



IFHOHYP

International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People

IFHOHYP Annual Report 2010



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INTRODUCTION

The year 2010 was a very busy year for IFHOHYP, especially in terms of IFHOHYP representation and raising voice of hard of hearing young people at various international events on youth, human rights or disability. The work carried out in the previous years was consolidated this year and brought concrete results. The big successes of the year were acceptance of IFHOHYP as a member in the European Youth Forum, IFHOHYP summer camp and IFHOHYP representation at the World Youth Conference in Mexico within the International Year of Youth. Good foundations and contacts were made for the future IFHOHYP lobbying and political work.

The Board worked well throughout the year. It can be said that more work was carried by Board members on an individual basis than as a team, but this is understandable since it was the first year in the Board for some of them. Not all Board members could work to their full potential in the year 2010 because of very demanding job or study commitments, but we do expect a better contribution in the year 2011!

• IFHOHYP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

IFHOHYP AGM, Groningen, The Netherlands, 1-5 April

IFHOHYP AGM was organized by the Dutch organization SH-Jong.

President Karina Chupina was re-elected for the 2-years' term, Laura Scholler (Germany, Bundesjugend im DSB e.V.) was elected as Vice President, and Miia Merikivi from Finland was elected as a treasurer. She had to replace Christi Menheere who stepped down from her treasurer's position. Anna-Vita Ross from Denmark was elected as an auditor.

Some new working Committees were elected that will work along the IFHOHYP Strategy Plan. All committees are as follows:

Communication committee: Noora Penttinen, Juraj Variny, Carlos Muncharaz, Maggie Plattner.

Research Project committee: Karina Chupina, Aleksandar Bogdanović, Hanh Duong Phuong, Cristina Dumitru.

Nomination committee: Rasmus Ståbis Blomvik, Sanne Osterkamp.

Constitution committee: Sanne Osterkamp, Rasmus Ståbis Blomvik.

Expansion committee: Rasmus Ståbis Blomvik, Laura Scholler, Akram Muhammad, James R. Aniyamuzaala.

Human resources committee: Akram Muhammad, Jessica Sjöström, Rinne Oost.

IFHOHYP Board extends its warm thanks to SH-Jong for the excellent organization of the Annual General Meeting!

• IFHOHYP COMMITTEES' WORK

Expansion Committee

During the last year the Committee prepared a letter in order to "advertise" for IFHOHYP. This letter should be send to different organisations for HoH throughout the world and tell them about IFHOHYP, its work and at the same time gain new members. Because this letter was in English, it has also been translated in French and Spanish to make sure that there will be no misunderstandings or understanding problems with members of organisations who do not speak or understand English very well. At the same time, the Committee members worked - and still do - on a letter for politicians to raise awareness and introduce IFHOHYP.

Danishkadah tried to outreach more countries in Asia. There are 3 Asian member organization in IFHOHYP at the moment - Bangladesh, Pakistan and Vietnam. Mongolia is not yet a member but is well informed about IFHOHYP and may join. Indonesia, Nepal, and Philippines' groups of hard of hearing people, as well as a HoH individual from Maldives Association of the Deaf, are in touch with IFHOHYP. In total, 8 Asian countries - Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam - are in contact with IFHOHYP.

The Committee is encouraging individual HOH to find 4 or 5 hard of hearing people in their country and form a small group. A difficulty the Committee faced is communication gap due to language, there are many hard of hearing people but they cannot communicate in English. Rasmus Ståbis Blomvik has been trying to find out the various connections in South America and the Pacific. The challenges were lack of command of Spanish and also the fact that many countries in the Pacific seem to have no associations for deaf and hard of hearing. The search for contacts and responsible ministers of health in those countries is going on.

Constitution Committee

The constitution committee worked on the constitution to make the constitution more clear and accessible in terms of language and understanding. The committee also made proposals for changes in the content of some Constitution articles. This was necessary to propose in order to make functioning of IFHOHYP better + easier organising of its activities and in line with IFHOH/ EFHOH activities. The proposals will be sent to Members before the AGM-2011.

