



# IFHOHYP Annual Report

December 2015 – June 2016

Prepared by the IFHOHYP Board

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## **Introduction**

The IFHOHYP Annual Report describes the activities carried out and goals achieved in the period of December 2015 – June 2016. This is due to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year being held much earlier to coincide with the IFHOH Congress in Washington, D.C., USA and we can only cover the period from the last AGM to the present AGM.

This report will be presented at the AGM 2016, the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2016.

## **Content**

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

### **Train the Trainers of UN CRPD, Oct 19-21. Copenhagen, Denmark**

Ece Saygi, former IFHOHYP Secretary, attended a training course on UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities, organized by IFHOH. The aim of the program was 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. Victor Rehn, current IFHOHYP Board Member, and Paulina Lewandowska have also attended the training held in Denmark. They have brought their newfound knowledge to share with their local organizations.

### **European Day of People with Disabilities, Dec 7-8. Brussels, Belgium**

Pavel Novikov, an active IFHOHYP committee member, represented the organization at this annual conference, in which the theme was focused on children and young people with disability. Presentations and discussions were on the current situation of children with disabilities in Europe, on their access to education and how it contributes to the equal participation of children and young people with disabilities in society. It successfully raised awareness to persons with disability, inclusive education and integration in the society. Thought-provoking debates on topics of the panel discussions followed each topic. Please read his experience in the latest newsletter issue.

### **Joint Board Meeting with IFHOH, EFHOH, APFHD, Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. Auckland, New Zealand**

For the first time in the history, a joint meeting was held between the four regional/international hard of hearing organizations. Bowen Tang, current IFHOHYP secretary, participated remotely via Skype in which he shared the activities of IFHOHYP, expressed the issues facing young people, such as access to hearing aids and discrimination faced in the workplace. Other organizations share the sentiment that hearing aid costs are too high and that it should be a global issue. The outcome of the meeting was to develop a survey to collect data on hearing aid policies and practices in member countries. Another joint meeting will take place on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Washington D.C.

### **Cooperation and joint meetings with EFHOH, Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. London, United Kingdom**

IFHOHYP continues to maintain a strong working relationship with EFHOH by sending a representative to participate in the EFHOH Board meeting in London. Victor Rehn, current Board Member, reported that a youth work group is in development with EFHOH with the idea that they will focus on EU projects and enable the IFHOHYP Board to look out for international fundraising prospects. EFHOH has kindly offered the assistance of their intern to look for fundraising opportunities within EU. They will also share the research on European Accessibility Act.

### **EFHOH AGM and Conference, April 10-12. Paris, France**

Victor Rehn participated at this event on behalf of IFHOHYP. The theme of the conference this year is “Getting Informed about Hearing Loss”. European Disability Forum EDF held a intensive presentation on their work and the European Accessibility Act, “a burning issue”,

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which has been a long process already and still has a bit to go before the end is near due to complicate political climate within the EU. Complaints were raised afterwards regarding the use of “inaccessible words” in the presentation. EFHOH is also focused on working with this act, they will re-release the EDF presentation in more accessible words.

Victor participated in the EFHOH Board meeting following the AGM. It was asked of us to cooperate with their intern and share where we have laid the groundwork to make applications, so he can notify us as well if he finds anything suitable. EFHOH will also continue to share their information with us.

**Cooperation and joint meeting with IFHOH**

In the past six month, Bowen Tang has been the primary contact with IFHOH and HLAA to offer assistance in making events attractive to young adults and promoting the Congress in Washington D.C. IFHOHYP is grateful to the support of both organizations in providing venues and assistive technology for young adult activities at minimal cost to the Board. We look forward to continuing a strong relationship with IFHOH.

**Conference of Start Parties to UN CRPD, June 14-16. New York, USA**

James Aniyamuzaala, President of Uganda Federation of Hard of Hearing, will represent IFHOHYP as an observer, to participate in the side events. A report will be included at the Year-End Report.

