



# IfhohypNews

## December 2004

The International Federation  
Hard of Hearing Youth People  
NewsMagazine

## Education of HOH People in ..



# SPAIN



*( Relation by Spanish delegates Maria Dolores Bermejo Martinez and Clara Hernandez Lopez in Kaunas, Lithuania, April 2004. This article has been originally prepared by association BONAVENTURA C-V, Valencia, Spain )*

In Spain, the educational options existing for deaf children are the following:

- 1 Special educational schools
- 2 Integration schools preferably that of audit deficiency.
- 2 Ordinary schools with special support classes.

The majority of these children are enrolled within the first two options although the actual goal is to obtain complete integration of hearing-impaired children, and for this, from their earliest years, the school is a good way and a important element of integration.

Within these schools there also exists two educational options: the oral option, whose fundamental objective is the development of the oral language and which is used by the majority of the society using as a support some enhancing communication systems: as for example, the cued speech or the Bimodal way (Spanish language + sign language) and on the other hand the bilingual option, where the children learn the “sense” of sign language, oral language and/or written language.

In these first stages of education the main difficulty we faced with is the existence of a vast variety of resources in the different Spanish communities and provinces. This means that not all provinces will have the same resources to help a deaf child, and depending on where this child lives, the family will have better opportunities to choose from and have more educational options on how to better the way of life of their deaf child.

Likewise in the majority of cases the support from speech therapists and schools is insufficient, for the hours offered and also for the information and specialization of the teachers that work with these children.

The support in the secondary schools and at higher levels is also insufficient, although in these past years they are beginning to reconsider the figure of an interpreter of the LSE in classes together with the support of speech therapists or special educational teachers that have existed since a number of years.

But this option is not correct for all deaf children, and more technological help such as FM (Frequency Modulation) or magnetic loops and even subtitling are needed.

However, in these last years the majority of students with audit difficulties reach a good level of oral communication and a growing percentage (although the figure is small) get through to University level.

In the majority of Universities in Spain a reservation of places exists for incapacitated people who wish to enter into the university. Also, many universities offer a center of advice for people with some kind of handicap where a series of help or support is offered: Such as, self copy books, FM radio stations, sign language interpreters, support classes,.....but as mentioned before, the percentage of students with an audio handicap who actually make it into the university is only 5%.

The economic loans that are granted for hearing aids and other aids, depends on the community in which it corresponds to as nowadays there is a great variety and each community has its own rivalry.

Talking in general in Spain, hearing aid is a compulsory benefit until the age of 16. The amount given is more or less 745€ per hearing aid, being able to renew every 4 years. But from this age on, there are only some autonomous regions which keep the benefit, like Valencia gives 900€, and deaf people need them all their lives.

Where as Implant Coclear, is free and subsidize by the social security in Spain. Other technical benefits, like the F.M. equipments, house adaptations, vibrators, light warnings etc....are very poor. Every autonomous region create a yearly subsidy to cover the expenses of these things but the money is not enough ant not everybody can benefit from the help.

There is also a support with the work integration. The 3% of the jobs in a company with more than 50 people are reserved to them.

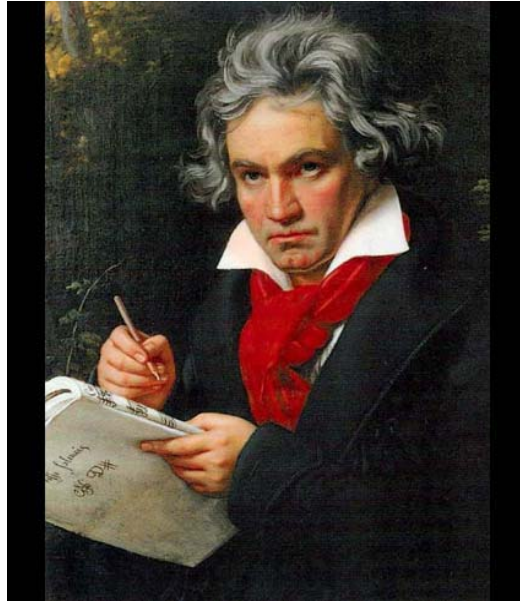
But this is not enough because there is no control on that, so some companies don't observe this 3%. Besides, every company which give a job to a deaf person will get a help of 3.000€.

