



IFHOHYP

International Federation of Hard of
Hearing Young People

IFHOHYP Annual Report 2013



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IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting

AGM, Stockholm, Sweden, 10-14 April

The Annual General Meeting-2013 took place near Stockholm, Sweden and was organized by Unga Hörselskadade.

The 3-day programme included workshops organized by IFHOHYP on Strategy 2015-2019, on the IFHOHYP Committees, about Fundraising and Finances in IFHOHYP, as well as Workshops provided by the Swedish organization on Participation through Bilingualism and Creating Linguistic Identity. The third day was fully devoted to the IFHOHYP AGM which was chaired by Jesse Oikarinen (Finland).

At the AGM, major part of the new Board officers was elected: Maggie Plattner (Switzerland) was elected as a Vice-president, Astrid Fejro (Denmark) was elected as a Secretary, Anna Vita Ross (Denmark) was re-elected as a Treasurer, and Nomy Bitman (Israel) joined IFHOHYP Board in the capacity of a Board member. Jesse Oikarinen (Finland) was elected as an Auditor.

It was also nice to see Rasmus Draklander (Sweden) and Cristina Dumitru Tabacaru (Romania) elected as IFHOHYP Honorary Members for their dedicated work for IFHOHYP.

IFHOHYP extends its thanks to Unga Hörselskadade for a very well-organised AGM!

IFHOHYP Committees' Reports

Information and Communication Committee

Coordinators: Astrid Fejrø (former IFHOHYP Secretary, Denmark) and Nomy Bitman (former IFHOHYP Board member, Israel).

Communication Committee consists of website and newsletter teams.

Website team members were Juraj Slobodan Variny (Slovakia), Budi Loonen (Netherlands), Akram Muhammad (Pakistan). In January 2013, Budi Loonen made design of the website. Akram Muhammad made basic work on design to make it functional as a Wordpress template. Juraj Variny with the help of external designer completed remaining work on website and made the site operational. At the AGM 2013 the Committee introduced new website. Most of the content was added during/after the AGM 2013 and the basics of the website were finished during the year. The website is still being fine-tuned as the administrator did not have time to finish it 100 % in 2013. Funding for the website was provided by the EACEA grant.

Newsletter team is comprised of Ece Saygi (Turkey), Irina Ivanova (Russia), Natalia Kondratyeva (Russia), James Ferguson (Canada). Roles and responsibilities in the team are divided as follows:

- Ece Saygi is the editor of the Newsletter (responsible for seeking new authors and material for the newsletter issues, liaising with the authors, collecting the articles, coordinating the process of Newsletter development - from collecting articles to Newsletter dissemination)
- Irina Ivanova is the editor of the Newsletter (responsible for seeking new authors and material for the newsletter issues, liaising with the authors, collecting the articles, coordinating the process of Newsletter development - from collecting articles to Newsletter dissemination)
- Natalia Kondratyeva is the designer of newsletter (new professional layout)
- James Ferguson is the proofreader of submitted Newsletter articles

The Newsletter team produced one extended Newsletter issue in 2013 and plans to issue three newsletters in 2014.

Expansion Committee

Expansion Committee in 2013 consisted of Rasmus Draklander (Sweden), Royee Rothman (Israel) and Alper Coskun (Turkey). The ideas that were discussed by the Committee, centered around translating IFHOHYP documents in different languages and organizing the capacity-building visit to Turkey. However, there were not enough human resources and time from both sides to carry out such a visit, and the political situation in Turkey at that time was an obstacle. It was decided to wait until next opportunity when the next Administrative grant will be received by IFHOHYP that will again allow such capacity-building visits like the IFHOHYP visit to the UK in the past.

Study Session Committee

Cristina Tabacaru (Romania) and Mona Belhouane (Tunisia) were the first to join the Committee. Later on, they, together with Juliane Grosse (Germany) and some support from the IFHOHYP Board, developed and submitted an application for the study session in the fall of 2014 on Organisational development. The application was successful and was accepted by the Council of Europe.

IFHOHYP ADVOCACY ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

IFHOHYP at the World Bank

Disability and World Bank Safeguards Campaign

Washington, D.C., April 4, 2013

Karina Chupina was a representative of IFHOHYP in the Consultation process on disability at the *World Bank Expert Focus Group Meeting on Safeguards and Disability, April 4, Washington, DC*. At this meeting Karina Chupina provided arguments as to why disability issues should be included into the Safeguard policies and provided examples of good practices, such as including disability NGOs into the monitoring process of the European Structural Funds. She also spoke of the necessity to consider the needs of youth with disabilities in programme planning, and provided examples of participation by youth with disabilities in programme development, as well as examples of training youth with disabilities. The travel costs were covered by the World Bank. The consultations are now continuing online. A brief explanation about the World Bank safeguard policies is provided below.

