



IfhohypNews **Autumn 2004**

The International Hard Of
Hearing Youth People
Newsmagazine



AGM 2004 Minutes

From St. Petersburg, Russia

IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting 2004 was held on 11th of April 2004 in the specialised boarding school for hard of hearing #20 in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Fund of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth made the arrangement of the meeting.

§ 1. Opening and presentation of the meeting participants – Who is the delegate and who is the observer.

IFHOHYP's President Vanessa Migliosi opened the meeting at 16 o'clock. Here is the list of participants below:

Bonaventura	Spain	Delegate	Secretary	Maria Lopez Garcia
SHJO	Netherlands	Delegate		Christi Menheere
SHJO	Netherlands	Observer		Gerard Van Maurik
A.Fa.M.U.T	Italy	Delegate	IFHOHYP President	Vanessa Migliosi
FF HOH	Finland	Delegate		Noora Penttinen
FF HOH	Finland	Observer		Elina Ratasvuori
	England	Observer		Vanessa Cole
FADCY	Russia	Observer	IFHOHYP Vice-president	Karina Chupina
FADCY	Russia	Delegate		Nadezhda Gorynina
FADCY	Russia	Observer		Katya Tkachik
FADCY	Russia	Observer		Katya Granova
FADCY	Russia	Observer		Max Olnev
FADCY	Russia	Observer		Denis Olnev
FADCY	Russia	Observer		Pyotr Romanovsky
FADCY	Russia	Observer		Evelina Sukhovskaya
FADCY	Russia	Observer		Katya Frolova

§ 2. Election of meeting Chairman, Secretary and counters of votes

Karina Chupina suggested Vanessa Migliosi to be the Chairman of AGM 2003. The suggestion was approved and no other candidates were mentioned.

Vanessa Migliosi asked to everybody who wanted to be Secretary of the meeting. Maria López proposed herself to be the Secretary of the meeting and it has been approved and no other candidates were mentioned.

Vanessa Cole from England and Elina Ratasvuori from Finland were appointed as votes' counters.

§ 3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved and taken as read

§ 4. Approval of meeting minute of the Annual General Meeting 2003

The minutes were approved and taken as read.

§ 5. Annual Report of 2003

Vanessa Migliosi presented the Annual Report 2003. (Appendix 1. The Annual Report 2003): Vanessa Migliosi was glad because there were many activities even if there wasn't a lot of money; people have been more active.

§ 6. Financial Issues

6.1. Financial Report of 2003

Vanessa Migliosi presented the papers prepared by Ervinas and AGM participants read them, but they were not satisfied about the content of the papers and wanted to ask questions to Ervinas Klimavicius, treasurer of IFHOHYP, but he was not present at the AGM. So it was not possible to approve the 2003 Financial Report. There were four votes for postponing the Financial report for the next AGM and one vote absent. The reason that it wasn't approved, was that there were some doubts about money and nobody was able to explain.

IFHOHYP FINANCIAL REPORT (Euro currency

Profit and loss account 1-1-2003 31-12-2003

Incomes

Membership fees	1810,00
Grant transferred to income	9528,81
Other Incomes	9,80
TOTAL INCOMES	11348,61

Expenses

Visit expenses	10423,98
Publication expenses	75,18
Event expenses	442,28
Communication expenses	197,22
Bank commissions	320,42
Office supplies	42,09
Translation expenses	8,43
Membership expenses	0
Other expenses	411,89
TOTAL EXPENSES	11921,49

PROFIT - 572,88

IFHOHYP FINANCIAL REPORT (Euro currency)

Balance sheet 31-12-2003

Asset

Merita Bank	0,00
Vilniaus Bank	2717,30
Banca di Roma	195,89
TOTAL ASSET	2913,19

Capital

Liabilites		
	Debt to Board Members	1064,70
	Debt to SS team	618,70
	Other debts	141,68
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	1825,08
Own Capital		
	Own funds	126,12
	Received grants	1534,37
	Profit/Loss	-572,88
	TOTAL OWN CAPITAL	1088,21
TOTAL CAPITAL		2913,19

6.2. Budget for the Year of 2004

There was no Budget for the Year 2004 prepared for the AGM, so Noora Pettinen proposed to make an estimation and send it to the treasurer. Ervinas Klimavicius will finish it.

