CHRISTMAS’ CARD COMPETITION:
THE WINNERS!!!!

As you know, IFHOHYP organized a Competition for the Best Christmas’ Card. There are 3 prizes for the winners: 150€ for the 1st prize, 100€ for the second prize and 50€ for the 3rd prize.

After receiving many cards from participants I have to confess that it was very difficult for the jury committee to decide who are the winners. Yes, for us all participations are winners because the young designers have done a very very good work. Then we would like to say Thank you very much to all designers for your participation!!.

We also want to say Thank you very much to RAYOVAK, an international batteries company who have been a very important sponsor for this competition.

Do you want to know who are the winners? Yeeeeeccccccccccccccc.

After a long meditation…

“The jury committee of the Christmas’ card competition decided to give the 3RD PRIZE to…

TOMMASO CLEMENTE from Italy >>>

“The jury committee of the Christmas’ card competition decided to give the 2nd PRIZE to…

<<< MÓNICA VAZQUEZ from Spain

“The jury committee of the Christmas’ card competition decided to give the 1st PRIZE to…

GORDON HAY from Great Britain !!!!!!!

You can see his card on title page of this very newsletter!

CONGRATULATIONS GORDON!!!!
AND CONGRATULATION MONICA AND TOMMASO!!!.

We will wait for all of you next competition in 2007.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!
Diversity Youth Forum Report

by Andrea Pietrini
European Youth Centre Budapest, 24-29 October 2006

From 24 to 29 October 2006, about 120 people gathered in Hungary to participate at the “Diversity Youth Forum” symposium. They represented youth and human rights organisations, youth services, governmental and non-governmental organisations, National Campaign Committees, and they met at the European Youth Centre, in Budapest, under the organisation of the Council of Europe and support of the European Commission.

Aim of the symposium has been to explore concepts, issues, opportunities and challenges to diversity in Europe today and to make concrete proposals on how to approach diversity within and beyond the Council of Europe’s youth campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation named “All different – All equal”, started in 1995. This campaign was an integral part of the Action Plan of the Council of Europe’s Summit of Heads of States and Governments in Warsaw 2005, which states “to promote diversity, inclusion and participation in society, we decide a Europe-wide youth campaign…..”. Vanessa Migliosi from IFHOHYP participated there!

The campaign was firmly held within the framework of indivisible, inalienable and universal human rights. “Diversity” can have various meanings in different social and cultural contexts. It affects us all differently through social belonging, identity, distribution of power and wealth. Our desire to see access to opportunities, equality in diversity and dignity for everyone.

There were only three “disabled” people in the symposium out of about 120 people, so time and space was very small, but we succeeded in affirming our point of view about disability issues.

Many of the problems discussed involved racism and xenophobia and related discriminations continuing to grow and spread, despite the continuous efforts made throughout the past decades. Then, the persistence of social exclusion and poverty result in numerous interdependent problems and discriminations for young people. Poverty and social exclusion are the main obstacles to many
young people’s development and to their start into an independent life. More, the expression of sexual orientation is a Human Right and fundamental freedom that is still not legally recognised and absent in all relevant international and many national human rights protection mechanisms. Another issue was about young migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, confronting with multiple disadvantages in the country of origin: unemployment, brain drain, armed conflicts, political instability and poor economic conditions. The antisemitism is on the rise in Europe, and young women still find themselves disadvantaged due to under-representation, sexual exploitation, underpayment, imposed role models and disproportionate unemployment, glass ceilings for their career patterns by virtue of nothing more than their gender.

Finally, we stated that “disablism” is systematic and institutional discrimination against disabled people within society, which continues to take place. Fears, myths and stereotypes regarding disabled people are not dispelled because disabled and non-disabled people are often separated in many aspects of life, which makes dialogue and joint effort to contest wrong assumptions merely impossible.

