



IFHOHYP NEWS

The International Federation of
Hard of Hearing Young People
Magazine
Summer 2006 Edition

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2006 of IFHOHYP

(by Maria Lopez Garcia and Karina Chupina)

§ 1. Presidential Address: welcome and Opening Remarks

IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting 2006 was held on 25th of March 2006 in Villa Vintti, Tampere, Finland. Kuulonhuoltoliitto ry made the arrangement of the meeting.

Before starting the AGM, Karina Chupina welcomed all representatives of IFHOHYP members, especially its new member organisations from Slovak Republic and Switzerland, and thanked the Finnish organisation for organizing the AGM 2006.

§ 2. Presentation of attending Delegates and Observers.

IFHOHYP President Karina Chupina opened the meeting at 10 o'clock. Here is the list of participants below:

Bonaventura, Spain	Delegate	Maria Lopez Garcia (Ifhohyp Vice-President)
SHJO, The Netherlands	Delegate	Lianne de Jonge
SHJO, The Netherlands	Observer	Christi Menheere (Ifhohyp Secretary)
A.Fa.M.U.T, Italy	Delegate	Andrea Pietrini
FADCY, Russia	Observer	Karina Chupina (Ifhohyp President)
FADCY, Russia	Delegate	Evelina Sukhovskaya
FADCY, Russia	Observer	Katerina Monakhova
Jugehörig, Switzerland	Delegate	Laura Marti
Jugehörig, Switzerland	Observer	Claudio Nicita
SCHOHYP, Slovak Republic	Delegate	Juraj Variny
SCHOHYP, Slovak Republic	Observer	Marek Málík
FF HOH, Finland	Delegate	Noora Penttinen (Ifhohyp Auditor)
FF HOH, Finland	Observer	Heidi Koyste
FF HOH, Finland	Observer	Ulla Konkarikoski
FF HOH, Finland	Observer	Elina Ratasvuori
FF HOH, Finland	Observer	Sami Virtanen

§ 3. Election of Ballot Committee: Chair, Secretary and Vote Counters (2)

Karina Chupina proposed to Christi Menheere to be Chair of the meeting. It was approved; no other candidates were proposed.

Karina Chupina asked to everybody who wanted to be Secretary of the meeting. María López proposed herself to be Secretary of the meeting and it has been approved and no other candidates were proposed.

Elina Ratasvuori from Finland and Evelina Sukhovskaya from Russia were appointed as votes' counters.

§ 4. Approval of the Agenda 2006

Before approving the Agenda, Christi Menheere proposed to add a new point; it was 7.5 Switzerland's membership fee.

The agenda was approved and taken as read.

§ 5. Approval of AGM minutes 2005

The minutes were approved and taken as read.

§ 6. Annual Report 2005

Karina Chupina presented the Annual Report 2005. She explained that in 2005 IFHOHYP organized a lot of activities. Furthermore, grant applications for Study session and IFHOHYP Multimedia project "What is it like to be young and hard-of-hearing in Europe?" were approved and IFHOHYP is waiting for the answer to the application for the Administrative costs grant. Karina Chupina also explained that now there is an IFHOHYP representative in Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe. It is the first time IFHOHYP is represented in the Advisory Council on Youth, and IFHOHYP representative is the only representative of disability youth issues there.

The annual report was approved and taken as read.

§ 7. Financial Issues

7.1. Financial Report 2004

Karina Chupina explained the situation of the treasurer. Greet Penneman, the actual treasurer had a lot of work because she had to make the financial reports of 2004, 2005 and 2006, and she did not have all the information about expenses and incomes of the last years from previous treasurers. Some days before the AGM, Greet Penneman sent a letter explaining she couldn't come to the AGM and informing about the new IFHOHYP bank account.

Treasurer tried to make the Financial Report of 2004 but some information could not be checked as proof was missing from previous treasurers. Noora Penttinen proposed to non-accept this report forever since there is no chance to retrieve all needed information anyway.

Karina Chupina read the IFHOHYP constitution and she informed that constitution doesn't say anything specific about the rules of non-acceptance of the report.

Everybody agreed to not accept the financial report of 2004 forever.