TOTAL BUDGET

IFHOHYP leaflets (for Congress in Helsinki)		230
Meetings:		
Joint IFHOH,EFHOH and IFHOHYP Board meeting in Hamburg 4 people 3000		
AGM expenses		1380
Publications:		
Newsletter		50
Server costs	(120€ / 3months)	480
Domain registration webpage		90
Other costs:		
EDF Fee		150
YEN Fee		100
TOTAL		5480 €

AGM EXPENSES

Accommodation 7 X 10		70
Visas 100 X 7		700
Meals 7 X 4 X 15		420
Internet		50
Mobile, sms		40
Transportation		50
invitations		50
TOTAL		1380 €

6.3. Membership fee

The membership fees committee explained the proposals. (Appendix 2. Membership fee)
The amount will be 200€. The 3rd category will pay the 20.22% independent if the organization is local or national.

About the new members: 1st year they will pay the 50% of the amount and the 2nd year 100%.

It was approved by unanimity.

§ 7. Election of the Members of the Board

7.1. President

AGM chose Karina Chupina to be the President of IFHOHYP for the next two years. No one else was suggested. Following the new Constitution delegates have had to make a written vote on a paper. The total number of votes must be five. The votes were counted and the only candidate has got five votes.

7.2. Vice-president

AGM chose María López to be the Vice-president of IFHOHYP for the next two years. There were two candidates: María López and Noora Pettinen, each one explained their experience in international activities. The votes were counted and María López got three votes and Noora Pettinen two votes.

7.3. Auditor

Nobody in the AGM was suggested. Greet Penneman suggested herself to continue as auditor. She became elected by unanimity.

§ 8. Programme for IFHOHYP 2003-2008

8.1. Summer Camps are planned to be in:

2004 Denmark
2005 Czech Republic
2006 Spain
2007 Finland
2008 Russia and Lithuania

Finland promised to organize 2007 Summer Camp. And Russia will try to organize summercamp in 2008

8.2. Conferences, Courses, etc.

Study Session

Next Study Session was announced and Karina Chupina who is the Study Session committee said that she is going to write an application form. The study session is going to be held in European Youth Centre in Strasbourg or Budapest in the second part of the year 2005. Karina Chupina asked if someone wanted to be member of the committee.

For *IFHOH Congress 2004* in Finland, which will be held 4-9 of July, a Committee was created at AGM 2002 and is continuing to work on it and to do fundraising. The theme of the conference is accessible communication.

8.3. Annual General Meetings

The next AGMs will be held in:

2005 Sweden
2006 Denmark
2007 Italy/ Czech Republic
2008 Belgium and Holland
2009 England

In 2005 Sweden is supposed to organize the AGM, Karina Chupina will ask them for being sure. If Sweden will not be able to organize it, AGM will be in Finland.

In 2007 Italy probably will not organize AGM; someone from IFHOHYP board will ask Czech Republic to organize it.

8.4. Working Groups

Some committees were already established at last AGM and they are still working, although the committee members may change and replaced by other people. Other new committees were established.

A. New Study Session Committee:

Karina Chupina – Co-ordinator (Russia)
María López (Spain)
Noora Penttinen (Finland)
Yana Domuschieva (Bulgaria)

B. IFHOH Congress 2004 Committee:

Ervinas Klimavicius – Co-ordinator (Lithuania)
Vanessa Migliosi (Italy)
Dolores Bermejo Martinez (Spain)
Karina Chupina (Russia)
Heidi Koyste (Finland)
Noora Penttinen (Finland)
Gudrun Skaven Petterson (Sweden)

This committee was changed in:

Vanessa Migliosi (Italy)
Dolores Bermejo Martinez (Spain)
Noora Penttinen (Finland)
Reija Martikainen (Finland)

C. The website Committee:

Christi Menheere – Co-ordinator (Holland)
Greet Penneman (Belgium)
Gerard Van Maurik (Holland)

D. Newsletter Committee

Andrea Pietrini –Coordinator (Italy)
Maria Pantaleeva (Bulgaria)
Bo Jacob Selin (Sweden)
Jurgen Pelgrims (Belgium)
Giulia Cicchetti (Italy)

This committee was changed in:
Andrea Pietrini –Coordinator (Italy)
Maria Pantaleeva (Bulgaria)
Vanessa Migliosi (Italy)

E. Convention of Adhesion Committee

Noora Penttinen (Finland)
Bo Jacob Selin (Sweden)
Marina Andjelkovic (Denmark)

This committee was changed in:
Noora Penttinen (Finland)
Bo Jacob Selin (Sweden)
Jennie Westh (Denmark)

F. Conference and/or seminars participation Committee

Maria Pantaleeva and Noora Penttinen and Vanessa Migliosi expressed their wish and availability to participate conferences and/or seminars as IFHOHYP delegates in case nobody from the Board can attend them.

