoting global actions on hearing care, and minimizing occurrence of hearing impairment. This year the theme for the International Ear Care Day is Healthy Hearing, Happy Life - Hearing Health Care for Ageing People.

Read more at: <http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/news/IDEC/en/>



Welcome to the Centre of the Ruhrgebiet

EFHOH Conference & AGM in Essen (Germany), 10th – 12th April 2015

Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund e.V. (DSB), the association for hard of hearing people in Germany, invites all EFHOH members and interested hard of hearing people from all over Europe to Essen, the Centre of the Ruhr gebiet. (region)

The area of approximately 4.500 square kilometres with a population of more than 5 Million people in western Germany is called the Ruhr gebiet. It is an agglomeration of several cities which grew together in the last centuries when the Ruhrgebiet was an important industrial location in Europe. In the south of the region the river Ruhr flows from east to west. Today the boundaries of the Ruhr are a popular holiday destination. In the last few years the Ruhr gebiet more and more transformed itself from industry to a service location.

Essen is very special, difficult to describe in only a few words. Essen is a typical city of the Ruhr region, the biggest city of all with a population of more than half a Mio people, a shopping destination, business location and university town, urban on the one hand, rural on the other. Here you can find one of the best opera houses in Germany, the Folkwang University of the Arts known for its outstanding artistic standard and a world-class art collection in a museum. Specifically the Ruhr gebiet is known for its industrial heritage. The closed coal mine 'Zeche Zollverein' was appointed to UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.

The motto of the conference from 10th to 12th April 2015 will be **"CRPD and inclusion – Exchange of experience with the implementation in the several European self-help associations"**. The Mayor of the City of Essen will welcome the participants and open the Annual General Meeting. The conference day is under the patronage of the Commissioner for disabled people of the German Government. Some Members of the European Parliament announced their attendance.

The presentations of the conference will start with a Keynote to CRPD, followed by the themes Health Care, Accessibility, Assistance and Job Market. In the afternoon the key themes will be continued in workshops with participation of Members of the European Parliament. EFHOH members will be able to present their experience with the implementation of CRPD in their country. The goal is to work out a declaration and hand over to the politicians.

On Sunday morning a guided tour to the highlights of Essen with a visit to Zeche Zollverein will be provided. After lunch the hotel offers a bus transfer to Düsseldorf airport.

Looking forward to welcome you in Essen
yours

Renate Welter
Vice President of DSB

Please note:
Bus transfer free of charge

April 9th, 18:00: Düsseldorf airport – Hotel franz
April 10th, 11:00: Düsseldorf airport – Hotel franz
April 12th, 14:30, Hotel franz – Düsseldorf airport



IFHOHYP SUMMERCAMP 2014:

The International Summercamp 2014 is hosted by Bundesjugend - Verband junger Menschen mit Hörbehinderung e.V. (Bundesjugend) in accordance with the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP).

The Summercamp will be held from 23rd of August till 3rd of September in Bad Tölz, Germany.
This camp is for hard of hearing people between 18 and 35 years old.

On the camp will be 88 participants, 44 German speaking people and 44 international people.

If you want to meet hard of hearing people from other countries, then is the Summercamp an good experience for you.

See the link below for more information:

<http://isc2014.bundesjugend.de/home>
<http://isc2014.bundesjugend.de/home>
[International Summer Camp 2014](http://isc2014.bundesjugend.de/home)
[isc2014.bundesjugend.de](http://isc2014.bundesjugend.de/home)
[International Summercamp 2014 for Hard of Hearing Young People in Bad Tölz/Germany](http://isc2014.bundesjugend.de/home)



More info on the summer camp on page 25

by Paulina Lewandowska; translated by Karolina Milewska
published by courtesy of niepelnosprawni.lublin.pl
niepelnosprawni.lublin.pl/polowe-polakow-wyslalabym-do-logopedy



I'd send **half** of the Polish **people** to the speech **therapist**

I'd send half of the Polish people to the speech therapist Alicja Nowogrodzka, 21, student at the University of Life Sciences in Lublin, tells us about being a hard-of-hearing person in a hearing community. She also gives some valuable tips for those completely unfamiliar with the hard-of-hearing world. Her story is a proof that disability is only about your mindset rather than your limitations.