What are Safeguards?

“The World Bank’s environmental and social safeguard policies are a cornerstone of its support to sustainable poverty reduction. The objective of these policies is to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people and their environment in the development process. These policies provide guidelines for bank and borrower staffs in the identification, preparation, and implementation of programs and projects.”¹

What is the overarching goal of the World Bank Safeguard Policies consultation process?

- To ensure that the World Bank understands the link between disability and development;
- Recognizes the vulnerability of people with disabilities in developing countries;
- Includes people with disabilities and disability advocates throughout the accessible consultation process;
- Understands the harm done when people with disabilities are left out of development projects and programs;
- Understands the need to systematically incorporate disability into the safeguards so that there is binding policy language on disability;
- Acknowledges the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a model for policy language.

¹<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/EXTPOLICIES/EXTSAFEPOL/0,,menuPK:584441~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:584435,00.html>

Why does the World Bank need to address disability in its Safeguard Policies?

The World Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies are designed to lessen social and environmental risks associated with World Bank investments. However, as they stand now, the rights of people with disabilities have not been addressed in these policies. People with disabilities, often some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in countries where the World Bank has its projects, are not systematically consulted or considered in the planning and design of projects. The lack of a development policy that addresses the specific needs and vulnerabilities of people with disabilities may have resulted in harm. The World Bank must mandate systematic inclusion of disability into World Bank operations, ensuring that all relevant Bank-funded projects are inclusive in design and implementation, and ensuring strong, clear policy language on disability in the safeguards.

IFHOHYP at the UN

United Nations Conference of the States Parties to the UN CRPD New York, July 17-19, 2013

Maggie Plattner, IFHOHYP Secretary, and Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP President, for the first time attended the 6th UN Conference of the State Parties (UN COSP) to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in New York, USA, and represented IFHOHYP there. Before the start of the UN CRPD Conference, they were invited to attend the International Disability Alliance (IDA) meeting where Ruth Warick, IFHOHYP President, was also present as the Member of the IDA Board.

Participation in the Civil Society Forum (part of the UN COSP), in the Conference of the States Parties and in the IDA meeting helped IFHOHYP Board to understand much better how the cooperation with the UN and IDA could be developed further; what communication and participation channels should be used in order to increase IFHOHYP advocacy on the international level. It also became very clear that few youth with disabilities were represented at the UN COSP Conference and that youth needs a stronger voice in these fora! Same refers to the visibility of hard of hearing persons. Standing for the rights of hard of hearing persons together with IFHOHYP at this meeting was a very good step in raising visibility at the UN events and in partnering with IFHOHYP with which IFHOHYP had signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2012.

The UN COSP included a variety of Side Events where both Maggie Plattner and Karina Chupina intervened and spoke about youth with disabilities and hearing loss.

As Maggie Plattner put it on 18 July 2013, *"Today at the UN Side Events, we could actually made it clear that young people shouldn't be forgotten when it comes to education and other areas in life. Youths have other needs as children or adults. We could also make many people here see that it's not enough to say that the youth should also participate in politics etc but more importantly be actually **given opportunities** to do so. IFHOHYP will stay in contact with some of the people we have met here at the UN for these matters"*.

In addition, Karina Chupina made a comprehensive presentation on participation of youth with disabilities at the Side Event conducted by the Human Rights Watch “Examples of Accessibility from the US, Russia and Europe”. She spoke about challenges in access to participation of youth with disabilities in Russia and Europe, and provided practical solutions and recommendations. She was also invited to act in an honorary role of the Chair of the Side Event “Accessible Environments” organized by International Disability Alliance. Ahiya Kamara, former IFHOH Vice-President, was one of the key speakers at this Side Event.

IFHOHYP Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC

Thanks to Maggie Plattner, Vice-President, Karina Chupina, President, and the former Board who worked on the application to the UN ECOSOC, we are happy to announce that we now have a Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council).

This was a long-term goal in order to make the future of IFHOHYP more influential and hopefully the lives of hard of hearing young people more visible to organizations in the UN ECOSOC. This means for instance that IFHOHYP can now designate official representatives to the UN Headquarters in New York and the UN offices in Geneva and Vienna. IFHOHYP will be now able to get easier access to participation in the UN events, to take part in the UN forum, be more visible in the UN system and at the UN disability / human rights events.

