



IFHOHYP Annual Report 2015

November 2014 – November 2015

Prepared by the IFHOHYP Board

IFHOHYP Annual Report 2015

Introduction

The IFHOHYP Annual Report 2015 describes the activities carried out and goals achieved in the period of November 2014 – November 2015. In other words this Annual Report, for the first time, covers the actual period and work of the present Board in the period from the last AGM to the present AGM, where the annual report is presented to the members of IFHOHYP. The report reflects the activities described in “The Work Programme 2015”.

The Annual Report will be presented at the AGM 2015, the 29th of November 2015. The report will be audited afterwards and formally approved at the AGM 2016.

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ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organisations 2015

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(1) Advocacy and representation in the interest of young hard of hearing people

European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness March 11, Brussels, Belgium

IFHOHYP is part of the European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness. The platform serves to outline ways to enhance, strengthen and cultivate a robust and enduring collaboration between various organizations, which include: European Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU), the European Deafblind Network (EDbN), European Deafblind Union (EDbU), European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH), European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (FEPEDA), the European Union of the Deaf (EUD), and the European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY).

There have been three joint meetings in 2015 to discuss current issues and make agreements. IFHOHYP has been represented once during the period, when Sidsel Munkebo Hansen participated on behalf of IFHOHYP in the first meeting of the Platform, which took place the 11th of March 2015. This meeting included a presentation of present activities in each organization and a follow up on the Platform's own activities. EUDY, EFHOH, Parents of Deafblind children, EURO-CIU and EDbN attended as well. This time the meeting included a presentation from Ed Spragg, EFHOH intern, about how organizations can summarize the number of HOH people in our communication. The conclusion was made on the difficulty of the task because there is a lack of statistics in different countries. The Platform has plans to organize a conference or some sort of meeting with MEP's (members of the European Union parliament). This is still to be decided and confirmed.

EFHOH AGM and Conference April 10-12, Essen, Germany

Sidsel Munkebo Hansen represented IFHOHYP at the EFHOH Annual General Meeting and the following conference "*The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its implementation for hard of hearing people in the European Member States*" organized by the German Association of Hard of Hearing in Essen, Germany.

Beside giving a presentation about IFHOHYP and our work during the AGM, different perspectives on young people were raised during the discussions. Moreover, an important Essen Declaration "*Access to hearing aids is access to opportunity*" was signed during this event. Together with representatives of hard of hearing associations from all over Europe, EFHOH and IFHOH, IFHOHYP has sent a powerful message to decision makers in the European Union. I encourage everyone who is concerned about current situation to use the Essen Declaration. The declaration can be found on the EFHOH website.

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Hearing Association of Ireland AGM April 24, Dublin, Ireland

Ireland is a wonderful country, not simply because of its beautiful nature, the friendly people, but because of the association "Hearing Loss Ireland", who invited IFHOHYP to speak at their AGM in order to inspire members to motivate and engage young hard of hearing members in their organization. Sidsel Munkebo Hansen participated on behalf of IFHOHYP and gave a presentation on how to attract young hard of hearing people.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) June 9-11, New York, USA

Bowen Tang represented IFHOHYP, as an observer, to participate in the side-events with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals which will replace the Millennium Development Goals in the post-2015 agenda. Some of the topics had a focus on providing inclusive education for youth with disabilities and access to the workforce.

Cooperation and joint meeting with IFHOH

IFHOHYP and IFHOH have a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure an open and mutually supportive working relationship between the two organizations. Next to that, IFHOHYP is collaborating with Hearing Loss Association of America on creating a youth programme at the IFHOH Congress in Washington, DC where the IFHOHYP AGM 2016 is also going to be held.

In April 2015 Sidsel Munkebo Hansen participated in a IFHOH Board meeting to give an introduction to the newly elected IFHOHYP board and the Work Programme of 2015.

Cooperation and joint meetings with EFHOH

EFHOH and IFHOHYP have a long history such that several EFHOH board members and volunteers were once involved with IFHOHYP in their youth. There is an understanding and wish to continue cooperation between the two organizations. Therefore IFHOHYP will participate with one representative as an observer at EFHOH board meetings when it is possible – this is an opportunity for mutual exchange of information, experiences, knowledge and for planning future cooperation.

In 2015 IFHOHYP participated in three EFHOH board meetings. Sidsel Munkebo Hansen participated in the first and second meeting at Germany in January and April respectively, and later in September, Alper Coskun participated in the third meeting at Greece.

European Union of Deaf Youth (EUDY)

As stated in the Work Programme 2015, the IFHOHYP board wish to investigate the possibilities of co-operation with EUDY. We have contacted EUDY, but it had not been possible for us to find resources to have a face-to-face meeting.