When did you lose your hearing?

I most probably lost my hearing at birth. It's only about two years later that my hearing loss was discovered, and I was fitted with hearing aids aged 2.5 years. From that time, I started continuous rehabilitation: I went to the speech therapist, to special classes, I was also admitted to an integrated class at school. Then, at 13, I got an offer to have a cochlear implant surgery. I went to Kajetany (CI clinic) where I had suitable examinations done and my medical history drawn up. I was qualified for the surgery. During the

holidays (I asked for a holiday date, because I didn't want to fall back with school) I had my surgery done. Then I started an intensive rehabilitation. I had to learn hearing again and discover the new world of sounds – you hear things completely differently through a cochlear implant.

Was receiving the implant your own decision, or did mostly your parents decide? Did you know how your life would change?

In fact, I wasn't fully aware of what was in store. I wasn't of age yet, and my parents could make any decisions for me. Still, I think I was the one to decide, and my parents helped me to make it happen and gave me their support.

Are you thinking of receiving the other implant now?

No, 8 1/2 years have passed since the surgery, and I don't feel like receiving the other implant right now. I can say a single implant was helpful enough, and I just don't need the other one. I'm fine with my present condition.

Is there any difference between your hearing with the hearing aid and with the implant?

Yes, there's a big difference. The implant lets me hear more „rustling“ and low frequency sounds, and all of them reach me at the same time. On the other hand, the hearing aid, which I still use, helps me in conversations. It lets me hear the speaker in the foreground. I hear better when I wear both devices. I'm not giving up on wearing both my aid and my implant.

You mentioned an integrated school. Did you change school later?

I was lucky enough to go to a mass school all the way. First, I went to an integrated class, with fewer people than normally. I think you feel better in a class with fewer pupils, since the teacher can give you more attention. I also got to know everyone in the class better. When it comes to high school, I wasn't in an integrated class, but there weren't many students in the regular class. It just so happened.

Your parents decided that you'd go to a mass school. Why didn't they choose a special school?

My parents didn't pick the special school, because as soon as we went there, we noticed one thing. There was a terrific silence in that school, it was unnaturally silent. The children communicated in sign language there, while my parents wanted me to speak and to grow up in an environment full of sounds and voices in different pitches. They wanted me to live in a world of the hearing people, filled with sound, not in the Deaf world, where people sign to talk to each other. Especially that I do have some hearing, or residual hearing, for that matter.

How do you imagine your life if you had gone to that special school?

I really can't imagine it. I think this would've been a leap backwards in my development. I know I would've been a poor student, and this would've made me lazy. I would've stopped trying to speak clearly, too. In the mass school, I could learn to speak. I wanted my speech to be better, I wanted to be able to discern the person speaking to me.

Do you admit to wearing the aid and the implant when meeting new people?

It depends of the situation. Most often I don't mention it: I speak well enough, I can manage and I understand the people speaking to me. But whenever I meet a person I can't understand, or one with a disrespectful approach, I do talk about my hearing loss and instruct him or her.

Have you had any unpleasant situations due to mishearing something?

Oh yes, I have. I could say I've had an entire unpleasant period in high school. The class reported some situation in one way, while my image of it was totally different. My impression was that they were shouting at me, so I responded in the same tone. Right away, there was this classmate of mine who made a fuss that I was yelling at her without

a reason. Out of this, a conflict with the whole class built up. Everyone took the girl's side, while I was the single victim. I can still remember that, and I think high school was the worst time of my life. My hearing loss prevented me from understanding things precisely. I misinterpreted my colleague and the tone she was speaking. However, even though miserable things happened, this taught me a priceless lesson about life, and I feel grateful for that.

Why don't we turn to something optimistic? What interesting things happened to you?

The nicest situations are those where I can't hear everything of what's being said about me. This time, I'm happy that I can't hear all those opinions on me... or snoring! Sometimes, hearing problems have a plus side.

Have you come to accept your hearing loss?