Finally, just to say that there is a huge confrontation between the adult deaf asociation and parents and families of children with hearing deficit. The first one supports the sign language as a natural language and a bilingual education (oral and sign language) in special organization, and the second one supports a specific communication for every person (total communication) which make the integration easier, to select the way of education, investigate the personal resources (health, educational and social) and material which allow the personal development and the social integration.

However, the legislation, education and technology development make that the last associations support an oral communication, education in ordinary school and the abolition of barriers which don't allow deaf people to integrate in the society.

**Hard of Hearing People  
in History:**

# **Ludwig van Beethoven**



The most surprising fact about Ludwig van Beethoven is... his deafness. How can a composer miss what we would imagine to be his most important sense?

The first people he confided in were those who were far from him, but in whom he had absolute confidence, his friends living in Bonn.

When he could no longer hide his deafness, Beethoven used notebooks in which visitors could write what they wanted him to know, or ask what they wanted to know.

Here are some extracts from two letters, dated 1801, in which Beethoven revealed to his friends his increasing deafness.

"... Know that my noblest faculty, my hearing, has greatly deteriorated..."

"... How sad is my lot, I must avoid all things that are dear to me.."

"... Oh how happy I should be if my hearing were completely restored, then I would hurry to you...;"

"... Of course, I am resolved to rise above every obstacle, but how will it be possible? ..."

"... For two years I have avoided almost all social gatherings because it is impossible for me to say to people "I am deaf".

We know that Beethoven's talent never diminished, despite his failing hearing. But what are the origins of this problem?

No deafness specialists existed at this time: all was waiting to be discovered. So, whilst we will never know for certain the cause of Beethoven's illness, here are some opinions:

The Doctor Wagner made the autopsy of Beethoven on March 27th 1827.

Although the original of his report has been lost, a copy was preserved.

Here is a short extract: "... The ear cartilage is of a huge dimension and an irregular form. The scaphoïde dimple, and above all the auricle, were vast and had one and a half times the usual depth..."

One hundred years later, Doctor Marage brought up Beethoven's deafness at the conference of the French Academy of Sciences in 1928. He thought that Beethoven's deafness was due to a labyrinthitis of intestinal origin, that is to say that he had a lesion of the inner ear. According to Doctor Marage, who has studied Beethoven's letters, buzzing noises and other sounds started at around 1796. Deafness broke out in 1798 and Beethoven had lost 60% of his hearing by 1801. In 1816 he was completely deaf.

Doctor Marage goes on to explain that Beethoven's whole hearing system was, in effect, hyper-sensitive and that, due to this, he was more prone to illness.

Marage's theory is therefore that of the labyrinthitis: "... When deafness begins with high sounds, and overall when they are preceded by buzzing noises, whistling noises and an exaggerated sensitivity to the screaming voice, it is due to an internal lesion, that is to say that there is a problem with the ear labyrinth and the cerebral centres, from where emerge the branches of the acoustic nerve..."

Professor Porot and Doctor Miermont bring up Beethoven's deafness in their study from 1986 "Beethoven et les Malentendus".

The authors state: "... In particular, we will never know the state of the ossicles...". Nevertheless, going by Beethoven's writings - the dates and the symptoms he describes, they make the following observations: "...This is about the beginnings of deafness in a young man, without previous inflammation of the ear, and without hearing problems in the family, a progressive devolution, without improvement despite various remedies prescribed by his doctors..."

The two authors diagnose: "... either neurolabyrinthitis, or otospongiose (or labyrinthitis)...". And, concerning the probable cause, estimate: "... the great cause of deafness at the time: syphilis...", but it's never been proved that "... Beethoven would have been hit by syphilis by the end of his adolescence...".

What is Labyrinthitis?

A particular symptom of those who have caught labyrinthitis is that of vertigo.

No document that we have, neither by Beethoven nor by his friends mentions anything about vertigo.

