

IFHOHYP Annual Report 2005

prepared by Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP President

The year 2005 was rich with activities for IFHOHYP and IFHOHYP was represented at various levels at international meetings, trainings and conferences. IFHOHYP got more recognition on the international level between international non-governmental organizations thanks to the efforts of the Board members, and also had success in fundraising for its international projects. Grant applications made by Karina Chupina with the help from the Board and some Committee members, received 2 grants from the Council of Europe – for study session and for the IFHOHYP Multimedia project. The Board and most Committees worked very well and demonstrated good teamwork. At many levels of work there was a considerable improvement.

Annual General Meeting, Utrecht, The Netherlands

AGM 2005 took place in Utrecht, The Netherlands, on 7 of May and was organized very well. IFHOHYP thanks hosting organisation, SHJO and Christi Menheere for organising the AGM. At the AGM a new Secretary of IFHOHYP, Christi Menheere from the Netherlands was elected. Greet Penneman from Belgium was elected an IFHOHYP treasurer.

IFHOHYP To Be Represented in Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Johan Bijleveld, the Netherlands, was nominated by IFHOHYP president Karina Chupina for the membership in the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth (accepted in January 2006). 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. First Advisory Council meeting that includes its new members, takes place on March 1-2, 2006 in the Council of Europe. Johan will work on youth issues and agenda of the Council of Europe Youth sector as a representative of IFHOHYP and will bring disability concerns in the youth matters of the Council of Europe. It is the first time IFHOHYP is represented in the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe. It is a big success for IFHOHYP and start of important lobbying work for next years.

COMMITTEES' WORK IN 2005:

Newsletter Committee:

The year 2005 was a steady one for the IFHOHYP newsletter. Newsletter committee (Andrea Pietrini and Vanessa Migliosi) succeeded in maintaining the usual cadence of 4 issues a year despite some difficulties (i.e. lack of time and people). However, thanks to efforts by some good-willing people, the Committee tried to publish all the issues and reach our objectives.

During the 2005 Committee observed a great improvement in the IFHOHYP website, with lots of news and weekly updates. Thus the Committee tried to place attention not only on "news", but on reports and articles about the hard-of-hearing world, - avoiding to not duplicate the website materials and use the same information. In fact Committee thinks that the website is more indicated for updates, while the newsletter should be more focused on critics and reviews.

During the year 2005 the Committee continued to publish the investigation on hard-of-hearing education and school around Europe, adding information from new countries, and reports from "IFHOHYP people" who took part in courses and congresses.

Fundraising Committee

Fundraising committee is comprised of Karina Chupina, Maria Lopez and Noora Penttinen.

Fundraising is a necessary activity for IFHOHYP as membership fees are not enough to organise international activities for hard of hearing youth. Fundraising is also a difficult activity that requires time, skills and coordination. Karina Chupina and Fundraising committee applied for the grant from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe for production of IFHOHYP Brochures, leaflets and CD-Roms in the first half of 2005. The application was rejected due to lack of funding in the European Youth Foundation. Later it was noted by the Foundation that more innovative projects will be supported. Karina Chupina applied for the grant from the European Youth Foundation with an adapted application for

the same project, but including more Multimedia production and more Multimedia CD-Roms' production "*What is it like to be young and hard-of-hearing in Europe?*". This time the project was approved and IFHOHYP received 7 000 Euros for running the project including costs for international preparatory meetings and accommodation. First Preparatory meeting takes place on May 1, 2006, after the IFHOHYP study session in Strasbourg. Karina Chupina (with significant support from IFHOHYP Secretary Christi Menheere and Treasurer Greet Penneman) had also applied to the European Youth Foundation for the administrative costs' grant for IFHOHYP and results will be known in June 2006.

Study session Committee:

Study session Committee is represented by Karina Chupina (Russia), Maria Lopez Garcia (Spain), Noora Penttinen (Finland), Johan Bijleveld (The Netherlands).