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European Youth Forum (YFJ)

IFHOHYP is a member of the European Youth Forum. IFHOHYP has not been represented at any YFJ-activities in 2015.

Global Partnership of Children with Disabilities (GPcwd)

The Youth Council of the GPcwd was initiated during the first Forum of the GPcwd in September 2012. IFHOHYP has been a part of the establishment of the Youth Council from the beginning. The major focus of Youth Council is to participate and influence the work of all GPcwd bodies, including the task forces and National Partnerships. The Youth Council currently consists of 42 young people with disabilities, including representatives from youth with disabilities-led DPO's, and human rights advocates for youth with and without disabilities. IFHOHYP and the hard of hearing youth is represented by former president Karina Chupina, who reports back to the IFHOHYP Board with relevant information and minutes of the meetings. There have been no face-to-face meetings in the Youth Council, only virtual skype meetings during 2015.

(2) Non-formal learning and activity programs targeted at young people

Joint Board & Committee Meeting #1 July 31-August 2 2015, Brussels, Belgium

On August 1st, the first-ever "Meeting of Committees" in the history of IFHOHYP took place. Members from all IFHOHYP committees met together with the Board in Brussels, Belgium, to discuss and develop action plans of the committees. Please find the enclosed report for further details.

Awareness Raising Seminar September 24-26 2015, Athens, Greece

At the invitation of the EFHOH Board, Alper Coskun participated and presented at this seminar to raise general awareness about IFHOHYP among HOH people in Greece, as there is currently no established HOH youth organization in Greece. Suggestions were given on how they can create such program. This is in cooperation with the Greek Deaf organization and Yannis Yallouros (member of EDF board).

Reports from the Committees of IFHOHYP

Each committee has different duties and responsibilities, consisting of 2-4 volunteers each. The committees have been working through the whole year and communicate through online meetings. There are currently 8 committees in IFHOHYP, but if there are no volunteers for the committee, the committee will be considered as inactive. In 2015 this was the case for 3 committees, "Projects and Fundraising Committee", "English Course

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Committee” and “Accessibility Committee”. Therefore there will be no reports from these committees in this Annual Report.

Expansion Committee

Members:

1. Heiko Burak (Germany)
2. Sheila Cristobal (Spain)
3. Rasmus Draklander (Sweden)

During 2015, the committee focused on current members only. We invited all of them to our AGM 2015 individually. Nepal joined our membership this year. Cambodia and Philippines are also interested to join and are currently in the process of finalizing their membership. We also prepared a letter to send to all IFHOH/EFHOH members to get their attention about IFHOHYP, this letter will be sent after the AGM 2015.

Information and Communication Committee

Members:

4. James Ferguson (Canada)
5. Irina Ivanova (Russia)
6. Natalia Kondrateva (Russia)

Two newsletters have been published in 2015. The committee is overseen by Ece Saygi.

Strategic Planning Committee

Members:

7. James Aniyamuzaala (Uganda)
8. Alexandra Lemesova (Russia)
9. Pavel Novikov (Russia)

With assistance and consultation from Bowen Tang, a 2016-2020 Strategy Plan has been developed. Please see enclosed plan for further details.

Study Session Committee

Members:

1. Mona Bellhouane (Tunisia)
2. Camilla Mattjus (Finland)

With assistance and consultation from Alper Coskun & Bowen Tang, an application for a study session in the 2016 2nd semester (Jul-Dec) have been submitted.

Summer Camp 2016 Committee

Members:

1. Astrid Fejrø (Denmark)
2. Jonathan Fruensgaard Andersen (Denmark)

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3. Kasper Bassehave Lassen (Denmark)
4. Maria Wichmann Christiansen (Denmark)
5. Simone Julie Jacobsen (Denmark)
6. Trine Brinkmann (Denmark)

Anne Mette Kristensen, staff member of Høreforeningen, Solveig Højgaard, Educational manager of Castberggård and Sidsel Munkebo Hansen will be assisting and consulting the committee.

The main focus of 2015 has been to establish the collaboration with the relevant organizations in the host country, Denmark, to start the planning and fundraising for the Summer Camp. This has led to cooperation with two partners in Denmark: Høreforeningen (The Danish Association of Hard of Hearing), who is also a member of IFHOHYP and the organization called "Castberggård", which facilitates education and job training for hard of hearing and deaf people in Denmark.

Høreforeningen has long experience with activities for young HOH people in Denmark like their own annual Danish Summer Camp called "Youth Camp". The Danish Youth Camp enters its 10-year anniversary in 2016, which will be celebrated in this cooperation as a big international Summer Camp. Castberggård will contribute by providing all the facilities of the Summer Camp, including house meeting rooms fully equipped with loop systems and sleeping rooms – all in lovely Danish nature reserves. The partners have established the Summer Camp committee together consisting of Danish hard of hearing young volunteers.