*"Inflammation of the labyrinth of the inner ear, which is a group of cavities and canals communicating between one another. The labyrinth or bony labyrinth is divided into three sections: the vestibule, the semi-circular canals and the cochlea.*

*The labyrinth membrane is made up of a network of little pockets containing the endolymph (natural lymphatic liquid) and the semi-circular canals (which are the organs for balance), the vestibule with the utricle and the saccule, as the cochlear canal (which is the organ of hearing). "*

*Acute labyrinthitis (neuronitis), probably caused by a rhino-pharyngeal infection. This causes a brutally intense rotatory vertigo which augments, progressively, during a period of about thirty minutes, and which is associated with vomiting and nausea, but which is not accompanied by cochlear signs, i.e. hearing difficulties. In some conditions the victim can be completely immobilised in his bed. The symptoms can last several days, but in general natural healing starts after the usage of antihistaminics and tranquillizers*

*Chronic labyrinthitis, also known as labyrinthic fistula, and probably due to the wearing down of the labyrinth by a cholesteatoma: this is due to a small epithelial tumour, usually benign; sometimes these are exceptional tumours (more frequent in horses) and result in the proliferation of the cells which line the space under the meninges (the arachnoid). Finally, there exists a third version of cholesteatoma which consists of a mass infiltration of cholesterol which spreads to the middle of the tympanum; this is not of cancerous origin.*

*Courtesy of Dominique Prevot*

*Greet Penneman from Belgium sent us this loooong diary about Ifhoh 2004, held in Finland. We publish it entirely because it's a marvelous remembering...*

## IFHOH2004 Diary

by Greet Penneman

### Saturday

At 13h15, I left my parents house to go by train to the airport of Brussels. Together with Guy Bauters, Bert Vansteelandt and Katrien Wauters, I would attend the Youth Forum at the IFHOH-congress in Helsinki. Our plane left at 17h25 and after a change-over in Kopenhagen (Denmark), we arrived safely in Helsinki-Vantaa airport at 21h00. First, we thought that we had landed one hour too early (as our tickets mentioned an arrival time at 22h00) but then we realized that Finnish time is one hour different from time in Belgium... So, time to change our watches and to get confused that it's still light at this time. Thanks to the good explanation of the Youth Forum-team how to reach Eurohostel, we found our way quite easily. After the registration at Eurohostel, we left our luggage in our rooms and we went to a cosy Czech pub named 'Poseidon'. It is a pub which is very close to Eurohostel as we didn't want to walk very far after this long travelling day. On this first day, the most remarkable things were the high prices for beers and other alcoholic drinks in the pub and the fact that the sunshine last much longer than we are used to. It made Katrien and me remembering the Summercamp in Klövsjö (Sweden – 2002) where we have had the same experiences. We both had a fantastic time at Swedish Summercamp and hoped that the following days would give us the same feeling again.

### Sunday

On sunday morning, we got up quite early after a night with only little sleep (due to the lightness...). As there were other rooms reserved for Youth Forum group, we left our luggage in the luggage room. In the elevator, we met Marc Steenhuis from the Netherlands who also had arrived on saturday. He was going to have breakfast at Eurohostel but we had planned to have breakfast in the center of Helsinki (as we didn't want the same breakfast for six days in a row). After walking around for some time, we found a coffee-bar close to the railway station where we took our breakfast with 'suisses', biscuit with chocolate, cake, coffee and hot chocolate. Delicious!! This day was the only free day we had, so we took the advantage to do some sightseeing. First, we went to the cathedral which impressed us all a lot. Very big,

very tall, very white, very high (really don't want to fall on those stairs!) and at the same time very simple too. When we came out of the cathedral, we met Marc again for the second time. After long talking, we decided to visit Helsinki together. We went to a nice market close to the port of Helsinki. As real tourists, we walked around, bought some postcards, watched some souvenirs and enjoyed the good smell of the several Finnish fish-dishes. From the market place, we could see the Orthodox Church. It's not as beautiful as the Cathedral but sometimes things are much more beautiful in the inside than from outside, so we went to this church anyway to have a look around. I didn't like the style of this church but it was nice to sit down and to relax for a while. We also went to a parc in the south of Helsinki and then we went back to Eurohostel to get into our new rooms. After unpacking our luggage, we immediately left again to go to Finlandia Hall. As we still had some time and as sun was shining, we decided to go to Finlandia Hall by walking. During our walk, I received sms from a worried Katja asking if we were on our way and that they were all waiting for us. Always nice to know that someone is missing you!! ;-)

About 10 minutes later, I finally saw Katja, Ulla, Reija and Noora again and I also met the other staff-members of Youth Forum team. After registration, we had a nice cocktail-party and met some other participants of Youth Forum. This evening was also the Euro 2004-final, so some people decided to go to a pub to watch the football game between Portugal and Greece. I didn't join them as I had promised my Bulgarian friend Mimi to wait for her at the airport of Helsinki. I met her for the first time at AGM in Valencia and in short time, we became very close friends. This Youth Forum was our 5th meeting in 15 months, so I was really happy to see her again. Together with Loli and Paco from Spain, we took the bus back to Helsinki city and further to Eurohostel by walking and tram. We spent the evening/night with talking, showing pictures of previous meetings and giving presents to each other. But we had a whole week to talk, so we went to bed on time.