I think I feel good with that. I wouldn't want to be a hearing person.

Do you feel like a disabled person?

No, I don't.

Why?

My hearing loss is no limitation to my life. I can manage in every situation and I don't expect help from others. My parents have raised me as a non-disabled person, they made me face tasks and challenges. They didn't replace me in doing everyday things just because I had a hearing loss.

So, who do you consider a disabled person?

You feel disabled or non-disabled in your mind. It also depends on how you treat your limitations, as something dreadful or natural. I view my limitations as a natural part of me – I was born with them. Sure, there will always be constraints for me from working as a lawyer or musician. But there are different occupations, a free market with a lot to choose from, and everyone can find their place.

All of these are indeed limitations. The state or the society should minimize them some way. You could be a lawyer if your work conditions were suited to your needs. Don't you expect anything like this from the state?

I don't happen to have the right personality or the will to become a lawyer. I believe the state should focus more on popularizing the induction loop or speech-to-text (simultaneous text streaming). Public places simply need to be made accessible for people who have problems understanding things because of adverse conditions (schools, cinemas, offices...). This is done indeed through setting up a solution like induction loops or speech-to-text.

When we walk down the street, we see a person with a cane and we instantly know he or she is blind. We see a person in a wheelchair, and we know he or she has difficulty moving. With this in mind, a hard-of-hearing person has a "hidden" disability. Still, this is a problem. From time to

time, you must meet a person who thinks that a hearing aid or an implant does the trick completely.

I react with anger and I do them a good brainwashing right away. People are often unaware that a person with a hearing aid or an implant hasn't really had their hearing restored. These are imperfect devices, they only reflect natural hearing in a tiny percentage. The hearing aid and the implant are pretty helpful, but I still can't hear everything. If I came to have such a perfect device, I wouldn't bother to mention that I'm a person with a hearing problem.

Do you often meet such unaware people?

Very often! I even feel like giving a decent lecture to a group of such people, to raise awareness in the hearing community. Unfortunately, I've noticed very low awareness in the society.

I see quite an irony in this. A blind person walking with a cane does not make people think he or she has had their sight back. Likewise, we don't consider a wheelchair user as a walking person. So why think that a person with a hearing and or implant has had their hearing restored?

How would you like to raise awareness on the topics related to people with hearing impairments?

The best thing would be reaching people through the media (TV, radio, the Internet, press...). But the speakers should not be the hearing people specializing in hearing problems (speech therapists, deaf educators...). We should invite the deaf and hard-of-hearing (the ones really concerned) to speak out and to give down-to-earth instructions. For example, when talking to a hard-of-hearing person, you should speak face to face, not turned with your side or back. It's also difficult to understand a person who shouts one time and then speaks too quiet – this is a

surprise to us. I have a really big problem understanding speakers who start in a soft voice and yell a while later. They probably think that if they raise their voice for me to hear better, I'll understand. But I'm just not prepared for this, so I don't understand. I also prefer talking to a person who speaks concretely on a given topic, not half to themselves, half to everyone around. It's important that the speaker doesn't do anything else – this is a distractor. I get pissed off when, all of a sudden, a speaker starts rustling with some papers or walking around the room. This is confusing and disturbs the sound reception.

What kind of speakers do you think the Polish people are?

They are really bad speakers. I'd send half of the Polish people to the speech therapist to improve their pronunciation.

How exactly do they speak so badly that you don't understand? People usually understand each other perfectly and they don't ask each other to repeat.

For a person with a hearing problem, understanding someone largely depends on how the speaker moves their lips and pronounces the sounds. Most people's lips, expression, the whole face, are too still for me. I can't see the difference in pronouncing certain consonants or vowels. That's why it's important to move your lips when speaking. You mustn't cover your mouth as you speak. It's also important to be able to tell one word from another as they flow.

Thank you very much for the conversation!