IFHOHYP will be allowed to have special representatives to express the views of hard of hearing youth all over the world, and we greatly hope for Members’ support in this task, which we are all very excited to start. We in the Board are looking forward to closer cooperation with and within the UN!

IFHOHYP ADVOCACY ON THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

IFHOHYP and the European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlindness

European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness meetings throughout 2013, Brussels

In May 2012 a number of deaf and hard of hearing organisations founded the European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness. The organisations were: European Union of Deaf, EUD; European Federation of Hard of Hearing People, EFHOH; European Cochlea Implant Users, Euro-CIU; European Deafblind Network, EDbN. In November 2013 the Platform was extended when the European Deaf Young People, EUDY; European Deafblind Union, EDBU, and International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People, IFHOHYP, all joined the Platform. The Platform aims to unite the forces of the deaf and hard of hearing movement, and exert better influence on the decision makers within the EU bodies. An important part in the EU network is the European Disability Forum (EDF).

Astrid Fejro of IFHOHYP attended the EPDHHHD Platform meeting in Brussels and represented IFHOHYP when it got accepted to the Platform as its member.

IFHOHYP at the European Disability Forum

IFHOHYP former Secretary in the European Disability Forum Youth Committee

Sidsel Munkebo Hansen, former Secretary of IFHOHYP, was elected for the membership in the European Disability Forum Youth Committee where she officially represents EFHOH and also represents IFHOHYP issues. IFHOHYP Board is very happy for her and wishes her a lot of success in this new role.

IFHOHYP at the 3rd International Hearing Loops Conference

Eastbourne, the UK, October 6-7

Several IFHOHYP board members attended the 3rd International Hearing Loops Conference in Eastbourne: Anna Vita Ross, Treasurer (Denmark), Astrid Fejro, Secretary (Denmark), Nomy Bitman, Board member (Israel). The Conference was organised by IFHOHYP member

organization in the UK, Hearing Link, a UK charity for people with hearing loss, their family and friends. It brought together more than 200 loop experts, audiology professionals, service providers, and hearing loop users from around the world. The 47 sessions explored current and emerging hearing loop technology, debunked myths and fears, examined good practice and all too common poor practice, and made clear the true possibilities and benefits that hearing loops offer.

IFHOHYP at the Council of Europe

Council of Europe Conference “Full inclusion of children and young people with disabilities into society”

November 21-22, Brussels, Belgium

IFHOHYP President Karina Chupina took part in the conference organised by the Council of Europe and Belgium government that was devoted to inclusion of children and young people with disabilities. It felt special to see that the conference is not only about children, but “youth” as well. Previously, youth have been often left out of policy discussions on disability due to legal distinctions between a child and an adult where anyone above 18 is classified as adult. There has been a tendency to forget the transition phase between childhood and adulthood, and between education and employment. However, the adoption of the **Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2013)2 on ensuring full inclusion of children and young persons with disabilities into society** was one of the important steps in filling this policy gap and making young persons with disabilities more visible. This Recommendation was presented and discussed at the conference in Brussels.

The adopted Recommendation has four key objectives:

- **To promote full belonging to society** - supporting deinstitutionalisation in Member States and enhancing the social roles of children with disabilities to increase their self-esteem and enjoy their rights.
- **To reinforce participation, choice and decision-making** - providing children and youth with disabilities with accessible and age-appropriate information that would enable them to make informed choices.
- **To support the empowerment of children and young persons with disabilities** - service providers in the Members States should shift from an approach based on care to one based on human rights.
- **To strengthen inclusive education facilitating full citizenship** - countries should adopt the inclusion model in the educational system which adapts to the needs of all learners in order to respect human diversity.

It is important to note that *IFHOHYP contributed to this Recommendation*. Laura Scholler, former Secretary of IFHOHYP, and Karina Chupina contributed to this Recommendation through their work at the Council of Europe Consultative Meeting in 2012 on Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities in Council of Europe programmes. The Consultative Meeting produced the recommendations that were submitted to the Council of Europe experts’ body (CS-RPD) on the

rights of persons with disabilities and considered in the development of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation.

It was announced that **Erasmus +**, the new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport for 2014-2020, starts in January 2014 to bring together seven existing EU programmes in the fields of Education, Training and Youth. In the Youth domain of this programme, there is an objective that relates to youth with disabilities as well:

- To improve the level of key competences and skills of young people, including **those with fewer opportunities**, and youth workers, as well as to promote participation in democratic life in Europe and the labour market, active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity

IFHOHYP and its member organisations should take an opportunity to apply for the grants from the new programme in order to organize and run educational activities for hard of hearing young people, mixed ability activities (where participants with and without disabilities are involved), or involve hard of hearing youth in mainstream non-formal educational activities and projects. More about Erasmus+ can be read at http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm.