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

**Reports from the Committees of IFHOHYP**

Each committee has different duties and responsibilities and consists of 2-4 volunteers each. The committees have been working through the past half year via online meetings. There are currently 4 active committees:

**Expansion Committee**

Members:

1. Alper Coskun (Turkey)
2. Sheila Cristobal (Spain)
3. Rasmus Draklander (Sweden)

Main work from this committee includes finalizing an intro letter that will be sent to various hard of hearing organizations in different countries that are not yet members of IFHOH or IFHOHYP, updating the brochure/leaflet so that they can be distributed at the IFHOH Congress.

**Information and Communication Committee**

Members:

1. Irina Ivanova (Russia)
2. Ece Sagyi (Turkey)
3. Cagri Zorallogiu (Turkey)

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Two newsletters have been published in the first half of 2016. Thank you to the committee for all their hard work.

**Study Session Committee**

Members:

1. Mona Belhouane (Tunisia)
2. Camilla Mattjus (Finland)
3. Bowen Tang (Canada)

It is with sad news that in December 2015 we were informed that the application was rejected. The committee worked to refine the application and submit another one on April 1<sup>st</sup>. If successful, the study session will take place in Spring 2017. Wish us luck!

**Summer Camp 2016 Committee**

Members:

1. Trine Brinkmann (Denmark)
2. Ninna Engelbreth (Denmark)
3. Astrid Fejrø (Denmark)
4. Jonathan Fruensgaard Andersen (Denmark)
5. Marie Henriksen (Denmark)
6. Simone Julie Jacobsen (Denmark)

Anne Mette Kristensen, staff member of Høreforeningen, Solveig Højgaard, Educational manager of Castberggård and Sidsel Munkebo Hansen, President of IFHOHYP are consulting the committee and representing and responsible in the cooperating organizations.

The Summer Camp Committee has been working hard since the last AGM in the preparation of the Summer Camp in Denmark in August 2016. The primary focus since AGM in the Amsterdam last year and until now has been fundraising and communication. The team has applied several private foundations in Denmark and has established contact with possible sponsors, which has resulted in a balanced economy for the operation costs. At this moment the team is still waiting for response for some funds and sponsors. The team has together with IFHOHYP, Castberggård and the Danish Association of hard of hearing prepared and carried out all administrative details of registration as well as communication about the Summer Camp – at the time of writing we are in full recruitment mode and registrations are coming in. The Summer Camp has been announced in different newsletters and at the social media. The team also started the preparations of the programme of the week in Denmark. Speakers and instructors have been contacted and further planning of the programme will take place during a weekend in June, when the committee will have a weekend-meeting at Castberggård, the holiday and course resort, where the Summer Camp will take place in August. The Committee have had four face-to-face-meetings but are daily communicating digitally.

### **(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. The Spring issue has been issued in March and the next one will be coming out soon.

#### **Social Media**

As of June 2016, there are 1653 likes on the Facebook page, a 9.2% increase since last reported. The highest peak in the number of people reached by our posts was 14,300+ when the Summer Camp 2016 was announced. For Twitter, we have 191 followers and 287 following.

### **(4) Statutory activities**

#### **“Challenge Life” weekend & Annual General Meeting 2015, Nov 27-29. Amsterdam, Netherlands.**

On November 27th the Board presented the 2016-2020 Strategy Plan as well as the proposed motions for the AGM. This provided ample time for attendees to discuss the content and provide feedback, particularly how their member organizations can help to implement the strategic plan following the AGM.

On November 28th Caroline van Dijk, an expert from Direct Yourself led a workshop on the power of personal leadership where participants worked on determining their strengths and shared how they have come to their successes. Participants worked on their own challenges by learning from other people and collaborating to accomplish common goals which aims take personal control over their lives. Thank you to Sh-Jong for organizing such a wonderful session, followed by a relaxing cruise in the evening.

On November 29th the Annual General Meeting took place throughout the day, including presentations of reports in 2014, 2015, budget and work programme for 2016; elections of Board officers (secretary, treasurer, and general member); voting of the motions, particularly the approval of the 2016-2020 Strategy Plan.

Again this weekend would not have been possible without the support from Sh-Jong and its core planning committee and volunteers.

#### **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 of IFHOHYP. The board had in total 6 VBM's in the past 6 months and for each there has been made minutes:

1. December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015
2. January 10<sup>th</sup> 2016
3. February 6<sup>th</sup> 2016
4. April 10<sup>th</sup> 2016
5. April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016
6. May 13<sup>th</sup> 2016

### **IFHOHYP Board Meetings**

The Board typically aims to meet face-to-face 2/3 times a year. There has been no meeting as of the date this report is submitted. The newly elected Board at the upcoming AGM will have a meeting shortly thereafter.

## **(5) Organizational and financial work**

The Board is continuing to work towards establishing a stable organizational and financial structure for IFHOHYP, as described in the previous annual report. The creation of the Bank Account Manager will move forward as a permanent structure within IFHOHYP. It has been agreed upon with Anna Vita Ross that after AGM 2016, she will no longer be the position. Therefore, the Board will appoint another person for this position hereafter. We sincerely thank Anna Vita Ross going beyond her duties in this position at IFHOHYP.

Because of President, Sidsel Munkebo Hansen's maternity leave during the winter period 2015-2016, the project about establishing an IFHOHYP office, has been put on hold and postponed, as she was the main leader on this. This will be a project of the new board to decide on and carry out in the future, and Sidsel has offered her support as consultant in the process.

Due to personal and unexpected circumstances of members of the Board (e.g., family and personal illnesses) we had not been able to put a stronger focus in applying for grants in addition to our other projects. Applying for and administrating the grant as well as in the end make the reports for European Commission altogether are enormous and difficult work which require qualification and time, which is not always present in a volunteering organization such as IFHOHYP. Therefore it is a luck and of appreciation when it is there and gives us yet another reason for establishing an office, where a person with right qualifications can be hired.

We have consulted with EFHOH/IFHOH regarding different possibilities, one of which to include accepting corporate advertisements to display on our websites and newsletters. The current Board strongly recommends to the newly elected Board that fundraising be their top priority for the remainder of 2016 so that IFHOHYP can acquire enough fund to implement activities planned in 2017.

Another ongoing priority is to maintain clear and transparent communication with our members, not only to promote IFHOHYP-related activities, but also other youth-related activities planned by European Disability Forum or European Youth Forum. We are currently exploring an appropriate frequency of email updates and will welcome feedback from members on how they would like to receive information as well as the content that they will be interested in.

## ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organizations 2016

As of 2016, IFHOHYP has 20 member organizations

Academy of Sports and Education for Deaf of Tunisia	Tunisia
AFaMUT	Italy
Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association (BDHOH)	Bangladesh
Bekol	Israel
Bundesjugend im DSB e.V. (BJ)	Germany
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)	Canada
Česká Unie Neslyšících (CUN)	Czech Republic
FADCY	Russia
Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)	USA
Høreforeningen (HF)	Denmark
Hørselshemmedes Landsforbunds Ungdom (HLFU)	Norway
İsitme Engelliler ve Aileleri Dernegi (IED)	Turkey
Jugehörig (JH)	Switzerland
Kuuloliitto Ry	Finland
SHRUTI	Nepal
SH-Jong	The Netherlands
Surdus Loquens	Poland
Svenska Hörsselförbundet R.F.	Finland
Uganda Federation for Hard of Hearing (UFHOH)	Uganda
Unga Hörselskadade (UH)	Sweden

## ANNEX II: Others

**President:** Sidsel Munkebo Hansen, Denmark (elected 2014, end-of-term)

**Vice-President:** Alper Coşkun, Turkey (elected 2014, end-of-term)

**Secretary:** Bowen Tang, Canada (elected 2015, until 2017)

**Treasurer:** Daria Panicheva, Russia (elected 2015, until 2017)

**Board Member:** Victor Rehn, Finland (elected 2015, until 2017)

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