*by Paulina Lewandowska; translated by Karolina Milewska, published by courtesy of niepelnosprawni.lublin.pl
niepelnosprawni.lublin.pl/polowe-polakow-wyslalabym-do-logopedy*

8 th. episode :

Ory and His **New Hearing Machine**



Everyone is **different**

Either Ory is now a member of a branch of HOH. He's happy to be with other HOHs once a week and some of them are now his friends. This week the president asks him to help with a new project; "Everyone is different". The aim is to explain to youngsters that HOH or deafness is an invisible handicap, but that they can communicate with a HOH if they know how.

Ory isn't happy about it. He doesn't feel strong enough to do that. He doesn't like youngsters; they are noisy and don't speak clearly. He's afraid they will make fun of him. He's afraid he won't hear their questions.

At home, he discusses it with his children. "Of course, dad, you should do that! You can do it!"

A rainy Monday morning, a very big square, a lot of buses, and many, many groups of youngsters, more than 5000 of them, laughing, excited and ... noisy. Ory feels awfully. One of his friends gives him a wink. He considers the first group of 30 pupils: baseball caps, blue jeans, backpack, Smartphone, acne buttons, like his own children.

Hello, I'm Ory, I'm HOH. You can't see it, because it's invisible. I can hear you a little, but I can also lip-read, so please

look at me when you want to ask me a question. Ory speaks in a low voice. One of the youngsters raises his hand." Can you speak louder please, I can't hear you."

-Why you are HOH, Ory?

-I was ill and lost my hearing.

-What is that machine you are wearing on your ear?

-It's a cochlear implant; I learned to listen with it.

-Why you don't use your hands to communicate like other deaf people? I never learnt that, so I prefer to listen with my hearing machine and lip-read.

-Do you watch TV?

-Yes, I do, but only with subtitles.

Twenty minutes later, the bell rings and the first group go away.

-Bye Ory!

A new group comes in, laughing, chatting, and noisy... youngsters like his own children.

Aisa Cleyet-Marel
France



PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE ON THE ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES' WEBSITES

EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM, AGE PLATFORM EUROPE AND ANEC URGE THE COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE PARLIAMENT'S POSITION ON WEB ACCESSIBILITY

26 February 2014

Today Members of the European Parliament have shown their strong commitment to a more inclusive Internet for all. The Parliament's report on the proposal for a Directive on the Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies' Websites has introduced extremely valuable changes to the Commission proposal. These will benefit the majority of citizens across the EU and will boost the web-developing European marketplace, giving a perfect example of how a piece of legislation can contribute to inclusive growth in the digital field.

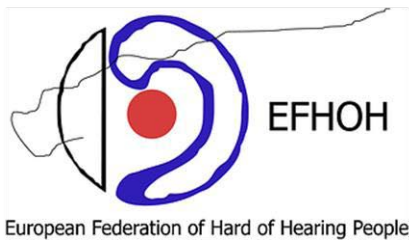
Unfortunately, the Council is lagging behind and has not started the negotiations on this important piece of legislation yet. For this reason, the undersigned organizations call on all Member States, and especially the Greek Presidency, to prioritize this dossier and endorse the Parliament's position.

Currently, less than one-third of public websites are accessible, while over 60 % of the European population accesses the Internet every day. Many citizens, especially persons with disabilities and older people, are excluded from taking full advantage of the Internet since the websites are not properly designed for them. The European Parliament has understood that it is certainly feasible to change this situation by following the worldwide acknowledged accessibility guidelines which are already incorporated in a European Standard (EN 301 549 from Mandate M/376). Developing websites in compliance with the accessibility requirements will enable everyone living in the EU to access all the information and functionalities available online regardless of their age or disability. This is even more fundamental for those websites belonging to the public sector and providing essential services to the public.

The Parliament's vote today has widened the scope of the Directive to cover all public websites as well as those services of general interest provided online and has proposed the necessary institutional mechanisms to enforce this legislation with the main stakeholders involved in the process. We are thankful for this strong support and we want to remind both the Council and the Commission that it is time to take the lead on inclusive policies like this and fulfill previous political commitments regarding web accessibility such as the 2006 Ministerial Declaration of Riga in which the European countries committed to ensure accessibility of all public websites by 2010; the Digital Agenda for Europe which stated that web accessibility would be delivered by 2015, the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the EU in 2011, in which accessibility is one of the general obligations.