7.2. Financial Report 2005:

Claudio Nicita said that bank costs were very high. IFHOHYP board explained that Italian bank had very expensive costs but this bank account is closed and now IFHOHYP opened a new one in Belgium and costs are cheaper. Financial Report of 2005 was approved.

7.3 Budget 2006

Everybody read the budget prepared by the treasurer and there was some incorrect information. In the explanatory note of the treasurer, she said that there were other expenses which she did not know about at the moment of writing the budget proposal. Indeed, there was a need to introduce more costs from the new Council of Europe grants and debts for the Board members. Christi Menheere proposed to make a new draft of Budget during the AGM and to approve it in the end of the AGM. María López, Claudio Nicita, Noora Penttinen and Karina Chupina made a new draft during a break.

After the break, Karina Chupina explained the new budget, she explained that there is an income of 27.825€, 26.577€ in expenses and a profit of 1248€. This new budget was approved by unanimity.

7.4 Individual membership fee- as proposal by the Czech organization

Karina Chupina explained that Czech organization had problems to pay last year the IFHOHYP membership fee, and the Czech Union of the Deaf proposed individual fee.

Noora Penttinen said that if IFHOHYP accepts individual fees, we have to change the constitution because by constitution, IFHOHYP is a federation of organizations.

Everybody agreed if a member organization of IFHOHYP organizes an activity that collects some money from non-members, that organization will not pay the membership fee that year. It was approved to apply it from 2007.

It was approved not to offer a individual membership fee.

Everybody agreed that if a person contributes a lot to IFHOHYP committees or to IFHOHYP activities, IFHOHYP board will decide that person will not pay the so-called non-member "extra fee" in IFHOHYP activities such as summer camps and study sessions. Those persons will be Honorary members, accordingly with the Constitution Article 9.

7.5 Membership fee of Switzerland

Laura Marti explained the situation of Switzerland, they are a working group of 10 people, and they are a part of a big organization who provided IFHOHYP membership fee (200€) for the group. Switzerland's group is a regional organization and 2006 is the first year of their membership, then they have to pay 50€ for membership fee this year and next year 100€.

Everybody agreed to accept only 50€.

§ 8. Election of New Board members

8.1. President

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

8.2. Vice-president

AGM elected María López as the Vice-president of IFHOHYP for the next two years. No one else was suggested. Delegates voted on a paper. The votes were counted and the only candidate has got seven votes.

8.3. Auditor

AGM chose Noora Penttinen to be the Auditor of IFHOHYP for the next year. No one else was suggested. She became elected by unanimity.

§ 9. Programme for IFHOHYP 2006-2010

9.1. Summer Camps are planned to be in:

2006 Spain

2007 Finland

2008 Slovak Republic

2009 Location to be decided

2010 Location to be decided

9.2. Conferences, Courses (Reports from committee/s)

9.2.1 Study Session

Karina Chupina explained the next Study Session is about: **Safeguarding human rights of HOH youth: How to cope with discrimination and violence in Education and Employment**. It will be organized in the last week of April 2006 (23th-30th April), in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. She explained that there will be 30 participants from 19 countries. This Study session has a more political dimension than the sessions before. After Study session there will be the first meeting of Multimedia project, also in Strasbourg, where national coordinators will start working on the project.

Karina Chupina informed about Youth Express Network. Perhaps IFHOHYP will apply in October together with YEN for the joint study session in the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in October 2007. In this case participants will be HOH and hearing young people together.

9.2.2 English course

María López informed about English Course. She explained that Loli Martínez from Madrid contacted teacher of English and an Irish boy who are competent to teach English for HOH students. María López is waiting for a project that they have written and then English course committee will start to look for sponsors.

Lianne de Jonge proposed to arrange the English course in a country with native English speakers as it is better for the learning process.

Juraj Variny explained that in Slovak Republic there are English courses in schools for hard of hearing people.

English course committee will work on that.