Communication Committee

The Website:

The website www.ifhohyp.org was in November smoothly moved to another hosting and under care of new webmaster (Juraj Variny). The Committee expects more timely updates and faster development of new features like blog and forum. The blog is already running in testing mode, with last changes made to its design, to be launched before AGM 2011.

Facebook page:

To get into closer contact with IFHOHYP members and friends, the committee created Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Federation-of-Hard-of-Hearing-Young-People-IFHOHYP/158408074211263>). It is maintained by the communications committee and the board. Today, it has 111 fans and counting!

IFHOHYP Newsletter:

In the year 2010 the newsletter team published two IFHOHYP newsletters, one in April and one in December. The quality of the newsletter was enhanced by using a native English speaker proofreader and by changing the layout. The opportunity to write articles to the newsletter was published both in the newsletter itself as well as on IFHOHYP Mailing List. In year 2011 the newsletter committee plans to publish four newsletters.

Research Committee

In the beginning of August member of the Committee Karina Chupina visited German summer camp for HoH youth in Borken, where she disseminated information about IFHOHYP to participants and, with the help of Juliane Große, collected about a hundred of questionnaires for the IFHOHYP Research project. Austrian organization representatives who were in the summer camp, are now interested in applying for IFHOHYP membership since 2011.

- ***REPRESENTATION OF EFHOH and hearing loss issues BY IFHOHYP***

Spanish EU Presidency Conference: Inclusive Education - a way to promote social cohesion, Madrid, Spain, March 11-12

Laura Scholler took part in the conference hosted by Spanish Ministry of Education about "inclusive education: a way of promoting social cohesion". She represented EFHOH and IFHOHYP. About 250 participants, including members of the European Commission, Parliament, policy makers and representatives of NGO's, came together and paid attention to students with special educational needs, e.g. the members from the European Disability Forum (EDF), the Spanish National Blind Organisation (ONCE), the European Agency for the Development of Education of Students with Special Educational Needs, etc. They all pointed out that there is an urgent need to change the situations for students with disabilities regarding accessibility to education. A recurrent point of view during the discussion was that it is the society that handicaps the people with special needs and not their disabilities as such.

EU Presidency Conference on Disability and Personal Autonomy through Education, Employment and Universal Accessibility, Zaragoza, Spain, 20-21 May

Karina Chupina represented EFHOH, IFHOHYP and the Youth Committee of the European Disability Forum at the EU Presidency Conference on Disability. The conference was organized within the programme of the Spanish EU Presidency and had a threefold objective: first, to debate and encourage the implementation of the UN CRPD. In addition, it sought to promote and develop policies that ensure the rights of people with disabilities on equal footing with other citizens of the EU. Lastly, it aimed to promote a new European Disability Framework 2010-2020, which should also contribute to the implementation of the UN CRPD in Europe. More about the conference can be read in IFHOHYP Newsletter-2010.

- ***IFHOHYP COOPERATION WITH EFHOH AND IFHOH***

EFHOH AGM and IFHOH BGM, Stockholm, Sweden, 17-20 June

In July Miiia Merikivi, IFHOHYP treasurer, and Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP President, represented IFHOHYP at the EFHOH AGM in Stockholm. The meeting was held in conjunction with IFHOH BGM. The board of EFHOH got a new member, Lidia Best (UK). IFHOHYP also took part in the Joint IFHOH – EFHOH – IFHOHYP Board meeting. IFHOH has new President, Ruth Warick (Canada), and the new Secretary General, Ulf Olsson (Sweden).