80 million Europeans with disabilities, 150 million aged over 50, and many citizens without high ICT skills would benefit from this legislation. Furthermore, the market of web-developers, which employs more than 1 million people, will be able to work across the EU, and governments will not need to establish costly alternative means to provide information or services because of the inaccessibility of their websites.

Once again, the undersigned organizations urge the Council and the Commission to push for this legislation and start the negotiations as soon as possible. Those millions of citizens have waited long enough.



Press release:

Hearing care – a sound investment

Brussels, the 28th of February 2014:

WHO is celebrating March 3rd as their International Ear Care day. WHO has identified a need for Member States to develop plans and programmes integrating prevention and management of hearing loss into the primary health care system of their member countries.

16% of the European population, i.e. 80 million people, are suffering from hearing loss, of which at least 30 million are undetected cases.

Besides being a problematic condition in itself (communication difficulties, job challenges, social isolation), hearing loss is often associated with a number of other diseases, including **obesity** – extremely obese women with a BMI over 40 have 25% more risk for hearing problems according to Curhan and all (2013); **diabetes** – diabetics are twice as likely to suffer hearing loss according to Bainbridge and all (2008), **dementia** – the likelihood of developing dementia increases with the severity of hearing loss according to a study by Lin and all (2011); and **depression** – the risk for hard-of-hearing people of developing depressive symptoms is reduced by 50% if they use hearing aids according to the SHARE study (2011).

In the light of the increased risk for hard-of-hearing people of suffering from other diseases, The European Federation of the Hard of Hearing (EFHOH), the European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals (AEA) and the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) in a joint statement are calling on the EU Commission to say what policies and initiatives are in place at EU level to support systematic screening of hearing loss as part of medical check-ups in adults 55+ in the Member States?

Furthermore, because of the increased risk of multi-morbidity associated with their condition, hard-of-hearing people have particular needs in terms of integrated care. The three organizations therefore ask the Commission to indicate which progresses have been made at EU level to promote integrated care, in particular in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing? Initiatives in this respect would also be consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

The costs of *not* doing anything are rising, in parallel with the ageing of the European populations. Introducing mandatory hearing screenings from e.g. the age of 55, as well as promoting integrated hearing healthcare policies will be a sound investment for governments and health insurance companies – and for the 80 million Europeans with hearing loss.

Media contacts:

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EHIMA: Secretary General Soeren Hougaard. sh@ehima.com. Phone: +45 40 45 71 35



9 April 2014

Room ASP3E2
European Parliament
Brussels

Access to the European institutions for deaf sign language users & hard of hearing citizens

INSIGN DEMONSTRATION
& EUD PUBLICATION LAUNCH



Send your registration before 31 March to:
eudevent@gmail.com



Hosted by Dr Ádám Kósa MEP and Werner Kuhn MEP



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Access to the European institutions for deaf sign language users & hard of hearing citizens



INSIGN DEMONSTRATION & EUD PUBLICATION LAUNCH

9 April 2014 | Room ASP3E2 | European Parliament | Brussels

DRAFT PROGRAMME

12:00 **Light working lunch**

12:45 **Welcome speeches**

- Dr Ádám Kósa & Werner Kuhn • MEPs
- Markku Jokinen • European Union of the Deaf President
- Yannis Vardakastanis • European Disability Forum President
- TBC • Equinet Representative
- Brian Fox • DG Interpretation, European Commission

CHAIR:

Olga Cosmidou

DG Interpretation & Conferences
European Parliament

13:15 **Insign Project**

Mark Wheatley • Insign Project Leader

- Introduction to the Project & Consortium
- Video recording of real-time calls with MEPs & citizens
- Live calls (including sign language, captioning, voice)
- Summary Conclusions & Way Forward

CHAIR:

TBC

Representative Greek Presidency

14:15 **Political Participation: ANED/FRA Presentation of the Indicators Project**

ANED/FRA Representative

14:40 **EUD Series: UNCRPD Implementation • Political Participation**

Annika Pabsch • EUD Policy Officer

- Introduction to the series

Best Practice Examples • Extract from publication:

- Emer Costello • MEP
Citizen's Hour
- Joachim Denking • Deputy Secretary General of the Greens / EFA
The Greens / EFA Website

CHAIR:

Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

MEP

15:00 **Official Launch & Networking Coffee**

With further testing opportunity

16:00 **End**

PROJECT PARTNERS



Designit

ivès

SignVideo

PERKINS
SOWALD

iiefsli

REGISTRATION

Write to eudevent@gmail.com
before 31 March 2014

EDF HAS A NEW CORPORATE IDENTITY: NEW DESIGN, SAME STRONG POSITIONS!

During the last months, EDF has cooperated with an external graphic designer to renew its corporate identity (logo, colors, design, communication tools). All the procedure was made with great respect to accessibility standards and to the main ideas and principles of the disability movement.

For this, EDF had several consultations with its executive members who selected the final idea of logo as well as the colors of EDF's new identity.

The round shape of the logo represents: protection and equality. The whole shape of the balloon brings in mind EDF's 1million4disability campaign, when we released the balloons in the sky and keeps in mind that we have a mission to accomplish and an ideal to reach. The lines on the left themselves have the shape of a megaphone or voice waves. This can also be seen as an amphitheatric forum, as a place where conversation is held and decisions are taken. The shape of the logo reminds also of the one used on maps to point out the place you are. It says: We are here. We have a vision. We want a better tomorrow. We want our voice to be heard.

Contact: lila.sylviti@edf-feph.org

EDF CALLS ON THE EU TO PROTECT WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES FROM DISCRIMINATION

Despite the progress that has been made for the empowerment of women in today's society, women still face discrimination based on their gender. Women with disabilities have to also face discrimination for their disability. On tomorrow's occasion of the International Women's Day 2014, EDF calls on the EU to protect women with disabilities from all forms of discrimination and to ensure gender equality.

The EU, as well as the majority of its member states, have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that introduces the obligation of state parties to recognize that women and girls with disabilities face multiple discrimination and to take measures to ensure their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Women with disabilities are often still at risk of forced sterilization, violence or abuse and institutionalisation. They can also be deprived of fundamental rights, such as the right to be active citizens and the right to vote. In view of the upcoming EU elections, the right to vote, the inclu-



sion and active participation of women with disabilities must be ensured.

EDF calls the EU and its Member States to mainstream the rights of women with disabilities in gender policies and to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, ensuring equal rights for women with disabilities and full access in all aspects of society.

EDF CALLS FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH STRUCTURAL FUNDS

Athens, 22 February 2014 | EDF Board meeting gathered together representatives from EDF member organisations around Europe. The first of the two days of the meeting opened with a European conference focusing on the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities and structural funds.

Opening the conference, the Greek Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Security and Welfare, V. Kegkeroglou, referred to the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Greece and the real challenges in its implementation. V. Kegkeroglou underlined that citizens with disabilities must fully enjoy their rights at equal

basis as all the other citizens, in all areas of life: employment, access to information etc.

On behalf of the Greek National Confederation of Disabled People, its Vice-President, Thomas Kleisiotis, talked about the fights of the Greek disability movement to protect the families of persons with disabilities from the crisis and the austerity measures.

EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, highlighted the importance of 2014 for the European Union and its member states, as the upcoming EU elections will reform the synthesis of the European institutions. "These elections are not just a typical procedure but an essential one and their result will have an important impact on each Member State of the EU", said Yannis Vardakastanis calling on EDF member organisations to use EDF manifesto to campaign at national level for the key priorities of the disability movement.

The Head of Unit, Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development of the European Commission, Wladyslaw Piskorz, highlighted the important contribution of EDF to the European Commission's work. He ensured that the European Commission is revising the partnership agreements from the countries paying attention that they include measures for persons with disabilities.

Photos of the meeting are available here

EU elections 2014

OUR MANIFESTO IS OUT AND WILL BE PRESENTED ON 11/02 AT THE PARLIAMENT

Already since last year, EDF has been advocating for the accessibility of the upcoming EU elections and the right of everyone to vote. The leaders of the main political groups of the European Parliament agreed to promote this, as well as to support the rights of persons with disabilities in their manifestos, during our high level meeting with them last June.