Conference covered three workshops: **Intersectoral approach to children's rights, Support for families and the community**, and **Inclusion in education and leisure activities**. At each workshop, challenges and examples of good practices in inclusion were explored. Though the conference was devoted to young people with disabilities, there were only a few young persons with disabilities represented. On the other hand, young people with disabilities from different countries were given a voice at the conference in the section "Accounts and views of young people" where they shared their experiences from the UK, Romania and Poland. The numerous presentations from the conference are available on the website <http://www.awiph.be/youthinclusion/apresconference.html>.

IFHOHYP Board meetings

IFHOHYP Board Meeting, Eastbourne, UK, October 8

After the end of the 3rd International Loops Conference, IFHOHYP had its Board meeting in Eastbourne. EFHOH and IFHOH Board meetings with IFHOHYP also took place in Eastbourne. The discussions centered on possibilities of organizing AGM 2014 in Israel in conjunction with the IFHOH BGM, cooperation between EFHOH and IFHOH.

IFHOHYP also held virtual Board meetings via Skype which greatly contributed to the effectiveness in tasks division, mutual support and carrying out IFHOHYP work.

ANNEX I

IFHOHYP Member Organisations in 2013

- AFaMUT – Italy
- Association Sportive des Sourds du Burkina (ASSB) - Burkina Faso
- Association de Sourds du Faso (ASF) - Burkina Faso
- Bekol - Israel
- Bonaventura C.V. - Spain
- Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association (BDHOH)
- Bundesjugend im DSB e.V. (BJ) - Germany
- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) - Canada
- Česká unie neslyšících (CUN) - Czech Republic
- CRID - Serbia
- Danishkadah - Pakistan
- FADCY - Russia
- Hearing Link - United Kingdom
- Høreforeningen (HF) - Denmark
- Hørselshemmedes Landsforbunds Ungdom (HLFU) - Norway
- Isirme Engelliler ve Aiceleri Dernegi (IED) - Turkey
- Jugehörig (JH) - Switzerland
- Kuuloliitto Ry - Finland
- SH-Jong (SH-J) - The Netherlands
- SOMNED - Slovak Republic
- UFHOH - Uganda
- Unga Hörselskadade (UH) - Sweden
- Hard of Hearing Young People Foundation - USA

ANNEX II

IFHOHYP Board in 2013

President: Karina Chupina, Germany/Russia (elected 2004, re-elected until 2014)

Vice-President: Maggie Plattner, Switzerland (elected 2013 for 1 year)

Secretary: Astrid Fejro, Denmark (elected 2013)

Treasurer: Anna Vita Ross, Denmark (elected 2011, re-elected in 2013 for half-term)

Board Member: Nomy Bitman, Israel (elected 2013)

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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. First established as a Committee in 1968, it changed its name to a Federation. Our greatest priority is improving the quality of life of hard of hearing youth worldwide and advocating for their rights at all levels of society. The work of IFHOHYP is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

IFHOHYP works on advocacy, awareness-raising, and educational levels providing personal and professional development opportunities for members. We strive for empowerment of hard of hearing young people, for visibility and representation of youth with disabilities in European and international youth & disability rights work. We raise disability awareness on national and international level through activities run by, with and for hard of hearing young people aged from 18 to 35.

IFHOHYP was the first international youth *and* disability organization to actively cooperate with the Council of Europe, an intergovernmental organization that works toward human rights, democracy and promoting cultural dialogue. Often we have been the only voice of youth with disabilities in political and advocacy discussions on the global level. In 2006-2010 IFHOHYP worked in the Advisory Council on Youth within the Council of Europe which is a statutory body comprised of 30 youth NGO representatives that can assist in developing the 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 where it is was the first disability youth organisation. Since 1990s IFHOHYP is actively involved in the UN World Youth Forums and World Youth Conferences. It was represented at the UN High Level Meeting on Youth (2011) and received the UN Special ECOSOC Consultative status in 2013. We cooperate with Global Partnership on Disability and Development, IFHOH, EFHOH, UNICEF, Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities and International Disability Alliance.

IFHOHYP started as a small international federation of a few member organisations, most of them in Europe. Today IFHOHYP constitutes more than 20 organisations from Europe, Canada, Asia and Africa; its focus shifted from social and peer support activities to international advocacy, non-formal education training and human rights work.

Since 2000s, thanks to its quality educational projects IFHOHYP started expanding its membership in Africa and Asia, and the amount of members is increasing.