- ***EUDY AND IFHOHYP COOPERATION***

At the IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting the two largest organisations working for and with young adults with hearing loss: IFHOHYP, and EUDY (European Union of the Deaf) decided to join forces in their struggle. As the amount of CI users increases, as bilingualism is becoming more important for IFHOHYP and is an accepted practice for some of its member organisations, cooperation with the EUDY that uses mainly Sign Language for communication, seemed as a good opportunity to lobby for accessibility together and to learn from each other. EUDY Secretary, Dennis Hoogeveen, visited the IFHOHYP AGM and saw that despite differences between HoH and the Deaf, there are lots of needs in common, such as subtitling, access to sign language, palantyping, induction loops etc. IFHOHYP was invited to participate in the EUDY General Assembly in Switzerland in summer of 2010. Unfortunately, in the last moment IFHOHYP representative could not go to the meeting due to health reasons. Now both IFHOHYP and the EUDY stay in touch via email and discuss the

concrete possibilities of working together. One opportunity is to involve EUDY participants in the IFHOHYP study session that will be held in 2011 in November in Strasbourg, France.

• IFHOHYP IN THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH, COUNCIL OF EUROPE

European prep-and-check meeting focused on the issue of Youth Work - 1st European Convention of Youth Work, Brussels, 18 - 20 May 2010

The member of AC, Aleksandar Bogdanovic attended the 2nd meeting for preparing and checking the issues for European conference on youth work/history, organized by Department for Youth of Flemish Community of Belgium. On this meeting next topics were discussed: The dates, programme and themes were set up, the topics and dynamics of workshops are approved, the list of visiting lecturers is approved. Also the documents from previous conferences on the youth work were discussed. The documents resulting from this Convention are also defined, as declaration of the 1st European YW Convention.

European Co-ordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015

Committee of Experts on participation of people with disabilities in political and public life (CAHPAH-PPL), Agora, Strasbourg, 26-28 May 2010

After developing of the "Questionnaire on the participation of people with disabilities in political and public life" which have been realized during 2010 in all countries member of CoE. The Committee evaluated the received fulfilled q-res and discussed on the form of report on the results of this survey. The Committee decided to select two members as consultants:

- Phillip Madden, to write the analysis on fulfilled q-res from countries members of CoE
- Aleksandar Bogdanovic (IFHOHYP, AC), to write annexe – the examples of good practices on participation of people with disabilities in political and public life on the basis on q-res.

The Joint Coordination Committee of the Partnership between ERYICA and the Council of Europe, 21 June 2010.

The member of AC, Aleksandar Bogdanovic was also selected to represent AC at the Joint Coordination Committee of the Partnership between ERYICA and the Council of Europe meeting which took place at ECYS. The Committee made update of information of forthcoming events concerning the field of interest of ERYICA like conferences, summer schools and public activities.

Conference History of Youth Work (5-7.July) and European Youth Work Convention (7-10 July), Ghent, Belgium

As the member of the preparatory team for these events, Aleksandar Bogdanovic, also participated as participant. Themes and selected workshops where he took part were mostly on the including youth from minority groups into mainstream, policies and examples of good practices from other countries, international movements and countries in transition.

The development of programmes for youth with disabilities was one of the main goal themes to be realized upon the information and exchanges of experiences gathered on these events.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN ERYICA AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE - Colloquy Council of Europe/ERYICA "Bridging the gap", 21-24 September 2010, European Youth Centre Budapest

The Joint Coordinating Committee of the Partnership Agreement between ERYICA and the Council of Europe has agreed to organise a Colloquy, on current developments in Youth Information and the chances and challenges with the aim to discuss the development of Youth Information until 2010 and the challenges which lie ahead of us and to contribute to the start-up and development of local Youth Information Centres throughout Europe.

European Co-ordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015, Committee of Experts on participation of people with disabilities in political and public life (CAHPAH-PPL), Strasbourg, 8-10 November 2010

The Committee discussed the two parts of its final report as prepared respectively by two consultants - Mr Phil Madden and Mr Aleksandar Bogdanovic. The Committee's main wish was to have a factual and objective report which could be widely disseminated. In view of the timetable for carrying out the work, the CAHPAH-PPL asked the Secretariat to entrust the other consultant, Mr. Bogdanovic, with the task of drawing up the analytical part of the final report.