This non-exhaustive list of phobias, perceived threats, prejudices, stereotypes and forms of hatred leads to a wide set of discriminations and human rights violations: application of double standards, imposed invisibility, verbal and written abuse, deprivation and marginalisation, isolation, mental and physical health issues, discrimination in housing, education, employment, health care, access to goods and services, structural discrimination, social, economic and political exclusion, physical violence against individuals, groups and their property.

Hence, at the end of symposium, the participants call on decision-makers and European institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations to join these efforts and provide support to make this campaign successful in changing mentalities.

On a personal note, I would add that there were too few disabled people, so disabled thematics were “underrated” in the general context. More disabled people should participate in the future, to obtain more visibility.

A comprehensive photo coverage of the event is at: http://public.fotki.com/diversitybudapest2006
Youth conference organized by Unga Hörselskadade

10-16 of November 2006, Sweden
By María López García

Every year Unga Hörselskadade (national organization of HOH young people in Sweden) organizes in November a Youth Conference for its members from all the country. In every event the matter is different, they “teach” and give information about hearing disability with the objective of improving the quality of life of this young people.

This year the title was “Technical aids and empowerment”. Young participants received some information about the technology of nowadays for HOH people and how to get and require to the State.

The programme of this Youth Conference contained dynamic activities as workshops, debates, interesting conferences and speeches.

The Swedish organization invited Karina Chupina and me as Board members of IFHOHYP to give a speech about the Federation. As Sweden is a new member, they wanted to inform about it to the participants. They also invited us for explaining the situation of HOH people in Spain and Russia.

Our stay started the Thursday 10th of November with the visit to the Organization where a boy who works there explained to us how they work, how they get money from the State, the activities that they have… and after that we had a conversation with a girl about HRF (adults organization for HOH people).

The Youth Conference started in the evening with ice breaking games where participants could know each other a little bit better.

During Friday morning there were different workshops and every participant could chose where they wanted to be. Karina and me were in the “Design workshop” where young people had to design hearing aids themselves. The leader asked a question: why are all hearing aids equal, with the same structure? Why not they can be original, with a flower for example? Then participants invented their own hearing aids with ornament, MP3 included, aquatic aids…a lot of ideas. We tried to design too, I proposed some ideas to Karina and she did it (she can draw very well 😊).

Other workshops were focus on how to get the Technical aids from the State, the benefits and helps the HOH people have… the objective was to inform about all possibilities that Swedish have.

In the afternoon there was a debate where representatives of different hearing aids companies participated. They were “discussing” some questions as how a HOH people can know what is the best hearing aid for them?

Everything was in Swedish, of course, that’s why I couldn’t understand them ☹ but I could see and I was surprised how young people participated, how they made questions to the representatives and spoke in front of a lot of people.

The day finished in a very funny way, everybody met in the Social Centre for HOH and Deaf young people and we learnt African dance!!!! We enjoyed a lot jumping, dancing and following the rhythm of the music. Everybody finished sweating and we relaxed playing cards ☺.

Sunday was our turn, Karina and me did our speeches and I can say that participants where surprised with the Spanish and Russian situations for HOH people, because it’s different of the Swedish. We could see it was very interesting for them, they asked to us a lot of questions.
After our small conferences, we had the opportunity to listen and know to Johan Hammarstrom, the HOH Swedish pilot who flight around the world with the campaign World Flight for Hearing.
The Youth Conference finished but the Swedish organization prepared a programme for 3 days when Karina and me visited different educative centres. We were in Birgittaskolan (a special primary school in Örebro), Risgerskaskolan (an Upon Secondary School where part of it is special for deaf and HOH students) and the Örebro and Stockholm Universities.

The trip was very interesting. I liked it a lot because it was good organized, I met young people (old friends and new people) and the most important thing: I learnt a lot about the Swedish situation for HOH people and how to work in an organization.

