



IFHOHYP

International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People

IFHOHYP Annual Report' 2006

prepared by Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP President

The year 2006 was a very busy and an unprecedented year for IFHOHYP in the sense that it gave start to new ambitious, unique international projects. Many thanks to the Board members (Christi Menheere, Maria Lopez Garcia, Greet Penneman) and volunteers who worked tirelessly for IFHOHYP all year round and demonstrated excellent teamwork.

IFHOHYP was well represented at international meetings, trainings and conferences. As a result of its activities, new member organizations from Scandinavia and Southeastern Europe joined IFHOHYP.

New active young people from different countries got involved in IFHOHYP mainly after their participation in the IFHOHYP study session'2006 run in cooperation with the Council of Europe.

2006 gave a start to new large scale projects such as Multimedia Production Project "*What is it like to be young and hard of hearing in Europe?*". Thanks to National coordinators for their contributions to this project. Furthermore, since 2006 IFHOHYP is represented in the Advisory Council on Youth in the Council of Europe. We are the only international youth disability organization in the Advisory Council. Through representation at the AC IFHOHYP has a good chance to make more impact on policy-making on international level.

IFHOHYP was also quite successful in fundraising for its projects and administrative costs. In the end of the 2006 we were happy to learn that our application to the European Youth Foundation for the Research Project "Hard of hearing young people in Europe: developing strategies on access to equal participation, social inclusion and protection of human rights" was approved. New study session "Leadership skills and developing necessary competences with hard of hearing youth – Getting strong in the future" was approved, too, and will take place in September 2007.

It is obvious that IFHOHYP is getting bigger and stronger. However, its projects in 2006 were still carried out mainly by the Board with support of a few dedicated individuals to whom we would like to extend our thanks (Yana Domuschieva, Aleksandar Bogdanovic, Karthik Vijayanandam, Andrea Pietrini, Martin Novak, and others). As IFHOHYP grows and its projects expand, it needs more support from volunteers and national member organizations than ever!

March 23-26, 2007 - IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting (AGM), Tampere, Finland.

At this meeting the elections of the IFHOHYP President and Vice President were held. Karina Chupina (Russia) was unanimously voted for continuing President's work in her second term; Maria Lopez Garcia (Spain) by majority of votes was re-elected a Vice President. Noora Penttinen remained in the position of the auditor of IFHOHYP accordingly with a majority of votes. IFHOHYP would like to thank Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing **Kuulonhuoltoliitto ry** for organizing the AGM.

April 27-30, 2007 - IFHOH and EFHOH Joint Annual General Meeting, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Greet Penneman took part in IFHOH and EFHOH Joint AGM on behalf of IFHOHYP, in capacity of an IFHOHYP Board member and treasurer. She made a presentation about IFHOHYP and IFHOHYP Multimedia project to which EFHOH and IFHOH later made a contribution. The IFHOH & EFHOH Annual General Meetings were hosted by the Croatian organisation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

April 23-30, 2007 - IFHOHYP study session “Safeguarding human rights of hard of hearing youth: how to cope with discrimination in education and employment”, European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France.

Success of the year! 28 participants from 19 countries (!) took active part in this study session where concrete policy recommendations along 4 key themes were developed by participants:

- ❖ *Access to higher education,*
- ❖ *Access to employment,*
- ❖ *Work with mass media, access to communication and information,*
- ❖ *Rehabilitation and access to technical aids.*

These policy recommendations are a first step to creating comprehensive policy proposals that will be submitted by IFHOHYP in 2007 to the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport and to the Directorate of Social Cohesion, Integration of People with Disabilities, in view of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan launched in 2006.

“Study session in Strasbourg enabled me to meet hearing impaired friends from different countries. The topic that it was focused on: “how to cope with violence and discrimination in education and employment” was excellent. In one week period, we shared our experiences and ideas, discussed our problems that we face in every areas of our life and found solutions to them. Now I am stronger to ask my rights as a hearing impaired student, I have already started to apply my project ideas that I gained in study session in my home country (in 2007, Berna will run a Training Course on Maximizing Participative Inclusion during University Experience). Besides the things that I learned about academic life, I also developed strategies to learn interculturally and gained a deeper understanding of friends from different countries. I also learned to read body language when I have problems in communicating with spoken language. One week in Strasbourg was a great experience for me thanks to all who put their all energy to make this possible.” :)

Berna CIBIK (Turkey)

“It was my first time when I attended the Study Session for Hard of Hearing Youth. Thanks to this study session, I feel that I'm supported by the HoH youth all over the world, that I'm not alone with my problem. Next time, I'll try to encourage more HoH young people to participate in Study Sessions, in order to prepare enthusiastic friends who will be with me in my work for the needs of HoH people. Thank you all!”

Ayazhan Seitkazina (Kazakhstan)

IFHOHYP main project of the year: Multimedia production project “What is it like to be young and hard of hearing in Europe?”

This ambitious and unprecedented project that has been never carried out before on an international level, is held within the framework of the **European Youth Campaign “All Different – All Equal”** - “Diversity, Human Rights and Participation” (see <http://alldifferent-allegal.info>). IFHOHYP applied for the project in 2005 and the project received support from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. Karina Chupina of IFHOHYP initiated the project.

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE PROJECT:

- 1) To develop **publications, Multimedia CD-ROMs (DVDs) and website** with comprehensive information about hearing disability-related issues across Europe, actual and possible role of European Institutions & NGOs in empowering hard of hearing (HoH) & disabled youth for participation
- 2) Through this awareness-raising, **to increase participation of HoH & disabled youth** in mainstream decision-making in Europe and **to build partnerships with relevant actors** to this end

THE CONTENTS OF THE PRODUCTION:

1. **DVD** - Multimedia DVD with texts, research materials, information, interactive modules, presentations, videos and photos related to issues of hearing loss
2. **BROCHURES** – while DVD will have a lot of specific materials from different countries, brochures will consist of selected materials of more international dimension
3. **LEAFLETS ABOUT IFHOHYP** – A4 folded colour leaflets with information about IFHOHYP and its activities

Project was run by **International Coordinators' Committee** where each international coordinator was responsible for a group of countries:

Karina Chupina	Christi Menheere	María Lopez Garcia
Belarus	Finland	Czech Republic
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Israel
Russia	Serbia	Italy
Slovak Republic	Belgium	Poland
United Kingdom	Sweden	Spain
United States of America	The Netherlands	Switzerland
	Turkey	

However, not all countries became involved in the project due to lack of will or due to lack of resources.

The Multimedia DVD will include, but will not be limited to, the following sections: **Results of the survey about HoH youth situation across Europe** (HOH and education/employment, access to social rights in different countries of Europe etc), **simulations** (audiogram, interactive training...), **technical information** (hearing aids, CI, loop systems, alarm clocks, new technologies...), **Disability Rights information** (legislation, examples of good practices, lobbying, organizations work with EU and international), **Rehabilitation, Hearing loss** (difference between HOH and Deaf , means of communication, how ear works, scientific material, genetics, reasons of deafness and hearing loss, psychological effect, sounds, experiential things to feel what is it like to be HOH (e.g. videos without sounds etc, simulations), **Education & work** (rights, accessibility, situation in different countries...), **Non-formal education** (courses, lip reading, presentations in the universities, English courses...), Success stories (friends, private life, relationships, stereotypes, personal stories, overcoming challenges...), **Glossary of relevant terms, EU and international institutions' work towards disability issues and HOH** (Council of Europe, UN, EU, others...), **Organizations related to hearing loss** (contact information, aims, history, successful projects, logo, activities...), **Photo gallery, IFHOHYP and its activities.** Large part of the DVD will be devoted to **national production** (articles, presentations and movies) **about situation of hard of hearing** in different European countries.

May 1, 2006 - Preparatory meeting for the Multimedia production project "What is it like to be young and hard of hearing in Europe?", European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

This Prep meeting was held in Strasbourg after the study session, for the Multimedia international coordinators' team and regional/national project coordinators, most of whom were study session participants. Meeting was devoted to setting agenda for the project, dividing tasks among coordinators, selecting and reviewing materials for the DVD production.

17 - 31 July, 2006 - IFHOHYP Summer camp, Spain

A wonderful summer camp was organized and a great work was done by the Spanish Organization Bonaventura-C.V. 53 participants from all Europe could enjoy 2 weeks of the summer camp with a complete program full of sports, cultural activities, sightseeing... Various workshops about disability, sport games such as sailing, kayak, mini golf, football, basketball and visits to different Spanish places were organized. Thanks a lot to the organizers for their dedication, hard work and a wonderful time they gave to participants!

July 4-28, 2006, Intercultural Language Course of English of the Council of Europe, Dublin, Ireland

Frantisek Smolik (Czech Republic) and Ayazhan Seitkzaina (Kazakhstan) were nominated by IFHOHYP for this course which takes place only once a year, with 20 participants from national and international non-governmental youth organisations. Frantisek Smolik was selected and took part in the intercultural English language course in Dublin, organized by the National Youth Council of Ireland in co-operation with the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe. He was provided induction loop system by the National Association for Deaf People in Dublin. This helped him to follow the course that was designed for hearing participants. The best experience for

Frantisek was communication „one to one“ between a teacher and a student. It was a challenge for Frantisek, but with support of other participants, teachers, visual study materials and an induction loop he managed well.

NEW MEMBERS in IFHOHYP

Serbian organization *Inclusive Society Development Centre* joined IFHOHYP; Swedish organization for hard of hearing young people *Unga Horselskadade* joined IFHOHYP in autumn again. IFHOHYP is looking forward to cooperation and bold projects on international level together with the new members!

August 24 – September 2, 2006, Meeting of the IFHOHYP Multimedia production project “What is it like to be young and hard-of-hearing in Europe?”, Belgrade, Serbia

IFHOHYP project “*What is it like to be young and hard-of-hearing in Europe?*” is carried out within the **European Youth Campaign “All Different – All Equal”** on Diversity, Human Rights and Participation. IFHOHYP Multimedia project preparatory team met in Belgrade, Serbia. Aleksandar Bogdanovic (Serbia), Karthik Vijayanandam (UK) and Karina Chupina (Russia) were involved in the meeting. Yana Domuschieva (Bulgaria) assisted via Internet. The meeting was a successful start for a more coordinated work on the project and established agreement with the Serbian multimedia company “WebHouse” that produces DVD in cooperation with IFHOHYP. At the meeting, among other things, the following was done:

- Comprehensive instructions + criteria for the multimedia production by National project coordinators and their teams
- Announcement of the DVD and brochure cover design competition
- Draft models of the questionnaire to be disseminated amongst 18 national project coordinators and HOH young individuals in 18 countries;
- Reviewing submitted materials and videos; timeline for the montage of the videos from IFHOHYP summer camps and study session' 2006
- Meetings and consultations with experts in Multimedia production

September 21-22, 2006 - European Conference and the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan Launch in St.Petersburg, Russia

The Conference launched the *Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015* which aims to improve the quality of life, inclusion and active participation of people with disabilities in society, and to strengthen equal opportunities and non-discrimination. It also developed practical recommendations to national authorities aimed at promoting good practices at national level and increasing co-operation with civil society.

Karina Chupina of IFHOHYP was present at the conference and met the experts from the Council of Europe Directorate of Social Cohesion who gave inputs at the IFHOHYP study session'2006 in Strasbourg. She is convinced that Council of Europe Disability Action plan is crucial and its implementation by the State should be monitored at all levels. Karina stressed that more NGOs should have been invited to this event and expressed hope that more attention will be paid to participation of Youth disability organizations. Karina was the only representative of international and Russian youth disability organizations at the Conference.

September 22-24, 2006 - Council of Europe Youth Event “All Different – All Equal” within the European Youth Campaign on Human Rights, Diversity and Participation, St. Petersburg, Russia

Youth Event in St.Petersburg was one of the key events in the European Youth Campaign. Karina Chupina took part in the event and in the workshop on Human Rights Education, Diversity and Anti-discrimination. She made sure that the promotion of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 was included in the final St.Petersburg Declaration of the Event; that disability dimension is taken into account in the declaration, that disability features as one of the bases of discrimination and that declaration calls for access to participation for disabled young people.

NEW IFHOHYP representative in the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth

IFHOHYP Board nominated Aleksandar Bogdanovic to replace Johan Bijleveld as IFHOHYP delegate in the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth. Aleksandar is a deputy director of the Inclusive Society Development Center in Belgrade. He was a participant of the IFHOHYP study session' 2006 and is a National Coordinator in the IFHOHYP Multimedia project "*What is it like to be young and hard of hearing in Europe?*" The Advisory Council on Youth is a statutory body of the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport that comprises 30 representatives of non-governmental youth organisations and networks. It provides opinions and input from the youth NGOs on all Council of Europe Youth Sector activities and ensures that young people are involved in the Council's other activities.

Aleksandar's role is to be an active representative of IFHOHYP in the Advisory Council (AC). AC is making proposals and conceives the background for new documents (such as The Kiev Declaration 2008), youth policies and recommendations. Since IFHOHYP is the *only international youth disability* organization member in this body, Aleksandar's role includes:

- promoting inclusive policy of action (including minorities/people with disabilities as active members of European society)
- raising awareness among other members of Advisory Council on necessary actions and policies for the inclusion of young people with disabilities/hard of hearing and considering their needs.
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Aleksandar tries to bring the inclusive way of thinking, discussion and decision-making in this body, and plans to promote disability issues by:

1. Helping other AC members to understand/remind the importance of including people with disabilities into mainstream society – for example providing documents on sessions and workshops on disability issues, giving the examples of good practices, etc.
2. Suggesting proposals for making the decisions, documents and policies to be inclusive and not limited to youth only (without disability)
3. Checking how far the action, projects and achievements of various HOH/disability organizations respond to the policy, ideas and way of action of AC, and seeing how they can be connected to AC activities.

There are good additional factors for representation of IFHOHYP and promotion of youth disability issues, such as support in Advisory Council in the face of Aleksandar Jovanovic, member of Green Youth Europe, Serbia. Aleksandar Jovanovic and Aleksandar Bogdanovic initiated the launching of National Council of the Campaign "All different – All equal" campaign in Serbia and the Campaign itself. Support also comes from Olivera Popovic, Ministry of Education and Sport of Republic of Serbia, who understands disability issues very well. She helps to make impact on Joint Council (co-decision body bringing together the Advisory Council and the CDEJ (The European Steering Committee for Youth consisting of representatives of ministries or bodies responsible for youth matters from the 48 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention that establishes the youth sector's priorities, objectives and budget)). Her role in the AC will increase because since 1 May 2007, Serbia takes Chairmanship in the Council of Europe. The factors such as support from other AC members and Serbia's Chairmanship in CoE, will help to raise interest of the Advisory Council in disability issues and accept disability-related proposals.

IFHOHYP represented at the Diversity Youth Forum of the Council of Europe

IFHOHYP delegate Andrea Pietrini (Italy) was selected to take part in this Symposium in Budapest, October 24-29. Aim of the symposium was 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 "All Different – All Equal" European Youth Campaign. About 120 young people from youth and human rights organisations, governmental and non-governmental organisations, National Campaign Committees met at the European Youth Centre Budapest at the Forum organized by the Council of Europe and supported by the European Commission.

There were only three delegates with a disability in the symposium out of about 120 people, so time and space for disability issues was limited, but these delegates, including Andrea Pietrini, succeeded in affirming their point of view on disability issues. They 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. Since there were few representatives of disability issues, theme of disability was “underrated” in the general context where issues of xenophobia and racism prevailed. More disabled people should participate in the future, to achieve more visibility.

IFHOH / EFHOH Board meeting, 29 October, Helsinki, Finland

The practice of inviting IFHOHYP to the IFHOH/ EFHOH Board meetings gives IFHOHYP a very good chance to share ideas and experiences with colleagues on an international level. Karina Chupina represented IFHOHYP at this meeting and discussed current projects (such as Multimedia project) as well as possibilities of the cooperation in future, including the IFHOH World Congress 2008 in Vancouver, Canada. It was requested that participation fee is made lower for young people and that accommodation for young people is booked in hostels, not in hotels. This way more participation by young people and representation of youth will be achieved.

24 - 29 October 2006, Conference “Technical aids and empowerment” by Unga Hörselskadade, Örebro, Sweden

Every year in November Unga Hörselskadade (national organization of HOH young people in Sweden) organizes a Youth Conference for its members from all the country. In 2006 the main theme of the conference was “Technical aids and empowerment”. Unga Hörselskadade (UH) invited Karina Chupina and Maria Lopez Garcia as Board members of IFHOHYP to take part in the conference and make a presentation of IFHOHYP, since UH is a new member in IFHOHYP. Unga Hörselskadade also invited Maria Lopez Garcia and Karina Chupina to explain the situation of HOH people in Spain and Russia. Presentations were met with interest and there were lot of questions from the participants.

Many thanks to Unga Hörselskadade for inviting IFHOHYP representatives to their event to share ideas and experiences! IFHOHYP strongly hopes that such close and direct cooperation with national member organizations will continue. Learning about national examples of good practices firsthand is crucial for the development and work of organizations of hard of hearing youth in different countries across Europe, and more exchanges of experiences should be carried out between IFHOHYP members.

IFHOHYP COMMITTEES’ Reports:

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE REPORT

Newsletter Committee is comprised of Andrea Pietrini, Vanessa Migliosi, Maria Lopez Garcia, Juraj Variny, Lianne de Jonge. During the year 2006 the Newsletter Committee worked following the usual Newsletter style. Four issues, one for each season of the year (Spring – Summer – Autumn – Winter) were produced. Since the most urgent news and photo documents are now published online on IFHOHYP website, the Newsletter turned into a “general interest magazine” more than “what’s news?” one. The most important Newsletter feature has been, again, the discussion between hard-of-hearing young people about the situation for HoH youth across Europe. About ten different country situations have been collected until now, in an attempt to give a complete overview of European hoh people. More, this year impressions on various symposia and congress were published, such as conferences in Florence, Dubrovnik, Budapest, and also reports about youth conferences in Sweden and Spain, where IFHOHYP representatives took part.

Finally, after four years (2002-2006), the Newsletter editor changed, and Juraj Variny (Slovak Republic) became the Editor of the Newsletter. Under his supervision some major changes are expected during next months.

INTERNET AND MAILING LIST COMMITTEE

Internet & Mailing list committee is represented by Greet Penneman, Juraj Variny, Christi Menheere and Gerard van Maurik.

In 2006 regular tasks were completed:

- Publishing all the news of IFHOHYP mailings
- Updating AGM page
- Updating Summer camp page

- New picture book page with several events
- New project page about GENDEAF
- New polls
- Draft of the mailing list with online application
- Draft of online application for activities, E-zines and Newsletter
- Programming maintenances

Other aims were not achieved due to a number of time-consuming commitments of each committee member. The cost for hosting website during 2006 were determined as € 86 per year including VAT.

This year was a fine year for the IFHOHYP mailing event. More than 40 messages were sent to the contacts of the IFHOHYP mailing list. Important criteria were clearness, briefness and professional at making-up the messages, but also no more than one message a day (In 2005 it happened that two or more a day were sent off). The committee also takes care of organizing, keeping clear and up-to-date the new IFHOHYP mailing list until the web server of IFHOHYP takes over the list and visitors will be able to sign up at the website.

REPORT OF THE ENGLISH COURSE COMMITTEE:

Everybody knows that for working in IFHOHYP, one of the most important things is the communication in English. To be able to speak and understand the English language allow hard of hearing people sharing conversations and experiences. Hard of hearing people have a lot of difficulties for learning English in a normal course, therefore the main objective of this committee is to arrange the English language course for hard of hearing young people-members of IFHOHYP. Last year members of this committee contacted various schools in England where English courses are provided for deaf and hard of hearing students. The main obstacle or inconvenience was the funding: costs of study and accommodation are very high for young people, and the Committee has to turn to sponsors for support.

This year the committee couldn't do anything and they are very sorry for that. The reason is that some members of this committee were involved in other projects such as the Summer camp, AGM 2007, Multimedia project, Study Session and those members were very busy since the other activities required lot of time and work. Still, the Committee looks forward to the project proposed by Loli Bermejo Martinez where the English Course can be organised in Ireland or England. She had some difficulties to contact the English teacher.

REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

In 2005 this Committee was created with the main objective of developing new activities that IFHOHYP can organize in addition to regular AGMs, summer camps and study sessions.

Until AGM 2006 members of this committee proposed some activities that IFHOHYP can arrange, for example exchanges of young people from different countries, exchange of information and experiences through the website, to create a chat and some competitions of photography or Christmas cards.

The Committee decided to start with a "simple" activity: the Christmas card' competition. This activity meant to look for a sponsor for the winner' prizes, to write the announcement for participants and to decide who are the winners. The Committee made a project application explaining the activity which was sent to different hearing aids and cochlear implant companies for financial support. IFHOHYP was very lucky because Rayovac (a batteries company that supported to Bonaventura in the Summer camp) offered themselves to be sponsors of IFHOHYP various activities. Thanks to Rayovac the Committee could get the money for the Christmas card's prizes. The announcement was sent through Mailing list and 7 participants sent their designs to the Committee.

The jury selected the winners and their names were published in IFHOHYP newsletter. The best Christmas' card was also sent to the mailing list and different institutions with best Christmas wishes. This committee will continue organizing this activity for the next years and the Committee will try to arrange a new activity too.

REPORT OF THE STUDY SESSION COMMITTEE:

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

April 23-30, 2006

One of the most significant study sessions for IFHOHYP indeed! 28 participants from 19 countries took active part in this study session. Participants were hard of hearing young people aged from 18 to 35 who are actively working/volunteering in organisations on issues of hearing disability. It was the biggest number of countries and organisations of hard of hearing youth ever involved in IFHOHYP study sessions.

Team consisted of the study session course director Karina Chupina (Russia), Noora Penttinen (Finland), Maria Lopez Garcia (Spain), Johan Bijleveld (The Netherlands), Yana Domuschieva (Bulgaria) and educational advisor from the European Youth Centre Strasbourg, Nadine Lyamoury – Bajja (France).

The overall aim of this study session was to empower and train young hard of hearing activists to develop, implement and multiply assistance tools aimed at combating discrimination and violence in mainstream education and employment. One of the tools given special attention was the development of policy recommendations addressed to various national and international bodies, including the Council of Europe.

Successful approaches to combating discrimination towards hard of hearing youth in different countries of Europe were discussed and analyzed; the results of these discussions and group work were developed into concrete policy recommendations along 4 key themes:

- ✓ Access to higher education,
- ✓ Access to employment,
- ✓ Work with mass media, access to communication and information,
- ✓ Rehabilitation and access to technical aids.

These policy recommendations are a first step to creating comprehensive policy proposals that will be submitted by IFHOHYP later this year to the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport and to the Directorate of Social Cohesion, Integration of People with Disabilities, in view of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan launched in 2006. Extensive questionnaires designed by the team were used in study session work and for sharing examples of good practices between the participants.

REPORT OF THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

Fundraising committee is comprised of Karina Chupina, Maria Lopez, Laura Marti and Greet Penneman. Since most members of the Committee are also Board members, most grant applications were made by the Board together. Sometimes information about possibility to apply for a grant arrived to IFHOHYP on a short notice, so there was little time to involve more volunteers for support and writing project proposals. There is a hope that in the near future the Committee could be a bit extended so that Board members do not have to do all fundraising work.

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 (with significant support from IFHOHYP Secretary Christi Menheere and Treasurer Greet Penneman) applied to the European Youth Foundation for the administrative costs' grant for IFHOHYP and IFHOHYP received the grant. Karina Chupina, Greet Penneman, Maria Lopez Garcia and Christi Menheere applied to the European Youth Foundation for the Research Project "Hard of hearing young people in Europe: developing strategies on access to equal participation, social inclusion and protection of human rights" that was approved. Also Greet Penneman, Karina Chupina, Christi Menheere and Maria Lopez Garcia applied for the new study session "Leadership skills and developing necessary competences with hard of hearing youth – Getting strong in the future" and it was approved, too. It will take place in Budapest European Youth Centre on 16-23 September 2007.

In the end of 2006 IFHOHYP Board applied for the grant of the European Commission "Support for bodies active at European level in the field of youth", EU Youth in Action, Action 4, and is awaiting the Commission's decision.

IFHOHYP study session participants in the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg



IFHOHYP member organizations in 2006, including new members:

- Czech Republic** - Czech Union of the Deaf;
- Finland** - Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing;
- Italy** - Association of the Hard of Hearing and Deaf Children in Trentino;
- Russia** - Fund of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth;
- Slovakia** - The Slovak Club of Hard Of Hearing Young People;
- Spain** - Bonaventura-C.V., