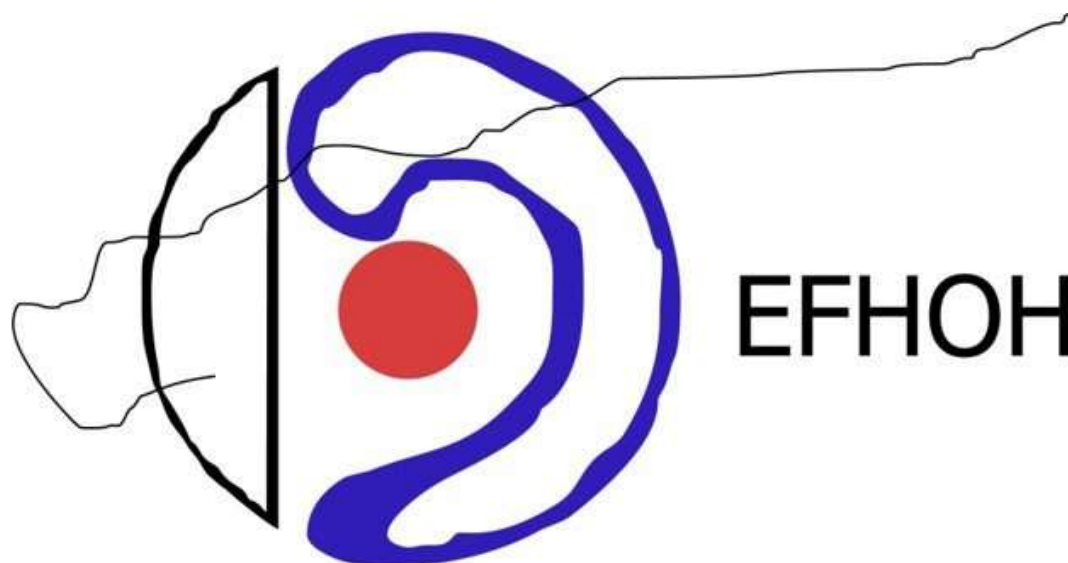


[View this email in your browser](#)



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Welcome to EFHOH Spring Newsletter

March has been an intensive and emotional month for all of us. The Ukrainian invasion highlighted the needs of persons with hearing loss in wartime. EFHOH, together with member organizations plunged in. EFHOH is continuing to connect NGOs with companies and organizations to effectively aid Ukrainian within their Borders and as Refugees.

However some things, thankfully, stay the same:

March 3. commemorated another World Hearing Day, online, which a number the EFHOH board attended and Lidia Best, EFHOH President, was one of the presenters.

Other important events were attended by a number of the board and some of them are listed below.

It is a pleasure for all of us to welcome OUVIR and we look forward to meeting with them at our AGM.

And do check your emails regularly. **The final date and time of the AGM** will be announced very soon!



European Parliament



EFHOH participated in the webinar on the occasion of the World Hearing Day **“To hear for life, listen with care!”**, hosted by MEP Alex Agius Saliba (Malta, S&D), that was held on Thursday the 3rd of March 2022 – 12.30 to 14.30 h CET.

You can find all the videos on this link: [Lunch Debate Video link](#)

You can find the report on this link: [Download Report](#)



CIICA News: Celebrating 1st. Anniversary

EFHOH is the founding member of CIICA (Cochlear Implant International Community in Action) On the 24. February the CI Community celebrated

NEXT CIICA LIVE THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON CI USERS/FAMILIES AND SERVICES

THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022 19:00 UK, 20:00 CET, 14:00 EST, 11:00 PST,
FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY, 06:00 AEDT, 08:00 NZ

This, our fifth CIICA LIVE event, on the eve of International CI day and our first birthday, is on the topic of the Global Impact of the Pandemic on CI users, families and services. Our global network will talk about their experiences of the huge impact of the pandemic – in ways which may be obvious and others not so obvious.

What have we learnt and what do we need to think about for the future? How do we ensure that access to CI and the necessary lifelong services are fully recognised in spite of today's challenges?

For more information and register, go to
www.ciicanet.org/events/



LEO DE RAEVE
Belgium



CATHY BIRMAN
Australia



ADRIAN DAVIS
UK



ANITA GROVER
UK



VAHISHTAI DABOO
India



LIDIA BEST
UK



MICHAL LUNTZ
Israel



CONNIE MAYER
Canada



Adult CI Users: our experiences in the pandemic

Lidia Best

- Lidia Best is a CI user and President of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH) and the Chair of the National Association of Deafened People (UK).
- She is part of the World Hearing Forum, being very active in the Make Listening Safe Group.
- She is passionate about Accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing people – have a look at her contribution to CIICA's Current Issues.