G. English course Committee

Jennie Marie Westh (Denmark)
María López (Spain)

Now we have completely new committees, established at this AGM.

H. Projects and Fundraising Committee

Noora Penttinen- Coordinator (Finland)
Karina Chupina (Russia)
Christie Menheere (Holland)
María López (Spain)

We decided to make a list of benefits that members of IFHOHYP have.

I. Summercamp Committee

Christie Menheere (Holland)
Greet Penneman (Belgium)
Somebody from Sweden

The main objective of this committee is to help to the organizations that will organize a summercamp in the future: how to organize the activities, how to get sponsors and so on. The AGM decided by unanimity that summer camp participants who are not member of IFHOHYP will pay a little more, it could be a way to collect money for IFHOHYP.

These Committees have to present the reports on their work to IFHOHYP Board at least one month before the AGM and at the AGM their work will be presented and all necessary decision will be taken.

§ 9. Any other business

9.1. Next Training Course information

Vanessa Migliosi and Karina Chupina are in charge of spreading out information about the training courses organized by the Council of Europe in European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest (you can find out more at www.coe.int/youth). Hard of hearing young people in Europe (in some cases outside of Europe) can apply through their local or national organization.

Hard of hearing young people who are members of IFHOHYP, can also apply to any of these courses through IFHOHYP and in this case they are supported by IFHOHYP. Vanessa informed that upon request of Karina Chupina 2 loop systems were now installed in the European Youth Centre of the Directorate of Youth and Sport, Council of Europe, in Budapest. Vanessa spread information about the Foreign language courses organized by Council of Youth Europe in summer time. She explained about her experience in participating to the English course held in Ireland last summer, she got a loop system from the Deaf Irish Association and her impression was positive.

9.2. GenDeaf project information

Vanessa Migliosi explained a little about GenDeaf project. IFHOHYP is involved in GENetic DEAFness (GENDEAF) project as a partner to produce a Bulletin of the European network on GENetic DEAFness. The aim of the network is to bring patients, families and their associations closer to research in this field as well as researchers closer to patients' need for information. Its main purpose is to inform patient organisations, patients, their relatives and friends about this new European initiative to raise awareness of the causes of inherited deafness. There are three bulletin issues per year (2003 and 2004). Vanessa suggested to check www.gendeaf.org website regularly to get up-to-date information about this project and the developments of research on genetics of hearing loss.

9.3. Membership of EDF

IFHOHYP becomes a member of EDF in 2002. In 2003 IFHOHYP was not able to pay the membership fee, this year, in 2004, IFHOHYP will try to pay the membership fee.

§ 10. Closing of the Annual General Meeting

Vanessa Migliosi closed the AGM 2004 at 20.40h and she thanked a lot Fund of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth organization for their work in hosting the meeting and gave them a present.

IFHOH 2004

Helsinki, Finland 4-9 July 2004

By Andrea Pietrini

Okay, this should be a tribute to the congress...In fact IFHOH2004 has been one of the best congress ever, thanks to our Finnish-friends' incredible organizing attitude. You can read lots about the congress on the web; here I simply would want remember some of the best lectures and speakings we have had at the congress...and obviously , if it sounds interesting, you can read it on: http://www.kuulonhuoltoliitto.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=172

Ms Eija Isaksson, Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing

-A Greeting by the President of the Republic of Finland

-Expectations and Experiences of New Hearing Aid Users

Ms Susanne Bisgaard, Frankfurt University

-Imaging of Inner Ear

Doc Börje Bjelke, Karolinska Institutet

-Hoorwijzer - What Is the Best Hearing Aid for Me?

Mr Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH and Mr Kees Twilt, Dutch Society of Hard of Hearing NVVS

-Late Deafened People

Mr Geoff Brown, the Late Deafened Commission, IFHOH

-The Future of HoH People and IFHOH

Ms Marcia B. Dugan, IFHOH

-Achieving Goals with a Hearing Handicap - World Flight for Hearing

Mr Johan Hammarström

-Subtitling – a Human Right

PhD Mark Hoda, Royal National Institute for Deaf People RNID

-KUPU – Hearing Related E-mail Chat Forum

Ms Eija Isaksson, Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing

-Attachment and Individuation of Hard of Hearing and Hearing Young Adults

Mr Ahiya Kamara, Bekol - Organization of Hard of Hearing and Deafened People in Israel

-A Vision of International Civic Society Organization

Mr Seppo Matinvesi, IFHOH 7th World Congress

-GenDeaf Project and Latest Discoveries of Genetic Hearing Loss

Ms Vanessa Migliosi, IFHOHYP

-When Will We All Hear?