Study sessions held in cooperation with the Directorate of Youth and Sports, Council of Europe, are the most important IFHOHYP activities on both educational and political level. In 2005 the application for the study session submitted in 2004 was rejected due to lack of funding in the Directorate of Youth and Sport. In spring 2005 Study session Committee applied again and application was approved. Title of the study session is "*Safeguarding human rights of youth with hearing disability: how to cope with discrimination and violence in education and employment*". Study session will get together 30 young hard-of-hearing people from different countries of Europe on 23-30 April, 2006 in Strasbourg, France.

Website and Mailing List Committee:

Internet & Mailing List committee is represented by Greet Penneman (Advisor), Christi Menheere (Editing/Mailings), Gerard van Maurik (Webmaster).

During the AGM 2005 a few workshops were held about the website and mailing list. The subjects discussed during the workshop were: Forum; Lay-out (Background- and text color/contrast); Mailing lists - how to make the information for the visitors of the IFHOHYP website much better. After the AGM 2005 Internet & Mailing list Committee did the following - introduced some frequent updates such as Newsletters, Information about the Summer Camp 2006 in Spain, some new polls and other updates. Most of the aims from 2005 were not achieved due to finishing studies and moving of Christi Menheere to the new house, busy times at work for Gerard, working commitments and other web projects of Gerard. However, the website was regularly and efficiently updated and this is a lot of improvement. On November 19, 2005 a small Board/Internet Committee meeting was held at the house of Gerard van Maurik, IFHOHYP webmaster. During that meeting plans for the new functions of the website were made such as Mailing list application via the website and Picture book/Photo gallery. The cost of the website was also discussed. The cost for hosting website during 2006 were determined as € 86 per year including VAT. New aims for 2006 are the following (in order of importance):

- Creating an admin-site for maintaining the website (such as news, newsletter-upload, future modules etc.)
- Creating a Picture book/Photo gallery
- Online agenda (from activities, meetings etc.)
- Online application for
 - Activities
 - E-zines
 - Newsletter
- Creating the mailing list with online application
- Creating a new forum (using and implementing the phpBB forum application, see <http://www.phpbb.com>)

The Internet & Mailing list Committee hopes to achieve much more in 2006 than in the previous years.

Concerning the Mailing List specifically, after the AGM 2005 the task of making a mailing list belongs to Christi Menheere, IFHOHYP Secretary. Her task is to spread all kind of information about hard of hearing and young people on the IFHOHYP mailing list. Because of the fact that Christi Menheere couldn't get any updated contacts from the previous Secretary, she started with contacts that she got from Karina Chupina. While she sent information about IFHOHYP and the IFHOHYP mailing to organizations which are related to hard of hearing or young people, the IFHOHYP mailing list addresses had significantly increased. Secretary aims to provide the information in an attractive and interesting way that is also clear, concise and professional. In the future the web server of IFHOHYP will take over the self made IFHOHYP mailing list and visitors will be able to sign up at the website.

English Language course committee

This committee is represented by Maria Lopez Garcia, Lianne de Jonge and Noora Penttinen.

For working in IFHOHYP, one of the most important things is ability to communicate in English. Being able to speak and understand English allows hard of hearing people to share ideas and experiences in international groups. Hard of hearing people have a lot of difficulties in following regular courses of English. Therefore the main objective of this committee is to arrange English language course for hard of hearing young people who are members of IFHOHYP.

Members of the committee contacted different schools in England where English courses for deaf and hard of hearing are held. The main obstacle is a very high cost of such courses and accommodation which are very expensive for young people. Committee thus has to look for sponsors. Thanks to contacts in Madrid, Committee got in touch with a teacher of English who can organize an adapted English language course for hard of hearing people. The sponsorship for this is required and Committee will look for the sponsors.

Development of new activities committee:

At the AGM in 2005 the New Activities Committee was created. Its main objective is to reflect upon and take decisions on the new activities that IFHOHYP can organize in addition to regular AGM, Summer camps and study session activities.

Members of the committee (Maria Lopez and Lianne de Jonge) proposed some activities. (Rinne Oost was a member of the committee too, but due to work commitments and missing a personal drive to continue with IFHOHYP he left the committee in spring 2006). At a time, this committee contacted all members of IFHOHYP asking what kind of activities they organise: this gives an idea of what activities hard of hearing young people enjoy and would like to happen.