Monday

Today is the first day of the IFHOH-congress. I know from my work in daily life that attending a congress for a whole day, is quite exhaustive for me. So, I decide not to go to the congress yet but to have a walk around in a different part of Helsinki first. Together with the other 3 Flemish people, I visited some church which is quite a special one as it is hided in the ground and built up with beautiful rock walls. We went further to the west and had a small break on a small sandy beach. We walked further to visit the Sibelius-monument. It's not really special but many buses full with tourists come and go. If so many tourists come especially to see this monument, the cultural heritage in Helsinki must be really poor. Having a look on the map, we see that we already have visited the most interesting places of Helsinki. As Youth Forum starts at 14 o'clock and as Finnish people want you to be strict on time, we decide to return and to go to Finlandia Hall by walking. Katrien, Guy and Bert have had lunch at Finlandia Hall. I was not hungry at all, so I went to



sit in the parc next to Finlandia Hall with a beautiful view over the lake. A man carrying a blue Nokia bag (and hence a congress-participant too), comes to sit next to me and started talking. In the beginning, I was little bit confused as I couldn't understand him however he was articulating very well. After few sentences, I finally realized that he was not speaking English but Flemish too. Strange that it is difficult to understand Flemish if your mind is trying to lip-read English... The guy was the unknown fifth Belgian IFHOH-participant and this moment was a good opportunity to get to know each other. He seemed to work at the knowledge expertise center of the Flemish Fund making a database of all kind of technical aids for disabled people. The interesting thing is that he has been hard of hearing too at his childhood. But at the age of 6, he had a successful operation so he was suddenly able to hear normal. Time was passing very fast and we had to stop our conversation to attend the congress. Youth Forum finally started for real!! Sami gave a short introduction with presentation of the organising team and the agenda of this week. After that, Bittan Martinell from Sweden gave the first lecture about how to control stress. She talked about education, learning environment, good encounters, source of errors of misunderstanding, health (both psychological as physical), emotional exhaustion, daily emotional stress and professional identity. She didn't talk only in general but gave some examples of her own experiences as deaf person. It was a very interesting speech, probably because it was so recognizable for all of us. After the dinner at restaurant Brasseries, we went to visit the Light House. I absolutely had no idea what to suspect of a house with such a strange name. When I heard this house was owned by the Finnish organisation for hard of hearing people, that it had costed more than 10 million Euro's and that it included meeting rooms, restaurant, library, theater stage, swimming pool, sauna, playground, ..., I was absolutely impressed. After the visit, we went to a karaoke bar. I still wonder why we went to this place as all of us were deaf/hoh but I had a nice evening/night anyway!

TuesdayThe other Flemish participants got up very early and caught the bus at 8 o'clock to go to Porvoo, a small Finnish city about 1,5 hour driving from Helsinki. Me, I went to walk in the center of Helsinki again, together with Mimi from Bulgaria. I had another visit in the beautiful cathedral of Helsinki. From this place, we could see two green towers and we decided to go to this place. Unfortunately, we couldn't see the towers during our walking, so we were not able to find them. :-s But the good thing is that I found a camera-shop, so I could buy a battery for my camera as I had forgotten my battery charger at home. We went back to Eurohostel to take our Nokia-bags and left soon again to continue walking, to visit some shops and to talk a lot. We were too soon in the neighborhood of Finlandia Hall, so we tried to find something else to do. Our first attempt to visit the Finnish Parliament failed as only guided visits were possible. So, we went to the National Museum of History and had a quick look around. It didn't impress us much and I already mentioned before that Finland didn't seem to have an important cultural heritage. Little bit pity but I would later find out that the 'lack of culture' is compensated by the