9.3. Annual General Meetings

The next AGMs will be held in:

2007 Switzerland OR Spain (in case if Switzerland will not be possible)

2008 Spain OR Switzerland

2009 Location to be decided

2010 Location to be decided

§ 10. Committee Reports/ Updates

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

10.1. Newsletter Committee

Andrea Pietrini – Coordinator (Italy)

Vanessa Migliosi (Italy)

María López (Spain)

Lianne de Jonge (The Netherlands)

Juraj Variny (Slovak Republic)

10.2. The Website/ Mailing list Committee:

Christi Menheere – Coordinator (The Netherlands)

Gerard Van Maurik (The Netherlands)

Greet Penneman (Belgium)

Juraj Variny (Slovak Republic)

10.3. Fundraising Committee

Karina Chupina – Coordinator (Russia)

María López (Spain)

Laura Marti (Switzerland)

Greet Penneman (Belgium)

Karina Chupina informed about this committee and its work. She explained that IFHOHYP applied for the administrative costs grant from the Council of Europe. Later by the end of the year, if IFHOHYP meets all needed criteria of the European Commission, we can apply for the EU NGO support grant from the European Commission. We are waiting for the result.

10.4. New Study Session Committee:

Karina Chupina – Coordinator (Russia)
María López (Spain)
Noora Penttinen (Finland)
Yana Domuschieva (Bulgaria)
Johan Bijleveld (The Netherlands)

Karina Chupina asked everybody who would like to be in the Study session committee for the next study session (most probably organised together with Youth Express Network). Nobody confirmed and it was said that it is best to discuss new study session committee after the study session of 2006 is over. Participants of the study session 2006 could become members of the new study session committee.

10.5. Conference and/or seminars participation Committee:

Vanessa Migliosi (Italy)
Noora Penttinen (Finland)
Lianne de Jonge (The Netherlands)

Noora Penttinen contacted Maria Pantaleva asking if she wants to continue, and she didn't reply. Thus Maria Pantaleva will not be a member anymore.

10.6. Summer camp Committee:

Christi Menheere (The Netherlands)

Christi Menheere explained that nobody asked her about how to organize a summer camp, but she will stay in the committee.

10.7. English course Committee:

María López – Coordinator (Spain)
Lianne de Jonge (The Netherlands)
Laura Marti (Switzerland)
Marek Málík (Slovak Republic)

10.8. Development of new activities Committee:

María López (Spain)- Coordinator
Lianne de Jonge (The Netherlands)
Heidi Koyste (Finland)
Evelina Sukhovskaya (Russia)

§ 11. Representation of IFHOHYP in Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe since 2006

Karina Chupina explained that Johan Bijleveld, from The Netherlands, was nominated by IFHOHYP for the membership in the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth. It is the first time IFHOHYP is represented in the Advisory Council on Youth, and it is a very important membership for IFHOHYP.

The Advisory Council on Youth comprises 30 representatives of non-governmental youth organisations and networks. It provides opinions and input from the youth NGOs on all youth sector activities and ensures that young people are involved in the Council's other activities. IFHOHYP representative is the only member of the Advisory Council who represents youth disability issues and will bring disability concerns in the youth matters of the Council of Europe.

Johan Bijleveld went to the first meeting of Advisory Council on 1-2 of March, 2006. Johan is also involved in the Programming Committee on Youth of the Council of Europe that establishes, monitors and evaluates the programmes of the European Youth Centres and of the European Youth Foundation. Karina explained that Johan Bijleveld would like to leave the Advisory Council because of the increased job commitments. IFHOHYP board will discuss this issue with Johan and will try to find the best solution to this situation or look for replacement.

§ 12. Joint partnership with EFHOH and IFHOH

Karina Chupina explained that IFHOHYP has more partnership with EFHOH, we will be working together on multimedia project, we are in different meetings on international affairs. She explained that IFHOH, EFHOH and IFHOHYP will be working together for fundraising. She informed that Greet Penneman will go to the IFHOH and EFHOH AGM in Croatia in April, and IFHOHYP can become member of IFHOH with one vote (IFHOH constitution changed). We have to discuss the ways of cooperation with both Federations. Christi Menheere proposed committees about "media" or subtitles as media is a pre-requisite for receiving information and a tool of communication. Representatives commented that it would be a good opportunity to participate in Vancouver Congress in 2008. We thought that maybe a less expensive cost of participation for young people in Vancouver Congress would be possible. Karina Chupina will be in touch with Canadian youth organization concerning this issue.