The committee will have their first meeting in the beginning of November 2015.

(3) Dissemination of information

Newsletter

The newsletter is one of the main communication platform used to promote IFHOHYP activities and report on achieved results, as well as an active forum for participants – volunteers and members of IFHOHYP – to share information. The information and communication committee is responsible for publishing the newsletter 3 times per year. For 2015, 2 newsletters have been published.

Social Media

As of 2015, there are 1514 likes on the Facebook page. The highest peak in the number of people reached by our posts was 3,135 when the "No Hate Speech" videos were launched. For Twitter, there is a significant increase of followers, from 20 to 151 by end of October 2015.

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Website

Updates on the Constitution and list of member organizations have been made. News are shared on the recent activities, such as the "No Hate Speech Campaign" videos and statutory meetings.

(4) Statutory activities

IFHOHYP Virtual Board Meetings (VBM)

Most of the board meetings are – due to financial cost and human resources – arranged as chat-meetings on Skype. Through these meetings, the board will ensure stable operations of the organization including, but are not limited to: reviewing finances, replenishing publication materials, delegating tasks to committees, preparing for representations at various forums, preparing the committee meetings and AGM. The board had in total 11 VBM's in 2015 and for each there has been made minutes, which the Auditor will review:

1. December 7, 2014
2. December 22, 2014
3. January 18, 2015
4. February 11, 2015
5. March 1, 2015
6. May 11, 2015
7. July 8, 2015
8. August 24, 2015
9. August 31, 2015
10. September 12, 2015
11. October 10, 2015

IFHOHYP Board Meetings

The Board will aim to meet face-to-face three times in the year, with the sole purpose to ensure stable operations of the organization including, but not are not limited to: reviewing finances, replenishing publication materials, delegating tasks to committees, preparing for representations at various forums.

1. November 23, 2014
2. August 1-2, 2015

Extraordinary Electronic voting process about time of AGM

During January-March, the Board decided to carry out an electronic voting procedure. The voting regarded a motion put forward by the Board about having the next AGM in the autumn instead of the spring. This meant a change of the Constitution, which no longer states that the AGM should be held before the 1st of May of the year. The motion was approved by 2/3 majorities of the members. Furthermore – after receiving feedback about this electronic voting procedure from our Swedish member organization – the Board invites further discussion at this year's AGM on how we can involve members in between AGMs by using today's digital possibilities and how we can develop "remote participation" in the AGM.

(5) Organizational and financial work

It has been a priority for the new Board to reflect on and streamline the structure within IFHOHYP and explore how we can develop a strong and stable organization with adequate financial and human resources. Therefore the board wished to explore the possibilities of creating a stable financial foundation through sponsorships and the establishment of an IFHOHYP office, with an administrative officer who can assist the Board and the committee members.

The Board had meetings with two different hearing aid manufacturers in order to find out if cooperation is possible. Until now this hasn't led to concrete cooperation or sponsorships, because the interested parties requested for specific data on how many people IFHOHYP is potentially representing (members of member organizations) and the scope of audience reach by our Facebook page, newsletter and website. Collecting and verification of this information is currently underway.

Another ongoing task is analyzing the financial and organizational structures within IFHOHYP and exploring long-term and stable solutions such as having an IFHOHYP officer in the future. This requires research and dialogue with different stakeholders. IFHOHYP board has met with one potential partner, which is not a member of IFHOHYP, but is working within the area of hearing loss, about the possibilities of having an IFHOHYP-officer in their organisation. The board also plans to continue applying for operating grants which to this date remains significant part of IFHOHYP financing. The board will continue exploring these possibilities and will therefore apply for the financial support through the operating grant of European Commission to hire and pay an IFHOHYP-officer in 2016.

In 2015 the board succeeded in the application for *Operating Grant*, which was selected for EU co-funding. As a part of this a renewal of the official registration of IFHOHYP as an organization was required and therefore this registration was renewed under Danish Law. The board decided to establish a position of a "Bank Account Manager", who resides in the same country where the bank account is opened and maintained. This was intended to stabilize administration of the organization, because the bank account will not then be challenged of shifting nationalities of the treasurer.

In August 2015, the Board signed an official agreement with the former Treasurer, Anna Vita Ross, which entrusts her with the responsibility of managing the IFHOHYP Bank Account. Anna Vita Ross will manage all transfers requested by the Board and will provide the necessary receipts of transfers and monthly status of the bank account. Anna Vita Ross will report to the IFHOHYP Treasurer who - in accordance with the Constitution - will manage and control all finances of IFHOHYP. There has been made a working procedure, which will be provided to the Auditor for 2015. This system was proved effective, which is very important for an organization that due to its international nature does not have a designated "head office" and where it is not possible to predict nationalities or place of residence of any of board members. This also ensures double-checking and verification of all operations, thus adding to safety.