overwhelming beauty of nature. In the afternoon, we listened to speeches about use of ICT in deaf/hoh education in Slovenia, the experiences of hard of hearing students in Canada, and the position of hard of hearing students in Finland. The last speech was given by Sami Virtanen, the chief of the organization team of Youth Forum. After coffee break, we had two more speeches from Oscar Hedenfeldt and Vanessa Migliosi. They both didn't had presentation, so it was though to listen all the time but it was worth the efforts as they were speaking about student exchange and working abroad respectively. I was very interesting in these topics and it was a good opportunity to learn from their own experiences. After dinner which was held at restaurant Brasserie again, we had an excursion by boat to Suomenlinna which is a unique island nearby Helsinki. We first followed Katja to a small beach where you could swim if you were not afraid of coldness. For Scandinavian people, the coldness was not a problem but people from southern countries like Italy or Spain were not very keen to swim. After the swimming, we went to a football field where we played a typical Finnish game which name I have already forgotten. For the Flemish and Dutch people, the game was very similar as "zakdoekje leggen" (in English: "to lay a (clean) handkerchief down"). Instead of a handkerchief, we played the game with Reija's keys and instead of running after each other, the two persons had to run in opposite direction. If you had to run, it was a nice game to get soon warm after the cold swimming but quite dangerous too as some people fell quite impressively... After the game, we walked to a place with a beautiful view around, had a small break talking and drinking together and after a while, we went back to the 'boat stop' and cached the boat back to Helsinki. It was still light (which has the same meaning to me that it's no bed-time yet), so we went to a Belgian pub with of course delicious Belgian beer. I was very glad to be able to drink one of my favorite beers 'Delirium tremens' (in English: 'strong desire') and for one time, I didn't mind that beer was 3 times more expensive than in Belgium. If you want good quality, the price doesn't matter. ;-)

Wednesday

Today was a relaxing day, as there was a visit to Heureka planned. I hadn't been able to sleep due to a sore pink. I had hurt myself during the swimming at Suomenlinna as I had been 'playing' with Johan too much. When I got up, it looked completely bleu, so I first went together with Ulla to the pharmacy to buy some tape to put it around. I didn't like it very much as in this way, it was quite difficult to say something in sign language. Lunch was served at Finlandia Hall today and for one time, I liked the Finnish food a lot. Especially the French bread and the Greek feta. :-) After lunch, we went to Vantaa by train to visit 'Heureka'. It's very similar as 'Technopolis' in Belgium. I had been in Technopolis with the Belgian deaf/hoh organization only one month earlier, so I didn't enjoy Heureka much as it wasn't very new to me. We passed our time by having a drink or ice-cream and talking with other participants. After spending about 3 hours at Heureka, we went

back to the center of Helsinki by train. Together with the other Flemish participants, Mimi (Bulgaria), Niccolo (Italy), Niina (Finland) and some Swedish participants, we had dinner at Eurohostel. Johan from Sweden was a little bit 'stressed' as he had lost his mobile phone somewhere during the day. I don't know if he has been able to find his mobile again but two days later I saw him calling again or maybe that was another mobile... After dinner, we went to Molly's Malone which is a big Irish pub in the center of Helsinki. They even served Belgian 'kriek', so the evening couldn't get struck anymore. In English, it's called 'cherry'. In this case, I don't mean the fruit but I am talking about a delicious beer with this kind of fruit taste; it's a very famous beer in Belgium as most women love this kind of beer a lot because it's so sweet. Me, I love it very very much too... I had some things on my mind and I was very tired too, but thanks to the other participants, I enjoyed the evening/night in the Irish pub a lot.

#### Thursday

I woke up quite early but I stayed in bed and talked a lot with my roommate, Katrien. At 9h30, I finally got up. I didn't realize that it was already that late and I also forgot that breakfast was served only until 10 o'clock. I had been lazy and slow to get washed and dressed and I was just in time to grab some cornflakes for breakfast as the waiter had already brought the other food back to the kitchen... Immediately after breakfast, we went to Finlandia Hall to follow some speeches about subtitling in Europe. The speeches were held in one of the big rooms upstairs. First, I didn't know where to look at as there were so many screens. On the big screen in the middle, the presentations were shown; on the left screen, the English text-on-screen appeared, while the Finnish version was shown on the right screen. There was also a fourth screen where Japanese text-on-screen was shown. Furthermore, there were also a Swedish sign language interpreter and a Japanese sign interpreter. It was quite impressive to me and I wondered how many screens would have been necessary to provide all information in each listener his/her own language... I think even the big auditorium would have been too small. In the afternoon, there was a change in the program as Elina Lehtomäki who was supposed to give a talk about internationalization and participation challenge, couldn't come due to private reasons. Johan Hammarström from Sweden was giving a speech about world flight for hearing instead. As the former two Swedish speakers (Bittan and Oscar) were great, I was sure that this speech would be great too. Johan told us about his experiences to become a pilot and about his plans to fly around the world in a small airplane. If you are interested to follow him during his flight (which will probably start in november 2005), visit his website which is mentioned in the 'links'-part of this site. Marcel Bobeldijk who is president of EFHOH (the European Federation for Hard of Hearing) gave a small talk about himself and the EFHOH-organization. After coffee break, we had a small talk about the future steps after Youth Forum. We had to answer following questions:- do we need this kind of