I would like to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH to Unga Hörselskadade for the invitation, for this interesting experience, for everything!!!. Thank you Mattias, Andreas, Maria, Sarah, Peter, Tobias, Rasmus, Sara... Tack så mycket!!! 😊
1st National Meeting of Young People with hearing disability in Spain

By Silvia Castellón and Vanessa Migliosi

On the 17th, 18th and 19th of November, 2006 the first National Meeting of young people with hearing disability was celebrated in Madrid. The young participants were the sons and daughters of FIAPAS (Confederation of Parents of HOH Children).

Some time ago Bonaventura detected the lack of organizations for HOH young people in Spain. Then we saw the need to promote a Meeting at national level with the objective of giving information about how to create an organization and exchange and share their experiences. Although Bonaventura prepared this project, FIAPAS was finally the organization who arranged this event with the Bonaventura’s collaboration.

There were 40 young people from different communities and different organizations of HOH Young People such as: ASB (Organization of Deaf People without Barriers, Madrid), a new organization and ACAPPS (Organization from Cataluña of Parents and Deaf People), where there is a committee for young people.

The Meeting lasted 3 days. In the first day all participants arrived to Madrid and played some ice-breaker games to know each other. In the second day in the morning there was the official Opening of this event, they were the President and Vicepresident of FIAPAS. Vanessa Migliosi went as a special invited person, she is an Italian young girl with hearing loss and she has a very big experience in the international associative movement. She gave a speech about the IFHOHYP organization, their aims and their main activities, and about her work in the European Disability Forum youth committee and in the Advisory Council on Youth.

The most important thing of this day was the creation of different committees. Every group worked on the needs people with hearing loss in different matters: employment, accessibility, leisure (free time), education and Health. Participants were very active and the atmosphere was excellent.
Finally on Sunday morning every committee explained their conclusions and FIAPAS expressed their compromise to bring them to the Public Institutions. The objective is to improve the quality of life little by little and to have equal conditions.

In the midday the Meeting was closed. Young participants showed their desire of repeating this experience, and Bonaventura hopes to make true this project again.

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**Education of Hard of Hearing people in ... Slovakia**

By Juraj Variny

Only 5% hard of hearing people have higher education. Most of them study education of deaf/HoH, or pantomime. Following are economy, pedagogy, informatics and then other professions.

Many HoH are unemployed, among the others are many dressmakers, teachers and some businessmen.

We have special schools for hearing-disabled people with education in sign language, or integrated basic and high schools. Universities, with rare exceptions, doesn't provide help. Student must appoint an articulation/sign language translator by himself.

Disability rights are fine on paper, on par with EU standard and in accord with UNO documents. But there is not enough money to afford help for many people that need it. It depends on economic situation of our country, disabled people often feel first when the government needs to restrain the budget. There are around 500 000 disabled people (nearly 10% of all population) and the number is increasing. Of those 200 000 people have hearing loss.
Five minutes with…

By María López García

Next year IFHOHYP is going to be bigger, why? Because there will be new members, yes, Norway, Sweden, Bulgaria, Serbia, want to be involved in IFHOHYP and from here we want to say WELCOME TO IFHOHYP!!!. Would you like to know a little bit about people who are in some of these new member organizations? Come on and read these interviews!! 😊

MATTIAS LUNDGREN (SWEDEN)

what is your age?
27 years

Where do you live?
Örebro, Sweden

What are you doing now? (study or work)
Working as a teacher for deaf and HoH in the age of 16-21.

What will you do in the future?
Well…, does anyone know that? 😊

What are your hobbies?
A lot! But I like sports and reading.

Are you involved in any organization in your country?
Yes, I am chairman of the organisation of HoH young people (UH) in Sweden.

Explain a little bit about your organization:
Unga hörselskadade, UH (The organisation of HoH young people) is a national organisation on national and local level and we strive for the right of our members to fully participate in the society and provides an opportunity for hard of hearing young people to meet their like.

National or regional organization?
It’s national with different kind of local and regional organisations and clubs.

How many members there are in your organization?
650.
Some activities that your organization arrange

We do a lot. It’s difficult to say what’s the most important activity is. Depend’s on who you ask. But we are working in three different kind of areas.

