



IFHOHYP

International Federation of
Hard of Hearing Young People

IFHOHYP Annual Report

October 2017 – September 2018

Prepared by the IFHOHYP Board

Introduction

The IFHOHYP Annual Report describes the activities carried out and goals achieved in the period of October 2017 – September 2018.

This report will be presented at the AGM 2018, the 3rd and 4th of November 2018.

Content

1. Advocacy and representation in the interest of young hard of hearing people
2. Non-formal learning and activity programs targeted at young people
3. Dissemination of information
4. Statutory activities
5. Organizational and financial work

ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organisations 2018

ANNEX II: Others

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

European Disability Forum Youth Committee

During autumn 2017 the European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH) proposed to support a candidate from IFHOHYP to the EDF Youth Committee. IFHOHYP President Victor Rehn ran for the position and was elected to the Youth Committee for a four year term, ending 2021, together with seven other persons representing a wide array of disabilities.

The Youth Committee held its first physical meeting in Athens May 4-5th where an action plan was drafted for the years to come. The Committee shares the values of EDF but also identified five core values to guide their work: equality, cooperation, transparency, democracy and participation. Further the Committee decided on priority themes for each year as follows:

- 2018 - education and Erasmus
- 2019 - employment
- 2020 - freedom of movement
- 2021 - housing and independent living

The themes are not exclusive and other topics may be covered by the Committees work that align with the EDF strategic framework and plan.

Currently the Committee is working on capacity building within the Committee to strengthen their ability to provide support and drive issues during their term. A project with Erasmus Student Network is also on the table together with Inclusive Disability Alliance (IDA). 2019 begins with a youth Manifesto in co-operation with the EDF Board. In the pipelines for 2019 is also a conference on youth employment in possible co-operation with Romania.

IFHOHYP Board is excited to tighten the co-operation with EFHOH thru the Committee. In the Committee IFHOHYP and EFHOH receives valuable insight in the ongoing issues for youth with disabilities on the European level and have a possibility to influence the processes to make sure the hard of hearing youth needs are seen.

EFHOH AGM/Conference & IFHOH BGM, May 10th to 12th. Ljubljana, Slovenia

Karina Øbro, Board member, attended the conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia from May 10th to 12th. She participated in the UN CRPD workshop, gave a welcome speech to the delegates and shared IFHOHYP updates at the IFHOH BGM.

In the UN CRPD workshop (Conventions of Rights of Persons with Disabilities) participants were encouraged to state current problems in their national countries and make action plans dealing with these problems. An interesting point from the workshop was that organizations should be aware of the national CRPD representatives who are responsible for making sure that the countries are in progress with making the society more accessible. When trying to make impact on decision makers it was suggested to identify these representatives and include them in the problems.

The conference consisted of several presentations with different topics. Examples were audiological issues such as how hearing loss affect working memory and social aspects, causes of hearing loss, accessibility in public buildings and about how procedures in the hearing field are carried out in Slovenia. An important point to make from these presentations was that it is not enough to have rules and laws of accessibility if no one speaks up when the law/rules are not met. It was encouraged that organizations should be more aggressive when accessibility is not met. We should be better at speaking up and react and also encourage our members to do so. At the very end there was the IFHOH BGM where updates from IFHOHYP were shared. The presentation was well received and attracted the attention of organizations from Bolivia and France whom are looking to set up a youth network.

İşitme Engelliler ve Aileleri Derneği (IED) Presentation, June 23rd. Istanbul, Turkey.

Hanna Mullis, Treasurer and Manuel Rohrbach, Board member was invited to deliver a workshop on hard of hearing youth activism to a crowd of 40 deaf, hard of hearing and hearing participants in Istanbul, Turkey. All the participants expressed excitement at the upcoming AGM to meet other hard of hearing young people from across the globe.

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

IFHOHYP Summer Camp, July 30th to August 5th. Veldhoven, Netherlands.

Sh-Jong, host of the summer camp, welcomed 77 participants from 18 countries. It was a whirlwind week with many activities taking place such as the Dutch Games, training through the Netherlands, workshops, trip to Eftling, and challenge ropes course. Read how this camp was a [life-changing experience](#) for one of the participants.

IFHOHYP Committee Reports

There are currently 5 active committees, which comprised of 4-5 members and a liaison from the Board. Meetings generally were held monthly via Skype.