Prof Ilmari Pyykkö, University of Tampere

-For the Realization of Comfortable Medical Treatments for Hard of Hearing and Late-deafened People in Japan

Dr Kazuhiko Seya, All Japan Association of Hard of Hearing People AJAHOH

-The 15th Most Serious Health Problem

Dr Andrew Smith, WHO Activities for Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Impairment

-HoH People around the World

Dr Andrew Smith, WHO Activities for Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Impairment

-A Comparison between Some Hearing Aid Fitting Procedures

Prof Karl Spens, Royal Institute of Technology KTH

-SYNFACE – a Talking Head Telephone for the Hearing-Impaired

Prof Karl Spens, Royal Institute of Technology KTH

-Industrial Hearing Loss

Prof Jukka Starck, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health FIOH

-Tinnitus Clinic – How to Organize

Prof Dafydd Stephens, University of Wales College of Medicine

-Developing HoH Organization: Case Study HRF

Mr Jan-Peter Strömngren, Swedish Federation of Hard of Hearing People HRF

-Communication – a Problem for Physicians Presentation »

Dr Vappu Taipale, National R&D Centre for Welfare and Health STAKES

-The Subject of the Diffusion of Closed-caption Broadcasting in Japan

Mr Tadashi Takaoka, All Japan Association of Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened People AJAHP

-Young Ears and Noise Pollution

Doc Esko Toppila, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health FIOH

-The Special Problems and Needs of the Rare Hearing Disability Groups

Ms Päivi Vataja, Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing

-Politics for Hard of Hearing in a Human Rights Perspective

Ms Lillian Vicanek, The Norwegian Association for Hard of hearing HLF

-Voice Recognition: From Visions to Real-World Applications

Dr Olli Viikki, Nokia Technology Platforms

-What Holds Me Back - Project 2002-2003 - Focusing on Positions of Hard of Hearing Students

Mr Sami Virtanen, Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing

-Like and Not Like Others: Hard of Hearing Students

Dr Ruth Patricia Warick, Canadian Hard Of Hearing Association

A greeting from Israel:

" Kol hakavod !

which means - good for you in hebrew.

The youth forum team made a great job and took care
of everythings.

thank you very much. We are appreciated of that. “

Yuval Roger and Ahiya Kamara from Israel.

Report on the Working Unit on DISABILITY organized in the “Europe, Youth and Globalisation” Event context.

By Vanessa Migliosi

The Working Unit on Disability, which in the beginning - within the preparations - was lobbied to be introduced in the Event (by Vanessa Migliosi, Advisory Council on Youth member and EDF Youth Committee member, together with Valerie Asselbergs from European Disability Forum and Karina Chupina, President of the International Federation of Hard Of Hearing Young People - co-facilitator of other Working Unit in the Event), seems that finally was one of the crowded and successful working units of the Event!

CONTEXT

The Working Unit on Disability was part of the Cluster Group 2: Human Rights and Global Responsibilities, in the Event Europe, Youth and Globalisation "How big is your world?" and it was co-facilitated by Vanessa Migliosi / Italy & Eugen Gherga / Romania, in 7 - 8 May 2004, at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. The palantype system was provided and the cued speech language was used to communicate to the French cochlear implant user participant.

OBJECTIVES

There were four main objectives of the Working Unit on Disability:

- visibility of young people with disability
- raising awareness among the people
- inclusion of disabled youth in minority groups work
- empowerment of young people with disabilities

To these should add the final goal of the Working Unit, which was to find a meaningful and provocative sentence reflecting the discussions, to be presented in the Cluster Group.

DISCUSSION

What really started the debates in the Working Unit were the slides of European Disability Forum projected by two power point presentations within the so-called moment of "touchy stories"; one was about 2003 - the European Year of People with Disabilities, with the expression of the rights of the disabled people, the other one was about European Disability Forum itself, with real / true stories which happened to disabled people throughout the world.