(6) Activities of the Work Programme 2015 still to be achieved

The following six activities were described in the Work Programme 2015, but have not yet been carried out, or cannot be carried out, during the time this Annual Report is submitted for presentation.

Hearing Awareness Day March 2015, Brussels, Belgium (CANCELLED)

Furthermore the activity “Hearing Awareness Day”, described in the Work Programme 2015, has no prospects of implementation at this moment. The “Hearing Awareness Day”, a conference planned by EFHOH and EHIMA, where IFHOHYP was invited to give a presentation on the youth perspective, was cancelled because of very increased restrictions from the EU headquarter due to the terror attack in Paris in January 2015, which made it impossible to carry out the event.

IED Youth Conference September 2015, Istanbul, Turkey (POSTPONED)

The Work Programme stated, that IFHOHYP would have a Youth Conference in autumn 2015 for all members. The purpose of this conference, was that participants would develop skills in advocacy and campaigning in the field of disability rights (accessibility, social inclusion), working collaboratively with Deaf youth who will provide insights on their issues. Because of a lack of human resources and time, this activity has been postponed to March 2016. It will be held in cooperation with the Turkish member Isitme Engelliler ve Aileleri Dernegi (IED) and EFHOH. A report on this activity will therefore be included in “The IFHOHYP Annual Report 2016”.

Train the Trainers of UN CRPD October 19th – 21st 2015, Copenhagen, Denmark

IFHOH is organizing training on the UN CRPD by three courses in America, Asia and Europe. The aim of the program is to provide the participants with sufficient knowledge and skills to be able to deliver CRPD/human rights training to the hard of hearing sector in their countries. IFHOHYP wish to obtain these qualifications and knowledge. Ece Saygi represented the Board. A report on this activity will be included later on.

Committee Meeting #2 November 26th 2015, Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Work Programme 2015 stated that volunteers from the active committees of IFHOHYP will be invited to a joint meeting with the Board in autumn. The Board and Committee members will engage in follow-up work from the first committee meeting. With a total of 8

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participants, this meeting focus on the upcoming Summer Camp 2016 and facilitated by Bowen Tang. A report on this activity will be included later on.

IFHOHYP Strategy Workshop and AGM

November 27th – 29th 2015, Amsterdam, Netherlands

IFHOHYP will carry out the Annual General Meeting 2015 together with the Dutch member organization SH Jong. Statutory activities will be carried out, including a presentation and approval of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. Participants will share recent activities of their organizations, and engage in discussion about employment issues and IFHOHYP preparation for IFHOH World Congress in 2016. A report on this activity will be included later on.

European Day of People with Disabilities

December 7th – 8th 2015, Brussels, Belgium

The Work Programme stated, that IFHOHYP would seek to be present at the European Day of People with Disabilities in order to raise awareness about HOH youth and youth with disabilities in general. IFHOHYP will be represented by Pavel and Sasha at the conference A report on this activity will therefore be included in “Annual Report 2016”.

ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organizations 2015

As of 2015, IFHOHYP has 17 member organizations

AFaMUT	Italy
Bekol	Israel
Bundesjugend im DSB e.V. (BJ)	Germany
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)	Canada
Česká Unie Neslyšících (CUN)	Czech Republic
FADCY	Russia
Hard of Hearing Young People Foundation (HOHYPF)	USA
Høreforeningen (HF)	Denmark
Hørselshemmedes Landsforbunds Ungdom (HLFU)	Norway
İsitem Engelliler ve Aileleri Derneği (IED)	Turkey
Jugehörig (JH)	Switzerland
Kuuloliitto Ry	Finland
SH-Jong	The Netherlands
SHRUTI National Association of Hard of Hearing and Deafened	Nepal
Surdus Loquens	Poland
Svenska Hörselförbundet R.F.	Finland
Unga Hörselskadade (UH)	Sweden

Agreements with HOPE (Cambodia) and Pakistan Hard of Hearing Association (Pakistan) are in process, thus expanding our presence in Asia region.

ANNEX II: Others

IFHOHYP Board in 2015

President: Sidsel Munkebo Hansen, Denmark (elected 2014-2016)

Vice-President: Alper Coşkun, Turkey (elected 2014-2016)

Secretary: Ece Saygi, Turkey (elected 2014, for 1 year)

Treasurer: Daria Panicheva, Russia (elected 2014, for 1 year)

Board Member: Bowen Tang, Canada (elected 2014, for 1 year)

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