Lidia Best presentation [see here](#).



EFHOH was one of the partners of the Live Text Access (LTA) project which ended

On the website of the LTA project it is more information about this online training course. The website is www.ltaproject.eu

NEW FILM: As part of the course few Introducing Understanding Accessibility series: **Hear There & Everywhere**. In this film, LTA shows the students how it is to live with hearing loss in different daily life situations at home, at work, as volunteer and when person with hearing loss use public transport.

The You Tube link to the film is:
<https://youtu.be/ENvtPI5IJEY>

If you would like to know more about the Live Text Access online training, please contact Aida Regel Poulsen aregelpo@gmail.com and/or Marcel Bobeldijk. marbob32@hotmail.com



EFHOH joins the new EU Disability Platform

EFHOH is happy to announce that we have been selected to join in the Disability Platform alongside with other EU representatives. The Disability Platform is a one of the initiatives of the strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the purpose of the new platform is to strengthen the work and to combat discrimination based on disability. The Disability Platform replaces the existing High Level Group on Disability. It is an expert group to support the implementation of the Strategy for the rights of Persons with Disabilities. Following the selection process EFHOH has been appointed for a period of 5 years and will be represented by EFHOH President Lidia Best. (president@efhoh.org)

EFHOH will work hard and ensure that the views of members, hard of hearing people and their families are represented in this important forum.

All members of the Disability Platform can be found in the [Register](#).

Protection by International and National law for hard of hearing people

A short summary of the new Report by the Norwegian Hard of Hearing Organization HLF “Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

An analysis of legislation, regulations and experience show that a majority of people with hearing disabilities are subjected to systematic discrimination though their life course. It may start as early as kindergarten and continues through elementary school and high school. People with hearing disabilities continues to be discriminated at work, on the social arena and in interaction with other people.

It is necessary to reflect on possible reasons for this systematic discrimination. A lack in awareness of needs may be one important factor. People with hearing disabilities are rarely mentioned in action plans or reports. The main focus of these action plans and reports seems to be directed at other people with disabilities and people with disabilities hearing become as invisible as their impairment.

However, all cannot be explained by a lack of awareness-raising. There is also a substantial set of laws, regulations and national guidelines. Collectively and individually these are meant to secure accessibility and inclusion for all. But what effect lies in the rules and regulations when these are formulated in wage terms? Or when the legal system is complicated enough as to make work for lawyers amounting to hours and hours, and still it may be impossible to provide clear and concise answers. It requires time and resources where there may be few, in addition to the challenges in interpreting legal or other professional language.

So how strong or clear is the right to a full access to education for people with hearing disabilities? Or to a fully accessible workplace or information technology. Or a right to fully participate on the social arena, to attend theatre performances, a movie or a night out dining? And why is it that individuals with hearing disabilities are not safeguarded the same right to freedom of speech and the right to receive information? Why are live broadcasting on TV without subtitles? And why cannot vital information be shared simultaneously with all, including people with hearing disabilities? Especially during a pandemic where public authorities need to rely on full distribution of information to all. In this situation, a large proportion of individuals are left out of the information flow. And why should this be a reality in our society today?

The findings in this report show that neither expressed political goals on full and equal participation in all aspects of civil life, nor that obligations through CRPD and other human rights conventions are ensured for all. In this Norway has not succeeded in securing the human rights for individuals with hearing disabilities.

with hearing disabilities are never held responsible for the full financial cost a year delayed will cost. An employer is never asked to bear full responsibility if an employee that are made disabled and unable to work due to lack of proper adaptations or universal design in workplaces. Schools do not compensate children who end up with an unfulfilled education. Neither is the government. Or other authorities. Those who pay the true costs of the violations of their human rights are those who lack an education, or who end up being too disabled for work, or who become ill from isolation and exclusion, who cannot participate activities, culture or civil life in general.

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

Download the report here

<https://www.hlf.no/globalassets/bilder/diskrimineringsrapport-2021/diskrimineringsrapport2021.pdf>

DARE Academy Scholarship Fund

EFHOH has partnered with the Digital Academy Rights Education (DARE) .

The Scholarship Fund will enable potential candidates to have free access to G3ict's International Association of Accessibility Professionals' education material, developed in partnership with Princeton University's Office of Information Technology, and examination process.