The Topics discussed were (alphabetically):

- *Barriers* - They are very different, physical barriers which impede wheelchair users for public transportation service, lacking of ramps, communication barriers which impede hearing impaired people to get information because of lacking of written / displayed information and subtitles and so on. But the highest barriers are created by the mind of people who are not used to deal with disabled people or don't accept disability.
- *Education* - It was raised the issue of the education of the teachers who have never been trained on how to work with disabled people and don't know how to approach to them. The real enemy and the root of the problem, concerning people with disabilities or impairments, is the lack of knowledge. So education is needed: education of educators; partnership is education.
- *Non-governmental organisations* - It is needed a more active role of the non-governmental organisations in lobbying with governments and society, in general in order to improve and change the situation.

There has been an exchange of views about the differences on:

- *Inclusion - Integration* = The difference between inclusion and integration is that a person may be integrated in the society and the society may include a person. Inclusion is mostly emotionally & social and integration is mostly physical.
- *Impairment - Disability* = The difference between impairment and disability is that (for example) if someone wear glasses - in order to better see - means an impairment, not a disability. Disability is created by the society, because there are barriers which make people disabled; a perfect society - without barriers - wouldn't have disabled people.
- *Positive Discrimination* - Negative Discrimination = Like the known glass story - half full, half empty - if consider / compare any half as any kind of discrimination, finally also discrimination is!

OUTCOMES

Statement

Starting from the hot issues which arouse in the Working Unit, initially four statements ideas were formulated:

- human rights are worthless without inclusion and responsibilities and partnership
- human rights interact only by inclusion
- the tools of inclusion and partnership allow us to use human rights and responsibilities
- who has the right to label people?

The final statement, on which the Working Unit on Disability agreed to be introduced in the Cluster Group, was: "**Human rights are worthless without inclusion, responsibility and partnership**".

Advisory Council on Youth member and EDF Youth Committee member

You can find more material and information on www.coe.int/eyg website.

YOUTH AND GLOBALIZATION EVENT, Council of Europe

Ideas and possible contributions to the Event from perspective of disabled youth

By Valérie Asselberghs, European Disability Forum

With contributions from Vanessa Migliosi, IFHOHYP, Advisory Youth Council member and Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP

-In today's globalizing world of unrest, ethnic conflicts and terrorism attacks none of us is insured against disability –

Karina Chupina, from COYOTE article

Context

In order to make some valuable comments and give some ideas for contributions, I think we should work along those discussions on minority groups which have already taken place within the Council of Europe relating to the participation of minority groups. We still have lots of challenges ahead in view of equal participation for all and thus it would be more productive to complement on the work which started already.

Therefore I would like to refer to two key documents as basic documents for pursuing discussions within the globalization event :

- European Charter for Participation of Minority Groups at local and regional level
- Council of Europe, Directorate of Youth and Sport, Report of the Consultative meeting on a Recommendation on the promotion of the participation of minority youth in Europe

We suggest that disability issues could be raised explicitly in Cluster group "Issues of Rights and Responsibilities" within a working unit such as Social Exclusion/Inclusion.

Main priority issue

The overarching issue we should address in the globalization context is undoubtedly the equal participation and recognition of young people with disabilities in all mainstream decision making bodies, civil society groups, and other structures addressing youth mainstream issues in general which affects also the lives of young people with disabilities.

I would like to highlight the intervention of **Karina Chupina** (from IFHOHYP as European Human Bridges integrated network representative) at the Consultative meeting on the Recommendation as mentioned above:

The main focus we should have is "increasing quality of life for people with disabilities, raising awareness of disability issues and promoting equal participation". Bearing in mind that "Disabled people are sometimes called the major world's minority, yet there is a lack of provisions concerning minority youth that would bring disability into the mainstream. Existing representational structures for young people are inadequate since there are no disability platforms at national or local level. Disabled people often lack self-confidence and have low self-esteem, which also contributes to a lack of motivation to organise themselves. Disabled young people often lack access to education and training, either due to their social situation or to insufficient specialised education programmes. This adds to many barriers, of which the most basic is the attitudinal barrier: too many people still see the disability, not the person. The media also play a role in stereotyping disabled people, including stigmatising and scapegoating them: disabled people are depicted as either poor and pitiful or "heroes who dare to live".

In European youth policy, this is manifested by barriers to participation in European youth structures, both physical and informational, and difficulties in meeting criteria and requirements for membership (e.g. in the European Youth Forum). Much of the European training provided so far has focused on ethnic minorities, with the result that disability organisations have had to take upon themselves the responsibility of organising and funding mixed-ability training."