§ 13. Any Other Business

13.1 Next training courses information

Karina Chupina informed that IFHOHYP receives a lot of information about different training courses organized by the Council of Europe. Christi commented that she will send the information to the mailing list when IFHOHYP receives it.

13.2 Cooperation with youth Express Network (joint study session 2007 and other projects).

Karina Chupina informed before IFHOHYP will probably apply for a new Study session together with YEN, it would be in autumn 2007 and participants would be both Hearing and Hard of Hearing. Study session will be most likely devoted to the situation of disadvantaged young people.

13.3 Membership of EDF and activities:

Karina Chupina explained that for being Ordinary member of EDF IFHOHYP has to have 15 members and we have only 8 organisations at the moment. In this case we can only be an Associate Member. This allows us to receiving information from them about disability initiatives across Europe, legislation and project opportunities. Christi is sending relevant information to mailing list.

§ 14. Closing of the Annual General Meeting

Christi Menheere closed the AGM 2005 at 16.30h

Karina Chupina thanked a lot Kuulonhuoltoliitto ry for their work in hosting the meeting.

Chairman

Secretary

Christi Menheere

María López

Remembering Strasbourg 2006

Study session

"Safeguarding Human Rights of youth with hearing disability - how to cope with violence and discrimination in education and employment?"

European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

23-30 April, 2006



(from the study session presentation)

.....IFHOHYP's long-term goals are to provide continuous support and training to hard of hearing young people in order to empower them to work towards their full participation in society. IFHOHYP aims to stay up to date in addressing the needs of hard of hearing young people. Communication is one of the major problems facing hard of hearing youth in their education, employment, volunteer work and their participation in society on all levels. As a result of *the lack of knowledge regarding the rights and needs of hard of hearing people*, hard of hearing people often face discrimination. In situations where the productivity and initiative of a hard of hearing student or employee is held back by a lack of sensitivity on the part of the hearing majority, frustration, intolerance and conflict on both sides are common. Many hard of hearing people turn out to be outsiders in social life because they find it impossible to communicate, study and work in a society that is not sensitive to their needs. Without sufficient support and recognition of their rights hard-of-hearing people cannot achieve on educational, personal and professional levels as much as the rest of the society. As a result, they are not able to contribute their skills, knowledge and experience to the mainstream world. In turn, hearing people have formed the stereotype that the hard of hearing minority is complacent with life in their own secluded environment, that sign language and a number of benefits compensate for their disability at work place or at school - this stereotype is equally common in countries of different levels of economic, cultural and social development. In light of this, aim of the study session is to empower and train young hard of hearing activists to develop, implement and multiply assistance tools and associative strategies aimed at combating discrimination and violence in mainstream education and employment.....





Study session in Strasbourg enabled me to meet hearing impaired friends from different countries. The topic that it was focused on: "how to cope with violence and discrimination in education and employment" was excellent. In one week period, we shared our experiences and ideas, discussed our problems that we face in every areas of our life and found solutions to them. Now, I am more stronger to ask my rights as a hearing impaired student, I have already started to apply my project ideas that I gained in study session in my home country. Besides the things that I learned about academic life, I also developed strategies to learn interculturally and gained a deeper understanding of friends from different countries. I also learned to read body language when I have problems in communicating with spoken language. One week in Strassbourg was a great experience for me thanks to all who put their all energy to make this possible :)

Berna CIBIK (Turkey)

It was my first time when I attended the Study Session for Hard of Hearing Youth. Thanks to this study session, I feel that I'm supported by the HoH youth all over the world, that I'm not alone with my problem. Thank to all participants for sharing of their experiences! It was quite interesting and useful listen to you. I got a bunch of optimism, which gives me more power to struggle for the best pie of life fot HoH Youth!

Next time, I'll try to promote some HoH young people to participate in Study Session, in order to have prepared and enthusiastic friends, which will be with me in working and promoting of HoH people. Thank you all!
Ayazhan Seitkazina (Kazakhstan)



The Study Session was dedicated to a very important topic - discrimination and violence. All participants had the chance to share their experience, personal point of view about these phenomena as well as to give information about the situation and legislation in their countries.

Svetoslava Saeva "Svetla" (Bulgaria)

This was my third Study Session in Strasbourg and, after each time, it always seems to me as it was the first time: a truly pleasant experience in the heart of Europe..

Andrea Pietrini (Italy)

A complete Study Session photo coverage is available at:
<http://public.fotki.com/andreapietrini>

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PASSION FOR FLYING

by Karina Chupina

(On August 2006 the World Flight for Hearing has ended, after a six months journey around the globe. IFHOHYP salute the crew coming back to Sweden: a three-people crew with an hard-of-hearing pilot. This article has been published in December 2005 on www.i711.com)

"You are never given a dream without also being given the power to make it true. You may have to work for it, however." Richard Bach

Johan Hammartström first experienced the pleasure of flight in his childhood when his father, a pilot, took him on a plane from Stockholm, Sweden to Legoland in Denmark. From that day on, Johan "could not stop thinking about flying."

Johan was diagnosed with hearing loss at the age of six. Today, he is an accomplished, professional pilot who will fly around the world in a single-engine plane early next year. Inspired by the will to make the world better, and by the biography of famed British entrepreneur Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Atlantic Airlines, the first to fly a hot air balloon across the Atlantic, and who is now starting a space tourism company "Virgin Galactic", Johan set his own high ambitions. His cherished dream has been to fly around the world in a light aircraft, spreading information about hearing loss.

Johan's unprecedented around-the-globe journey, called "World Flight for Hearing," will start in March 2006 and involve visiting more than 25 countries, with the goal to raise awareness about hearing loss and capabilities of people with hearing loss around the world.

The route is planned to coincide with major flight events so that the message can be brought to an even wider audience worldwide. The trip will start off south from Sweden, passing Denmark, to Croatia; from there he'll fly to Greece, continuing on to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, over the Red Sea, and then stopping in Asia, India, Thailand, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Alaska, Canada, the USA, and Mexico. He'll return to Europe through Greenland and Iceland.

On their way, Johan and his team, Henrik Ejderholm and Martin Håkansson (both hearing), will visit national and regional hard of hearing organizations and schools to exchange ideas and experiences, discuss hard of hearing issues in different countries.

The enthusiastic team will make several stops in the U. S., including Las Vegas, Vero Beach, Norfolk, Northampton and Bangor, visiting schools, both mainstream and deaf.

"We've been invited to visit by certain members of the U. S. deaf and hard of hearing community, such as Steve Ritchin who is a former musician and who is working with people with hearing loss in the Eastern U. S. He will get local media down to the airfield when we arrive and arrange various activities". One maintenance stop for the WFH aircraft is also planned in the U. S. In two months, a more detailed plan for the USA visit will be ready.

Johan identifies himself as hard of hearing since he does not use sign language as his primary language and because he attended a mainstream school. In fact, Johan admits that he hopes to learn sign language in the future.

I was wondering how Johan managed to become a professional pilot, despite his hearing loss, and what obstacles he had to overcome on a way to get his license.

"It is not common for deaf or hard of hearing people to start flying because of old-fashioned laws that prohibit pilots from having major hearing loss," said Johan, who was the only pilot with hearing loss in his school class. "But learning to fly wasn't difficult. The standardized communication helped a lot; in the flying world, you use a limited number of words in communication which makes it easier to understand"

Back in 1998, Johan faced one of the most important choices in his life: "I couldn't continue studying if I had gotten a full time pilot job. So I decided to pursue my Master of Science in System Analysis instead of the pilot job. And I never regretted this!"

Johan found the opportunity to work with airplanes anyway - and even combine this with his main job. Today, Johan does business development for Sectra, a Swedish company working in the Medical IT field. He is also a Flight Operations Manager at Sectra, responsible for their airplane used in business travel.

As a person always networking with both hearing and deaf people, I became curious: how do the team mates work together in flight, despite their differences?

"I do not really think much anymore about the fact that Johan is hard-of-hearing," says Martin Hååkansson, one of Johan's hearing team mates. "Speaking with Johan over phone or in the cockpit is never a problem as he has a really good headset with active noise reduction which makes it easier to communicate in a cockpit than in most everyday environments. Johan has many talents: he's a very focused project manager, he is great at dealing with people on many levels, and he's a good pilot and a visionary entrepreneur."

A few years ago, Johan founded a flying society at the Linköping University in Sweden, with the goal of gathering together students who have an interest in flying or aviation, and providing weekend trips with private aircraft. Martin was one of the first members of the society, and since then, Martin and Johan have been good friends. A couple years later, Johan joined the Sectra company where he became friends with Henrik Ejderholm, the third member of the team. Today, the trio works at the same company and remains close friends, both as business colleagues on the ground, and as a flying team in the sky.

Martin also confesses that his view of hard-of-hearing people has radically changed since he got to know Johan. "Previously I associated hearing loss with elderly people who had big brown hearing instruments behind their ears (not a nice way of putting it but this is really the truth). However, my long friendship with Johan and my involvement with World Flight for Hearing have changed this view. The WFH project is focused on changing society's view of people with hearing loss. I think that my own learning in this area can help other people get a better understanding of what hearing loss is, and gain a better understanding of it as I have".

Since the World Flight for Hearing project began in 2004, a lot has been achieved: numerous awareness-raising speeches, activities in the hard-of-hearing and professional audiology communities, it's received more funding and sponsorships, and has partnered with more than 20 hearing loss related organisations. Altogether, the project leaders and partners have designed a thorough plan for the around-the-world expedition providing for necessary permits and visas.

For Johan, the core value of hard of hearing groups is the will to live a normal life as a person with hearing loss: being able to go to school, to get a job, and to have a social life. In the future, he also plans to continue working for a better quality of life for people with hearing loss.

"My will is very strong, and I believe you will see more of me in the future," he says.

When I jokingly asked Johan what three things he would take with him on a lonely island, he said that taking his girlfriend will be "number one" priority, but then added, "for me it would be enough to take a sea airplane so that I could get back home any time I wanted!" When he is not busy with his many work and flight commitments, he enjoys being out in the nature and loves Archipelago. Apart from world flight, his other long-time dream is to build his own house.

For a man whose personal values are honesty and constant search of opportunities, nothing would seem to be impossible. With relentless determination, Johan can dramatically change the perception of hard of hearing and deaf in world society. Paraphrasing a known quote, it is possible to say that "dreams come true when preparation meets opportunity."

Visit the project website at www.worldflightforhearing.com for more details of the flight soon.

Editors Note: In addition to the WFH, readers can find more information on deaf and hard of hearing pilots through the U. S. based Deaf Pilots Association www.deafpilots.org and the Aero-Club des Sourds in France: www.volez.com/aeroclub-sourds.

The mission of IFHOHYP

IFHOHYP is committed to promoting equal rights for hard of hearing young people at all levels of the community. We believe that hard of hearing young people have the right to a good education, freedom of choice, the right to equal treatment at labour market, necessary support and technical aids they need to assimilate to life in the hearing community.

-To encourage a better understanding of hard of hearing young people and their problems among the general public.

-To defend the interests of hard of hearing young people and express them towards international bodies.

-To serve as a platform for cooperation and exchange of information between organizations of hard of hearing youth.

-To establish links with organizations of and for hearingimpaired people, improve communication and cultural interchange between all hard of hearing young people worldwide; to receive new information from other international youth or disability organizations and provide with it hard of hearing youths in different countries.

-To collect and make available all information on different aspects of hearing loss, on technical advances, facilities and assistive listening devices for hard of hearing people.

IFHOHYP Board

President:

Karina Chupina (RUSSIA)
karina.chupina@gmail.com
(and CC: travelmind21@yahoo.com)

VicePresident:

Maria Lopez Garcia (SPAIN)
Logarma6@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Christi Menheere (NETHERLANDS)
Christi-ifhohyp@home.nl

Treasurer:

Greet Pennemann (BELGIUM)
Greet-ifhohyp@hotmail.com

Auditor:

Noora Penttinen (FINLAND)
Noora.penttinen@uta.fi

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www.ifhohyp.org