events/happenings in the future (seminars, training course)?- what kind of events it should be?- how can we develop cooperation in HOH student/education on international level?- do we need networking among HOH youth who are interested in HOH education issues? what kind of tools do we need for that? At the end, we watched a video about Vancouver (Canada) where the next IFHOH world congress will take place within 4 years. Miss Warick was very pleased to tell us that the Canadian organization would organize a Youth Forum too, especially for young deaf and hard of hearing people. We all were very pleased to hear this and hopefully many of us will be present in Vancouver too! In the evening, we had a delicious goodbye dinner at Kellarikrouvi-restaurant. At about 22h00, we went to the disco to party. For the last time, we would be all together as not everyone was going to Kopola. It was a nice place with cosy seats and I realized that Youth Forum was over much too soon. It had been a very interesting week but pretty exhaustive too, so I looked forward to the 'relaxing' weekend at Kopola

Saturday

Today is a sad day as I have to say goodbye to all people who are not going to Kopola. After checking out at Eurohostel, we go by tram to Finlandia Hall. At the tram-stop close to the bus-stops, I say goodbye to Mimi and Bert who both will go to the airport by bus to catch the plane to Gothenburg. I have no time to tell them goodbye in a long way and they are gone before I can realize it. Luckily, we live in the internet-era, so we can keep in touch by mail or msn. But I hope we'll meet again in the future. At Finlandia Hall, we sit together on the first floor, talking to each other, checking mail or just watching around. When it's time to leave to go to the bus which will bring us to Kopola, it's time again to say goodbye to some people. I am the last one going to the bus and quite far behind Marc and Johan from the Netherlands but I just keep focussing on them not to get lost. Unfortunately, both of them had been too busy talking to each other and we absolutely had no idea where to find the bus which would bring us to Kopola. We waited for a while as Noora would come after us but after a while I decide to go back to the entrance of Finlandia Hall. Noora was just leaving in the opposite direction, so I was just in time to warn her that we didn't know where to find the bus. Seemingly the bus was parked at the back side of Finlandia Hall. Anyway, it's another proof that Dutch people are stupid. :-p The bus trip to Kuhmoinen where the Kopola-house was located, took about 4 hours including lunch-, bank-, shop- and alcohol-stop. When we arrived at Kopola, I knew immediately that I would have two very relaxing days. It's a very quite and beautiful place and I already wished that I could stay here longer than two days. For the people who didn't come to Kopola: we have been talking, playing games, swimming in the cold lake, walking, sauna, drinking, campfire, ... I have had very beautiful moments this week and I'll remember all the experiences for very long time. I already look forward to the next international deaf/hoh event and I hope I can participate together with all of you!! See you!!

## **SUMMERCAMP 2005**

IFHOHYP ([www.ifhohyp.org](http://www.ifhohyp.org)), Czech Union of the Deaf and Czech Republic SummerCamp team are pleased to announce the SummerCamp05 in the Czech Republic!

The SummerCamp05 will be held from August 6th to August 21st 2005. We will spend the weekend (6th-8th) in the capital city of the Czech Republic, Prague and then in Strelske Hostice (8th-21st), 150 km south of Prague.

The SummerCamp05's spoken language will be English.

The cost of the participating in the exciting SummerCamp05 is 390 Euros for IFHOHYP NON-MEMBERS and 350 Euros for IFHOHYP MEMBERS.

We welcome applications from all over the world, but only 62 participants will be accepted if they pay the 200 Euros deposit by the deadline (31st of January 2005).

You can pay 200 Euros deposit by the second deadline (31st of March 2005), but the total amount of charge will be 370 Euros instead of 350 for members and 410 Euros for non-members. If somebody will want to pay later (the second deadline), must inform us, because „dead registration“ will be take off (after 31 of January).

The basic requirement of all applicants is to be aged between 18 to 37 and to be hard of hearing or deaf.

More info at [www.summercamp2005.org](http://www.summercamp2005.org)

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