Objectives :

- Visibility of young people with disabilities
- Full participation of young people with disabilities and their organisations at all levels

Ideas for contribution

- Empowerment of youth disability organisations, creation of organisations et platform organisations
- Access of disability youth organisations to mainstream youth structures at all levels
- Education and training of mainstream youth organisation on the barriers encountered by young disabled people willing to take part in these processes
- Education and training of disability youth leaders and disabled youth in general on issues at stake at international, European and all levels
- To ensure young disabled people are consulted and more involved in the decisions that concerns them, and in general, the life of their communities
- To consider the rights and needs of young disabled people when including the youth dimension in other policies.
- Equal voice for young disabled people and other minority groups to influence the political agenda
- In each of the fields addressed by the globalization process, creation of an inclusion working group (representing all minority groups) to address the specific needs of these groups. Also reports, studies or any publication should systematically contain a chapter on minority groups including young people with disabilities (e.g. to provide specific information on the situation of young disabled people)
- To develop measures on how to motivate minority youth and youth with disabilities to participate in society
- Creation of measures to evaluate the progresses on the participation of disabled people and other minority groups
- Awareness of disability community as part of minority communities; when speaking of minority issues, disability should be involved as well.
- **To reinforce Council of Europe human-rights based approach to disability and minority issues**
- Importance of participation and volunteerism in formation of political identities of disabled and minority youth

Cluster 6: Education and Employment

WU: Information and Communication Technologies (ICT): the digital gap and opportunities

Facilitated by Karina Chupina and Miriam Lexmann

Introduction:

Young people are especially vulnerable to allocation of information resources and access to needed information, which affects possibilities of education and employment in today's knowledge-based information society. The evolution and development of the media and new Information and Communication Technologies provide excellent platforms to access information and education. Many young people welcome these advances and seize upon the opportunities that they offer. It is known that efficient participation goes hand in hand with access to information. However, new technologies can present risks such as the monopolisation and abuse of the media, the furtherance of the gap between the ones with access to Information and Communication Technologies and the ones without, and the overload of information. The potential for, and dangers of information and communication technologies require a co-ordinated and balanced approach from actors, including the governments, legislators, educators, providers and users, in order to secure uncensored, independent and diverse media and promote wide access.

Key objectives:

- To provide participants with the opportunity to explore the threats and potentialities of the Information and Communication Technologies;
- To enrich participants' knowledge on existing policies in ICT field; provide participants' with examples of good practices of ICT application in education
- To develop participants' critical approach to the media technologies and their impact on youth work, education and employment in a globalising world; see ICT as an educational tool in participants' youth work
- To identify strategies of using and applying ICT within the educational processes, specifically defined for formal and non-formal education as an important tool in raising skills needed for employability as well as for making young people more active within the society
- To stimulate and support the integration of discussion outcomes into the future actions and plans of working unit participants who come from both non-governmental and governmental sectors

In the beginning, while the participants were getting to know each other, they also had to answer the question for themselves: "What is ICT for me?" and share with the group.

Expectations of the participants towards the working unit:

- To be concrete
- To know how to use information for better functioning of NGOs
- To discuss the ways how to increase the access to ICT
- Support for e-governance
- Mutual understanding
- Come up with ideas for further use and CoE policy
- ICT and their role in education and employment – concrete examples

Participants did not want to happen:

- Too much generalisation during the WU
- Lectures without dialogue

An adapted version of the “Take a Step Forward” exercise to the ICT concepts was played, with objectives to:

- Give the participants an opportunity to explore and think of the complexity of different ICT aspects, such as digital divide
- Give an impetus to understand the reasons for controversial approaches to ICT and roles ICT play in social sphere (discrimination, social gap, cultural gap)
- Give the participants an opportunity to share view points and approaches towards ICT
- Create a good start for further in-depth discussion

Different roles were given to participants. Amongst general statements that were aimed at experiencing diversity and inequality, there were statements directly related to ICT, education and employment, access to and right to information, such as:

- You have a decent housing with a phone line and television
- You can easily learn about people in the situation similar to yours, from Internet or television
- You can enjoy learning about other cultures and countries
- You can enjoy learning about other cultures and countries without leaving home
- You have all necessary skills and competencies in ICT to get a good job
- You have a computer class in your school or university/ - You can benefit from distance learning
- If you want to get information in other language than your native one, you look for it in Internet
- You have free access to official documents concerning your lives
- You can use all advantages of Internet
- ICT are extremely important in shaping your future and other