Consultative Group on Human Rights Education with young people - Consultative Meeting, EYC Strasbourg, 24-25 November 2010

This is the first meeting of the consultative group on human rights education with young people. The group was decided by the Joint Council on Youth as part of the follow-up to the forum on human rights education "Living, Learning, Acting for Human Rights", held at the EYC in Budapest in October 2009.

Decisions concerning disability were:

- Include Disabilism, Migration, Religion and Remembrance as specific global issues
- To organize a "50-50" training course on the rights of disabled young people in cooperation with the Directorate General for Social Cohesion
- To increase the number of trainers with disabilities well in the trainers pool
- Make application for activities accessible to people with special needs or disabilities

• IFHOHYP AT THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

IFHOHYP is represented at the European Disability Forum in the EDF Youth Committee. In 2010, the EDF Youth Committee followed its Action Plan 2010-2012. Their key activity in 2010 was the **ExchangeAbility project**. In cooperation with the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) and the Youth Agora, EDF is part of the ExchangeAbility project. Its main aim is to make ESN an association accessible for disabled students on all the levels of its activities. The project also aims, in the long term vision, to encourage the increase of the number of exchange students with disabilities and to create the best conditions for them during their stay abroad. As part of this project, EDF YC has several actions:

- On 6 February 2010 the first ExchangeAbility meeting between EDF YC members and Erasmus Student Network took place in Brussels. Karina Chupina was in charge of the training '**Disability Awareness Raising**' that she designed herself and which consists of simulation exercises and extensive debriefing.
- On May 29-30, EDF YC members ran a training workshop in Antwerp for the Erasmus

Student Network.

On 16-17 July the EDF Youth Committee met in Brussels, Belgium. Amongst many issues, **the YC members** discussed the priorities and possible activities of the YC in 2011. The following items were decided:

Action 1: mainstream the youth perspective in EDF work (consultation of the YC on important EDF papers, etc).

Action 2: on the basis of the YC Recommendations and follow-up activities, organise a capacity-building event targeting young persons with disabilities to raise participation of young people by end of 2011. The capacity-building event would also focus on education and transition to employment somehow. For instance, there could be a session to practice job interview skills.

The most important items to follow-up on are:

- Brainstorm about appropriate material to raise awareness and create a dedicated section on EDF website for young people.
- Create a toolkit targeting EDF member organisation in view of raising participation of young persons with disabilities. It might contain: funding opportunities, develop and disseminate the reasons why it is worth including young people, highlight best practices, etc.
- Create a traineeship scheme in the EDF secretariat for young persons with disabilities.

Action 3: brainstorm and prepare a proposal for a strategy on education and transition to employment. It would be implemented in 2012 and 2013.

• **IFHOHYP REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

IFHOHYP Summer camp in Fiesch, Switzerland, 19-30 July

IFHOHYP summer camp-2010 was organized by Jugehörig, a Swiss organization of hard of hearing youth. "Despite being held in the small town Fiesch (population: 1,000), the camp facility and the town offered numerous activities, such as tennis, mountain biking, and football. With 40 young adults from all over the world, the summer camp was a 12-day cultural mosaic. The experiences that young people were able to share with others bridged the gap among North Americans, Europeans, Asians, and an African from Burkina Faso". The summer camp was a great success!

Summer camp participants and IFHOHYP board express their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Laura Marti, Claudio Nicita and the rest of the Jugehörig organizing team. As participants stated, "without the team commitment and unwavering enthusiasm, the 2010 summer camp would not have been feasible".

IFHOHYP Study session – 2011 confirmed by the Council of Europe

Dedicated volunteers of IFHOHYP (Rinne Oost, Karina Chupina, Laura Scholler, Cristina Tabacaru, Margrit Plattner, Carlos Muncharaz, Andrea Sabova, Juliane Große) applied for the Study Session which should be held in Autumn 2011 at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. The topic of the study session is "Striving towards policy impact, awareness-raising and access to social rights". In December 2010 Council of Europe confirmed the study session and the preparation is underway.