First we arrange meetingplaces for the members and other interested people. It could be on the national level or the local level. The aim is that young people should meet and change experiences. This is often combined with different workshops, educations and so on. Some activities are quite similar to the summer camp.

The other area is to be a knowledgecentre and spread information about our organisation and hard of hearing young people to both members and the society. It can for example be through the website, folders, newspapers and different kind of information projects. For example, have a look at “www.uh.se”.

The third area is the political area where we work with lobbying against politicians and other places in the society. One important thing is the work with information to the society for changing the attitudes against HoH. The political work is both on local and national level.

What is your role in your organization? (if you are president, board member, ....)

As I said before. I am a chairman of the organisation.

What do you expect from IFHOHYP?

First of all I expect a good cooperation. Our organisation will apply for becoming members in april and we do that because we want to expand our work to the international field. The world get’s smaller and it’s important that the HoH-organisations gets together and strive for the same goal.

I think it’s important to create a good discussion what we want from IFHOHYP. But one very important thing is that all the member organisations have to learn from each other and shape a good arena for the development of IFHOHYP.

Why are you HOH?

Born with it.

What do you think about the hearing disability?

Don’t understand the question, so I don’t answer…

A message for the newsletter readers:

I think it will be fun that our organisation will become members of IFHOHYP. I hope we can contribute something to the organisation.

And at last I wish all people in Europe a merry christmas and a happy new year!
What is your age?
25 years old

Where do you live?
In the beautiful city of Stockholm

What are you doing now? (study or work)
I’m studying psychology

What will you do in the future?
Keep on learning more things! Presumably working as a psychologist.

What are your hobbies?
Dancing free! Meeting my friends. Go travelling and hiking in the nature.

Are you involved in any organization in your country?
Yes, I’m in the board of Unga Hörselskadade, the national organisation for hard of hearing young people in Sweden. I’m also in charge for the international committee.

Explain a little bit about your organization:
We have around 600 members spread around Sweden in the ages from 7 to 30 years old. We arrange camps, courses and conferences.

National or regional organization?
Unga Hörselskadade is a national organisation, but we also have seven local organisations at different places in Sweden. They organize daily to weekly activities.

How many members there are in your organization?
Around 650

Some activities that your organization arrange
Sign-language camps, camps for children. Courses were you can learn about your hearing-loss and how to cope with it. Conferences where we discuss actual issues. The local organisations organize more social activities where HOH people can meet.

What is your role in your organization? (if you are president, board member, ....)
Board-member since last April. I’m also in charge for the international committee.
What do you expect from IFHOHYP?

Cooperation in issues of importance. I also hope that our Swedish members will be inspired to participate in activities and projects in the arrangements of IFHOHYP.

Why are you HOH?

Play of nature! Probably born with it, don’t know why.

What do you think about the hearing disability?

I think it’s important to develop strategies in how to cope with the hearing loss. I believe that both knowledge about the physical lack and the psychological consequences are of importance. Being hard of hearing can be a huge struggle sometimes. By meeting other persons with similar experiences it is possible to get perspectives at some of the obstacles. My hearing loss shall not inhibit me from doing things I want – but some of them I might have to do a bit different or adapted than the mainstream group.

A message for the newsletter readers:

Be proud of how you are! Try to solve problems by keeping an open attitude towards others, and then they will know your needs.

ALEKSANDAR BOGDANOVIC
(SERBIA)

What is your age?
34.

Where do you live?
In Belgrade Serbia, as our people says: in hilly Balkan peninsula...

What are you doing now? (study or work)
At the moment, I am working in Inclusive Society Development Centre (www.cird.org.yu) as financial manager, and I am member of Board of Directors of EIDD – Design for All Europe (www.design-for-all.org)

What will you do in the future?
To work on human rights issues especially on disability field – creating the preconditions for better society for minorities

What are your hobbies?
Reading books, playing strategic PC games, watching Discovery, Explorer and History channels, riding bike
Are you involved in any organization in your country?
Beside of Inclusive Society Development Centre I am involved also in Serbia National Committee Campaign All different – all equal.