The exercise made participants look at ICT from a different and somewhat unusual perspective (some of the roles such as Roma young girl who never completed her school education, supposedly denied access to ICT, competence in using ICT, right to information and expression etc.), and some of the themes touched after the debriefing of the exercise, were:

- Reflection on the ways new information technologies can contribute to social transformation, social inclusion, or exclusion, social dialogue, responsibility, identity formation, voluntary initiatives, youth work and human rights, as well as other social impacts of ICT as:
 - ICT are not for everyone – they create social gap and exclusion of those who have no access to ICT - disadvantaged groups, isolated populations and other
 - On the other hand, ICT play an inclusive role for those who have/are given access, especially for minorities and people with disabilities, who can use ICT for more intensive communication, psychological support (e.g. counselling via specialised Internet-sites), strengthening communities (online communities included) and integration
 - Impact of ICT on safety and health was also discussed
 - Other social impacts of ICT have been mentioned among which many were controversial, as this was found as one of the very interesting characteristics of ICT – controversy of their impact upon people’s lives, which can be very positive, but on the other hand - very negative too.

Some of the conclusions from brainstorming ICT:

- provide global reach
- build contact among people
- promote participation
- cost non-participation and social isolation
- provide free information
- provide far distance interactive dialogue
- create distance among people
- might cost psychological problems
- might cost unsocial behaviour
- might have negative impact on private life
- Identification of strategies of usage of ICT within the educational processes, specifically defined for formal and non-formal education as an important tool in raising skills needed for employability as well as for making young people more active within the society

Among others these aspects of ICT used in education were identified:

ICT:

- Help and Support Teachers and Trainers etc, in providing better communication, exchange of information, experience and materials
- Are Source of Real Material in Real Language for Language Learning
- Updated resources, free materials and resources
- Support logical thinking
- Provide interactive approach
- Give possibility of creation of educational networks
- might be source of wrong or incorrect information
- a healthy balance between usage of ICT and other pedagogical methods in education and training has to be kept

Also the final sentence discussed in our WU was dedicated to the impact and usage of ICT within education:

ICT should not only be used in Education but...FOR Education!

- Examples of good practices of ICT's application in social sphere/youth work NGO work, development of the NGO sector were also discussed. Mainly these aspects have been mentioned in this regards:
 - Development
 - Exchanging Experience
 - Network Communication and Cooperation
 - Access to Resources and Information (funds)
 - Providing Counselling
 - Influencing Policies
 - Opportunities of Participation in Decision Making

Such examples of good practices of ICT in use were shown and told about, as: Youth for Human Rights Network Initiative (www.youthhumanrights.net) that started with an online debate for on issues of Political participation, Education, Environment, Minorities, Media, Peace and Violence, and other, and concluded with a face-to-face conference 1,5 years later, result of which was the creation of Youth for Human Rights Plan of Action which describes how the youth can help promote democracy and human rights in Europe. Another example was the CD-ROM with the module of online interactive training course on Conflict Transformation, that had to be shown after the end of the working unit as the unit time was limited (training was developed by network of universities and outside experts that offer innovative academic and other courses via the internet – www.netuni.nl).

Some of the main ideas to be implemented in the Council of Europe policies were mentioned:

- To support the access to ICT for young people during their educational process
- To support possibilities for young people to learn how to use ICT for becoming more active in the society as well as increase their employability
- To ensure policies in the member states which guarantee ICT without censorship and access for reasonable price for everyone
- To make steps forward to make the idea of e-governance realistic in Europe

It was felt that the time was not enough to fully cover all aspects of ICT relevant to education, employment and youth work - and to go deeper in the identified issues. But on the other hand, it was surprising to see how many different concepts, new and controversial issues were raised and questioned within the given time. Participants were happy to have the workshop ran in an interactive and dynamic way which responded to their expectations. Participants were later sent the links prepared by both facilitators, to various EU and CoE policies on ICT and relevant sites such as Series on Policy Awareness and Training in Information Technology, The World Bank Group, Global Information and Communication Technology (GICT), Digital Opportunity Initiative and others.

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**Have a look at:
www.ifhohyp.org**

IMPORTANT Announcement!

Next year Summercamp will be held in...

CZECH REPUBLIC

In August