• **IFHOHYP REPRESENTATION AND WORK ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

World Youth Conference, NGO Global Meeting, Mexico, August 23-27

After the announcement about the World Youth Conference at the IFHOHYP AGM, several people from IFHOHYP member organisations and IFHOHYP Board applied. Karina Chupina was selected by the WYC organizing committee and she represented IFHOHYP in Mexico at the **NGO Global Meeting** within the framework of the **World Youth Conference**. She happened to be the only delegate on behalf of the Russian Federation and the only international NGO delegate to represent disability! She therefore had a challenging task to make the voice of people with disabilities heard and seriously considered. What was the NGO Global Meeting about? The selected 208 young NGO leaders around the world came together to provide their input to decision-makers on the priorities to be put on the global agenda of youth development, as well as to hold the governments accountable about the promises established in the MDG and other international treaties. The role of IFHOHYP representative was to inform the delegates of the rights and concerns of youth with disabilities – and to paying attention that “youth with disabilities” and their specific needs are mentioned explicitly in the conference statements (instead of a “vulnerable youth” generalization). IFHOHYP representative took part in the discussions in the following thematic groups:

- **Poverty and Exclusion** (contributed with concerns on youth with disabilities, accessibility and mechanisms for inclusion)
- **Education** (contributed with concerns on promotion of non-formal education, access AND accessibility of education for all young people, and human rights education)
- **Employment** (contributed with suggestions on employment creation policies and programmes, capacity development, the role of formal and non-formal education, inclusion of young people with disabilities).

Learn more about it at www.youth2010.org. The mentions of disability, inclusion and non-formal education throughout the Statement of the NGO Global Meeting at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Source/Resources/Documents/2010_WYC_NGO_Statement_en.pdf. The regret of all NGO Global Meeting participants was that there was a gap between NGO Meeting Statement by young people and what governments agreed to later, in the Governments’ Declaration. Still, the very positive outcome was strengthening the voice of youth on international level, and learning to use the statement as a lobby tool in the future.

European Youth Forum General Assembly, Kiev, Ukraine, 18-20 November

IFHOHYP is the Observer Member of the European Youth Forum!

IFHOHYP President represented IFHOHYP at the European Youth Forum General Assembly in Kiev, Ukraine. She made a presentation of IFHOHYP explaining our concerns and why we want to be involved in the European Youth Forum. And the member organizations (National Youth Councils and INGYOS) voted “YES!”. IFHOHYP was accepted as the Observer member of the European Youth Forum and is actually the first international disability youth organisation in the Forum!

About the European Youth Forum:

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is an independent, democratic, youth-led platform, representing 99 National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations from across Europe. The YFJ works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve

their own lives, by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations towards the European Institutions, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Mission of the European Youth Forum is to be an independent, democratic, youth-led platform, representing national youth councils and international youth organisations from across Europe. The Youth Forum works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives, by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations.

Strategic priorities of the European Youth Forum are: Education, Youth Work Development, Participation and Youth Policy Mainstreaming, Human Rights, Employment and Social Affairs

IFHOHYP has applied for membership in the European Youth Forum in 2009 to ensure:

- o Visibility of disability issues and diversity in European youth work
- o Active participation in youth policy development
- o Building partnerships and exchange of experiences
- o Sharing expertise on how to work with youth with disabilities
- o Supporting the values of inclusion and participation for All young people

What does YFJ Observer Membership mean to IFHOHYP in practice?

- The right to be present and speak at the General Assembly and the Council of Members
- The right to present candidates for all non-permanent working structures of the YFJ
- Access to the latest news and information from the YFJ about the European and international youth work field

In a nutshell, Observer Membership gives IFHOHYP an opportunity to make our voice heard and to raise more awareness on our rights and concerns, on different levels. Importantly, it will help us to promote mainstreaming of disability in youth policy, mainstreaming of youth in disability policies, and mainstreaming of disability and youth in all policies.