Under the scholarship fund, G3ict offers 40 scholarships covering 100% of the costs of the IAAP-Princeton Course and CPACC Exam applicable in applicants' countries of residence, to individuals representing or actively engaged with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities. The scholarships aim to support individuals from developed and emerging economies in gaining knowledge and professional credentials in digital accessibility relevant to their advocacy work.

Congratulations to the Recipients to Cycle - 2 of its Scholarship Fund Program Scholarship:

- Andreas Stjärnström(Hard of Hearing Organization in Sweden - HRF)
- Nalubwama Mastulah (Uganda)

For more information visit https://g3ict.org/dare_academy

EU Disability Card

EDF have been advocating for the creation of a European Card that gives proof of disability outside your Member State of residence for more than 10 years.

launched a pilot project. This pilot ran in 8 Member States (Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia) between 2016 – 2019 to “test the water”. Under this project, the Card was voluntary and meant to ensure equal access to benefits across borders for persons with disabilities, in the areas of culture, leisure, sport and transport.

EFHOH will work on this area in the coming months.

For more information visit <https://www.edf-feph.org/eu-disability-card/>

EFHOH Hearing Aids Reimbursement Survey

In this Survey we are focused on information regarding the provision of hearing support to adults.

We are aware that in many areas there are substantial differences between the provision of support to adults and to children and young people, however this is a different area of information to pursue.

All the data we will gather through this survey and the follow up report about hard of hearing Europeans access to affordable hearing healthcare will support our advocacy work.

EFHOH will share the result of this Survey in June 2022.

UKRAINE: HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR THOSE WITH HEARING LOSS IN A CRISIS



Dear Friends,

Thank you for reaching out to us and expressing your support, interests and your eagerness to help HoH Persons in the Ukraine and as refugees in the neighbouring countries. Persons with special needs fall through the cracks of the already incredible amount of support given by so many NGOs, governments, and private persons and companies. And so much more is needed as the war is ongoing. But as well all know “*hearing aids, batteries, CIs*

Here is what EFHOH been done so far:

1. EFHOH established contacts with industry and organizations to ask for batteries, and used hearing aids etc
2. Through EFHOH as intermediary, Polish association "Hear without Borders" has received substantial donation of hearing aids and CI to distribute across Ukraine

How can you help Ukrainian persons with hearing loss?

There are active fundraising efforts by associations we are cooperating with:

Hearing aids batteries:

You can support ongoing efforts to provide hearing aids and CI batteries and spare parts by Hear without Borders Association.

Online fundraiser https://www.siepomaga.pl/sluch-dla-ukrainy?fbclid=IwAR0WvaF_9gt1TKd9CJlpiGdtDchhVNJRgz0hoyNi6KtFetPqDz81yEIBgZ0

Contributions can also be made directly to the account

#sluchdlaukrainay

Account for contributions from abroad:

Bank account number:

ING Bank Śląski S.A.

EUR 80 1050 1764 1000 0090 8034 9617

Ear & Hearing care support for deaf and hoh children, young people and adults who are refugees

The Deaf Kidz International communicates with EFHOH on the refuge response. They set up fundraising page seeking to establish ear and hearing care support. Donate here <https://deafkidzinternational.org/ukraine/>

Used hearing aids

If you have collected donated working hearing aids and other usable necessities for hearing care contact us first, we can direct you to the requiring centre supporting refugees.

New Members Welcome!



OUVIR

ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA
DE PORTADORES DE PRÓTESES E IMPLANTES AUDITIVOS

Welcome to Portuguese Association OUVIR

The Board of Directors have met on 15 December 2021 and put the Portuguese organization application on the agenda. We are pleased to inform that the EFHOH Board has agreed to grant the OUVIR – Associação Portuguesa de Portadores de Próteses e Implantes Auditivos the General Member Status <https://ouvir.pt>

We would also welcome our newest Associate member: Kultura bez Barrier! <https://kulturabezbarier.org/en/>

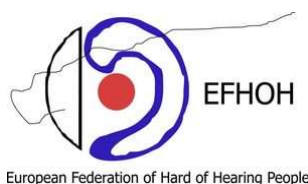
Have you got news to share?

We would love to hear from all our members! Do you have any news to share about your organization? Are there advocacy wins or topics you would like to highlight? Please send any information to secretary@efhoh.org

The more we learn from each other, the stronger the voice we have.

We look forward to hearing from you!

NEXT NEWSLETTERS DEADLINE 1st JUNE



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European Federation of Hard Of Hearing People

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