Some of these activities are:

- English course (described as the most important activity)
- Exchanges between youth from different countries
- Winter sports holidays during a weekend
- Exchanges of information and experiences between members from the organisation on a website
- Internet game: participants are online and they have to answer many questions and collect points. The answers of those questions you can find in internet
- Chat where you can contact people from different countries
- Contact with other organizations and getting new members
- Photography competition with a grant from a Hearing Aids company
- Christmas card competition with a grant from Hearing Aids company. The winning card will be sent to wish Christmas to all organizations and hard of hearing young people.

After deciding the activities that IFHOHYP can arrange, the committee will create new committees for each activity. The committee will continue working on defining new activities.

IFHOHYP Summer camp in Czech Republic, 6-21 August 2005

The Czech Deaf Union organized an amazing summer camp full of sports and cultural activities, in Prague and Strelske Hostice. Various workshops, HoHlympics and sport games such as baseball, table tennis, tennis, canoeing, climbing, biking were organized. Thanks a lot to the organizers for their dedication, hard work and a wonderful time they gave to participants!

New IFHOHYP Bank Account in Belgium

Greet Penneman, newly elected IFHOHYP treasurer (Belgium), opened a new IFHOHYP bank account in Belgium. This bank account bears less costs than the previous Italian bank account, and transfers within the EU are free of charge. The new bank account is planned to be operated for long time and no more changes of the IFHOHYP bank account are expected in the coming years.

Joint Board meeting of EFHOH and IFHOH, Zagreb, Croatia, 10-13 November 2005

Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP president, took part in the Joint Board meeting of EFHOH and IFHOH in Zagreb, Croatia. Meeting proved to be very useful and opened up new possibilities for IFHOHYP-IFHOH-EFHOH joint partnership. IFHOHYP will do joint fundraising with IFHOH and EFHOH. IFHOHYP will be

represented by Karina Chupina in the World Association for the Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, while EFHOH and IFHOH will be represented in the Association by their members.

“Small” IFHOHYP Board meeting, 19-20 November, Baarn, The Netherlands

“Small” Board meeting took place in Baarn at the place of IFHOHYP webpage webmaster Gerard van Maurik. Christi Menheere (Secretary), Karina Chupina (President) and Rinne Oost were present. At the meeting the IFHOHYP website was discussed, current situation of IFHOHYP, IFHOHYP needs and opportunities. Special attention was given to IFHOHYP partnerships and fundraising.

Training for Facilitators, Council of Europe – IFHOHYP Delegate took part

Yana Domuschieva, Bulgaria, participant of IFHOHYP study session'2003 and now a member of the IFHOHYP study session'2006 team, was nominated by IFHOHYP and course director of the IFHOHYP study session'2006 Karina Chupina for *Training for Facilitators* of the study sessions. She took part in this training in the *Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport, European Youth Centre Budapest*. This experience has proved useful in preparing and organizing the IFHOHYP study session 2006.

Youth Express Network “Staying Alive” training-seminar on strategy of youth work and cooperation

Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP president, represented IFHOHYP, youth and training issues at the *Youth Express Network (YEN) meeting* in Portugal. YEN works towards inclusion of disadvantaged young people. In future, IFHOHYP and YEN will run joint *integrated activities* for both hearing and hard-of-hearing youth. The challenging plan is to apply for an integrated study session in Strasbourg in 2007 for young people with difficulties that involves both hearing and hard-of-hearing participants.

IFHOHYP at the European Day of People with Disabilities 2005 - The European Commission Conference in Brussels

On 1-2 December Christi Menheere, IFHOHYP Secretary, represented IFHOHYP, hearing disability and youth at the European Day of People with Disabilities 2005 - The European Commission Conference in Brussels. The Conference was organised in cooperation with the European Disability Forum. It was very important that IFHOHYP was represented there because even in the disability field on the European level they often forget that there are hard-of-hearing (and not only deaf) - and that there are young people with disabilities, too. It was a special and useful invitation as IFHOHYP had been never before invited to this Conference. IFHOHYP President could not attend the meeting and the Board delegated Christi Menheere, IFHOHYP Secretary, to represent IFHOHYP at this conference.