Explain a little bit about your organization: Inclusive Society Development Centre - ISDC is a non-government organization with the mission of: Creating conditions for inclusive society through inclusive model of disability.

ISDC was created in June 2005 arising from the need of several persons with various types of disability and without disability to deal with issues focused on prerequisites for inclusive society, particularly in terms of the place of persons with disability in that society.

Fifteen persons gathered (now we have much more) at the founding assembly, persons with disability, parents of children with disability and persons with no disability sharing the same vision:

Inclusion for All!

This is how the organization of Inclusive Society Development Centre ISDC, came to be, with the idea to influence total integration of persons with disability through projects and through respecting their human rights and their free, freely chosen education and employment as the highest form of inclusive society.

National or regional organization?
National

How many members there are in your organization?
75 members

Some activities that your organization arrange
1. Research on employment of persons with disability in Serbia
2. Research on affirmation for employment and self-employment of persons with disability in Belgrade
3. Inclusive workshops for inclusive education in primary and high schools

You can give all information about your organization that you want
Visit the web site www.crid.org.yu also available in english

What is your role in your organization? (if you are president, board member, ....)
Better, financial manager, 2nd most important person in organization – sometimes most important when somebody asks for money 😊
What do you expect from IFHOHYP?
Raising awareness about HOH and their potential to contribute to the development of society in general.

Why are you HOH?
In age of 2, after operation of tonsils I got some medication (streptomycin) and this damaged my hearing. The next was the rehabilitation into the institutions, not in special schools…

What do you think about the hearing disability?
From physical disabilities, beside of autism, most asocial and most invisible disability, because environment of HOH can’t perceive and understand the difficulties or characteristics of this disability. That’s why (at least in my country) HOH are most invisible not active in NGO and human rights topics.

A message for the newsletter readers:
The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.
Walter Bagehot, 1826-1877, English Economist, Political Philosopher

MARIA PANTALEEVA
(BULGARIA)

what is your age?
22

Where do you live?
Sofia, Bulgaria together with my family

What are you doing now?(study or work)
I am studying right now. Following 2 Master Degrees – Social and Juridical psychology and Social clinic work. And still trying to find appropriate work to pay my studies.

What will you do in the future? It will be great I can work something I can combine with what I study. Maybe with young people – helping them to find their place in life /if they have problems with their personality/.

What are your hobbies? Most of all I like to meet my friends and have fun together with them no matter if it is disco night out, amusement park or reading books 😊. I also like travelling around the world and going to the cinema.

Are you involved in any organization in your country? I am involved in a small foundation called “Friends”. Most of you know I have HOH brother. So that’s how we decided to participate in.
**How many members there are in your organization?** Well, the exact members I cannot tell you because most of the people are volunteers who are interested in this kind of help for HOH young people. They have opportunity to decide on what subject/level they want to help or not. Some people are not HOH but normal hearing.

**Some activities that your organization arrange** So far we have released a project for HOH children to be learnt in English language. So it is language courses, seminars, training courses, etc.

**What is your role in your organization? (if you are president, board member, ....)** Kind of president. In charge of the activities we made.

**What do you expect from IFHOHYP?** I expect to get to know more HOH people, to share experience and ideas with them. To learn more about myself, to work on national and international level for and with HOH young people, and last but not least – to have fun.

**Why are you HOH?** At the age of four I got very sick /kind of flu and virus infection/ - and my hearing was impacted from the infection.

**What do you think about the hearing disability?** It is not such a big deal. In fact I think that we are lucky to have only this disability. I mean that there are people who are blind, or cannot walk, or don’t have anything to eat /like countries in Africa/. What about people who are in psychiatric clinics or sick of non-curable diseases? So, we also have disability but we can make it our plus. And together can help each other with organization like IFHOHYP!

**A message for the newsletter readers:** Live your life with a smile on your face and be happy 😊 And HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!!
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 hearing impaired 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.

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