Hear2Stay Committee

Hear2Stay is an awareness campaign idea conceived by participants at the 11th IFHOHYP study session held in Budapest in March 2017. It aims to highlight that hard of hearing people can lead full lives when they have access to technologies and services. The campaign primarily takes place on social media platforms, Instagram and Facebook, where pictures and stories of hard of hearing people participating in various activities are posted. #hear2stay-campaign was launched officially in the World Hearing Day, 3rd March 2018 by IFHOHYP. The idea of the #hear2stay is to play with the English words “here” and “hear” as well as number 2 and “to”.

We have gathered a committee to work on #hear2stay-campaign. Committee’s target is to raise awareness of the campaign and the committee is working on ways to achieve the goal.

Also #hear2stay is widely used in IFHOHYP’s posts in social media and we encourage our members to do the same.

Members:

1. Cathy Geurts (Netherlands)
2. Juliane Grosse (Germany)
3. Jenna Junttila (Finland)
4. Raviv Marcus (Israel)
5. Camilla Mattjus (Finland)
6. Daria Panicheva (Russia/USA)
7. Bowen Tang (Canada)

Member & Communication Committee

It was a year of important changes for IFHOHYP. In order to get a first good impression for our possible donors, sponsors, political organisations, we needed to refresh our look which was outdated. The old logo of snail and the old website did not meet its new requirements anymore.

Board member Manuel started to create logo drafts and presented them to communication committee. Thanks to feedbacks of volunteers Manuel was able to improve logo and present it in social media in a facebook group of IFHOHYP. All users were able to share their thoughts on logo and even vote which version of logo should be chosen. The next round of improvements were done. Manuel and communication committee presented the final versions of logo to board. The board was able to understand which versions were in favour thanks to polls in the social media. After some discussions the final logo was chosen and announced officially as new logo of IFHOHYP in April 2018. The feedbacks to logo were very positive.

The dots of logo represent each of us whereas the colors highlight the diversity that we bring in forming a visible “ear” that would draw public attention. It is refreshing and positive.

A new website was also planned. Before choosing a website template, communication committee checked it out carefully which template is also most friendly for blind people because some websites are not readable by screen readers.

After the logo was published Manuel started to work on designing the website while communication committee asked users with a poll in a facebook group of IFHOHYP which contents of website are most important to them. In that way, we were able to understand which contents are primary and which are secondary. The new website was published in August 2018 and has also received positive comments by users. Of course the website will be updated monthly with new contents.

Thanks to the work of communication committee and keeping communicating with users in social media, we could realise our projects with their respected helpful feedbacks in our mind! We communicate together, listen to their feedbacks, evaluate them in the committee and realised projects. This is an effective user-friendly teamwork!

A newsletter by mail will be set up soon to keep our general members up to date monthly with news around IFHOHYP.

Members:

1. Karolina Blaszk (Poland)
2. Irina Ivanova (Russia)
3. Sara Kwekkeboom (Netherlands)
4. Manuel Rohrbach (Switzerland)
5. Ece Saygi (Turkey)
6. Ediz Tekok (Turkey)

**IFHOHYP Annual Report
October 2017 – September 2018**

Nomination Committee

Members: Paulina Lewandowska (Poland), Katrine SØbstad Einan

This committee sought out potential candidates to fill in the positions up for election at this AGM. A total of 2 applications were received by the deadline of September 15th.

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| 1. Bowen Tang (Canada)
(for position of President) | 2. Manuel Rohrbach (Switzerland)
(for position of Vice-President) |
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Study Session Committee

IFHOHYP will be hosting our 12th study session “*Keeping the World Accessible & Inclusive through a Policy-making Perspective*” in Strasbourg, France from March 11th to 16th 2019. The study session has become a reality in partnership with the Council of Europe Youth Department. The study session team is now in place and the work progress is gradually starting up. This year, the study session will deal with the UN CRPD, organizational and contextual awareness, teamwork and cooperation and media literacy. The session will build on the work from the previous sessions and concentrate more on how we can use different medias and influencers to get our message out. Calls for participation will be sent out in the spring, so save the dates now! We are looking forward to the work progress and will keep you updated.

Board Liaison: Karina Øbro (Denmark)

Preparatory Team:

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|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Paulina Lewandowska (Poland) | 4. Ece Saygi (Turkey) |
| 2. Hanna Mullis (Sweden) | 5. Ediz Tekok (Turkey) |
| 3. Pavel Novikov (Russia) | |

Summer Camp Committee

Upon the announcement at 2018 Summer Camp that Canada will host the 2020 International Summer Camp, a committee has been formed in September in which they are searching for a venue and pursuing national/international funds.

(3) Dissemination of information

Social Media

As of September 2018, there are 1966 likes on the Facebook page. For Twitter, we have 315 followers.