On Tuesday 11 February, the disability movement will gather in the European Parliament to present its manifesto on the EU elections focusing on 6 key priorities:

1. The promotion of a vision of an inclusive, sustainable and democratic Europe;
2. The reform of Europe's economic and social policies to ensure the protection and enjoyment of human rights of Europeans with disabilities;
3. Making goods and services accessible for all;
4. The adoption of the proposed general non-discrimination directive;
5. The swift ratification by the EU and by all Member states of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
6. The establishment of mechanisms within EU institutions to mainstream the UN Convention on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities while ensuring the involvement of persons with disabilities.

WHY ARE THESE ELECTIONS IMPORTANT?

WHAT DOES THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT EXPECT?

Find out more today on the special section of EDF's website dedicated to our campaign on the EU elections!

Lila Sylviti

Communication

European Disability Forum | nothing about us without us

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EU elections 2014

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ENDORSES EDF MANIFESTO'S KEY PRIORITIES

Brussels, 12 February 2014 | On 11 February 2014, EDF presented its manifesto on the EU elections 2014 at the European Parliament. The event was organised in cooperation with the European Parliament Disability Intergroup and gathered a lot of MEPs; all of them expressed their full endorsement to the key priorities of EDF manifesto.

"Progress had been made on legislative level but due to the crisis, the real situation of persons with disabilities has got worse. We need the loud support of the European Parliament and of all candidates MEPs during the election campaign to promote a drastic change of policy whereby public finances consolidation is not at the expense of fundamental rights and social cohesion in the EU and do not to create more exclusion for those who are already excluded. We want persons with disabilities to participate fully in the democratic process and be able to enjoy their right to vote.", underlined EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, during the presentation of EDF manifesto.

What did the MEPs say?

Read more on EDF website



CONFERENCE ON ACCESSIBILITY

It was arranged a conference on accessibility in Vienna 27.-28-02.14 by the Zero project. Knut Magne Ellingsen represented the EFHOH board at the conference.

The Zero project is financed by a private foundation – the Essl Foundation. It was launched in 2011 and work for a world without barriers.

At the conference it was 470 participants from 60 countries. Accessibility was the theme for the Conference. Different projects from all over the world were presented, both in plenary and in workshops.

The areas covered were primarily built environment, transport, ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and products and service.

A few of the speakers presented projects on the challenges of Hard of Hearing. EFHOH was also invited to take part in a panel during the first plenary session to comment on what accessibility is for us. The time was too short to present all the planned comments, but at least also our situation was focused.

It was interesting to listen to the presentations from all over the world. Different groups of disabled have many big challenges and still a long way to go – especially in the southern part of our world.

We missed sessions on how to meet further challenges, but learned a lot about the present situation.





AUGUST 23RD - SEPTEMBER 3RD SUMMERCAMP 2014 BAD TÖLZ GERMANY

IFHOHYP

Arrival
Saturday, 23th of August, 2014

Departure
Wednesday, 3rd of September, 2014

Location
Jugendherberge, Am Sportpark
Bad Tölz Germany

Activities

- Excursions
- Hiking in the Bavarian Alps
- Outdoor Sports
- Relaxation activities
- Learning more about Germany and its culture
- Evening activities such as bar hopping,
- Game nights and Movie nights



The international summercamp team

Participants
The International Summercamp 2014 is for hard of hearing and deaf people from the age of 18 to 35 years. The number of participants is limited. We only can accomodate 88 participants.

Costs
The total price for the International Summercamp 2014 is 450 €. This participation fee includes board, lodging and all group activities. Not included are travel expenses from your home country to Bad Tölz, visa expenses, additional beverages and snacks as well as optional activities.

More information
More information about Bad Tölz, International Summercamp 2014, applications or other questions you can find it at:
<http://isc2014.bundesjugend.de>

Participating countries until now:



German Hard of Hearing young organisation

bundesjugend

host organisation of Summercamp 2014

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.