To learn more about European Youth Forum (also abbreviated as YFJ) and its numerous activities in youth policy, human rights and participation, go to www.youthforum.org. Many thanks to the previous Board and Noora Penttinen for help in preparing application documents for the YFJ membership.

• **IFHOHYP AT THE UN YOUTH OFFICE**

In 2010 James Aniyamuzaala, IFHOHYP Board member, was recommended by IFHOHYP to participate in the Human Rights Advocacy Programme of the Columbia University in New York, and was accepted. While being on the programme, James met Nicola Shepherd, the Head of the Youth Programme at the United Nations, on 25 October. James handed over IFHOHYP booklets and discussed possibilities of IFHOHYP participating in International Year of Youth. UN Youth Office is committed to inclusion of youth with disabilities in all development programs. In celebration of 2010-11 as an International Year of Youth, the UN Youth office is developing a handbook on the best ways to include youth with disabilities in development programs including international and national Youth programmes. Nicola advised IFHOHYP to take advantage of the programme "Youth delegates to the UN" which involves countries nominating two young people to represent Youth in the UN General Assembly meetings and Youth conferences every year. Youth with disabilities should advocate for being delegates and her office is committed in helping with provision of information and recommendations.

IFHOHYP at the 3rd Conference of States parties to the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 1-3 September

While in New York, James participated in the 3rd Conference of States parties to the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He was among the three delegates who represented International Federation of Hard of Hearing (IFHOH). IFHOHYP thanks the President of IFHOH, Ruth Warick, who enabled James's participation in the Conference.

IFHOHYP Board member meeting the US State Department Special International Disability Advisor

On 4th November 2010, James Aniyamuzaala met Judith Heumann, an internationally recognized leader in the disability community and a lifelong civil rights advocate. She is the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the U.S. Department of State. From June 2002-06, Judith E. Heumann served as the World Bank's first Adviser on Disability and Development and led the World Bank's disability work to expand the Bank's knowledge and capability to work with governments and civil society on including disability in the Bank's discussions with client countries; its support for improving policies, programs and projects that allow disabled people around the world to live and work in the economic and social mainstream of their communities. She was Lead Consultant to the Global Partnership for Disability and Development.

IFHOHYP is an international non-governmental federation for national and regional youth organizations that are dedicated to hard of hearing young people throughout the world and is independent of sex, race, religion, nationality and politics. Our greatest priority is improving the quality of life of hard of hearing youth worldwide and promoting equal rights for hard of hearing young people at all levels of society. IFHOHYP specializes in meeting the changing needs of hard of hearing young people. We raise disability awareness on national and international level through activities run by and for hard of hearing young people aged from 18 to 35.

The work of IFHOHYP is carried out on three levels: political, informational, and educational providing personal and professional development opportunities for members. IFHOHYP is the only international youth disability organization which is actively cooperating with the Council of Europe, an intergovernmental organization that works toward human rights, democracy and promoting cultural dialogue in Europe. IFHOHYP is also represented in the Advisory Council on Youth within the Council of Europe which is a statutory body comprised of 30 representatives that can affect the political agenda of the youth sector and other sectors of the Council of Europe. IFHOHYP is an associate member of the European Disability Forum and an Observer member of the European Youth Forum.

ANNEX**IFHOHYP member organisations in 2010 (those who paid membership fee):**

- AFaMUT - Italy
- Bonaventura C.V. - Spain
- Kuuloliitto ry - Finland
- FADCY - Russia
- SHJO - The Netherlands
- SOMNED - Slovak Republic
- Unga Hörselskadade - Sweden
- CRID - Serbia
- Jugehörig - Switzerland
- Danishkadah - Pakistan
- Bundesjugend im DSB e.V. - Germany
- HLFU - Norway
- HDA - Vietnam
- A.S.F. - Burkina Faso
- UNAHOH - Uganda
- Bekol - Israel
- Høreforeningen - Denmark
- Česká unie neslyšících - Czech Republic
- ASSB - Burkina Faso