We have also established a new Instagram account with the name “ifhohyp”. With that account we have shared introductions of the Board members and posted other current information. We want to increase our members’ possibilities to get information about what is going on in IFHOHYP and to be able to be in touch with IFHOHYP.

(4) Statutory activities

IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting 2017, October 26th to 29th 2017, Helsinki., Finland.

Kuuloliitto r.y. and Svenska Hörsselförbundet r.f. hosted the “Share Your Experiences” and IFHOHYP AGM. Programme included introduction and presentation of Finnish deaf and hard

IFHOHYP Annual Report
October 2017 – September 2018

of hearing community, #Hear2Stay workshop, forum discussion on topics of social communication, technology use, and self-advocacy, etc. Social activities include Amazing Race throughout Helsinki and trip to Noux National Park.

We would like to acknowledge the support from the core planning committee for the provision of venue and captioning services.

IFHOHYP Board Meetings

Most of the board meetings are – due to financial cost and human resources – arranged as chat-meetings on Skype. Through these meetings the board ensured stable operations of the organization including, but are not limited to: finalizing transfer of banks, reviewing the Constitution and finances, delegating tasks to committees, preparing for study session, summer camp, representations at various forums and AGM of IFHOHYP. In between meetings the board communicated regularly via emails and Facebook chats. A total of 10 meetings took place between October 2017 and September 2018.

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. November 12 th 2017 | 6. April 15 th 2018 |
| 2. December 10 th 2017 | 7. May 20 th 2018 |
| 3. January 14 th 2018 | 8. June 10 th 2017 |
| 4. February 11 th 2018 | 9. July 8 th 2018 |
| 5. March 11 th 2018 | 10. September 2 nd 2018 |

(5) Organizational and financial work

In 2018, the IFHOHYP board has begun standardizing the activities it is known for offering: Study Sessions in cooperation with the Council of Europe, Summer Camp, and the Annual General Meeting. The organization’s recent history has had periods of high and low activity. The primary operational objective for 2018 has been to provide a regular schedule of activities that occur annually, where more hard of hearing youth from non-European countries would have the opportunity to join along. The board has thus spent much of the past year trying to develop sustainable levels of activity and funding.

The organization’s main source of income is derived from membership fees. The board wants to diversify its incoming cash flow in order to be better able to offer more activities and more high profile representation in the global disability movement. Further, it hopes to engage more organizations from less developed countries in its work. Suggestions to re-evaluate the cost of membership for organizations as classified by their countries’ level of economic development, measured through data on gross national income per capita compiled by the World Bank, and broadening membership applications to individuals have been discussed.

In regards to activities, the Federation’s Study Session Committee has secured a Study Session in Spring 2019 to be held in Strasbourg, France. In October, the board will apply for a project grant from the Council of Europe. The long-term goal is to apply for more grants that can help IFHOHYP build up its administration. This would lead to a better ability for the Federation to aid in capacity-building and bridge-building for its member organizations and hard of hearing young people in less economically developed countries.

IFHOHYP Annual Report
October 2017 – September 2018

The Federation's current challenge is finding a bank in which foreign nationals would be able to more easily make deposits and withdrawals. Banking regulations in the board members' countries of residence generally do not grant non-nationals the right to make deposits and withdrawals. Digital solutions have been explored, but to no end. Another option that is currently being explored is the ability to open an international account in Switzerland, a country that is represented in the board and is known for being a center of international banking. If this option is to succeed, the board would be better able to more regularly make payments required for holding activities and assisting lower income countries.

Bowen Tang, Vice President, has been working in partnership with Ruth Warick, IFHOH President, to draft a proposal to hire two people that will serve as an administrative officer and fund development officer for both organizations

ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organizations 2018

As of September 2018, IFHOHYP has 17 member organizations

Academy of Sports and Education for Deaf of Tunisia	Tunisia
Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association (BDHOH)	Bangladesh
Bundesjugend im DSB e.V. (BJ)	Germany
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)	Canada
Česká Unie Neslyšících (CUN)	Czech Republic
FADCY	Russia
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: Victor Rehn, Finland (elected 2016, end-of-term)

Vice-President: Bowen Tang, Canada (elected 2016, end-of-term)

Secretary: Jenna Juntilla, Finland (elected 2017, until 2019)

Treasurer: Hanna Mullis, Sweden (elected 2017, until 2019)

Board Member: Manuel Rohrbach, Switzerland (elected 2017, until 2019)

Board Member: Karina Øbro, Denmark (elected 2017, until 2019)

Vice Board Member: Glenn Storsletten (elected 2017, until 2019)

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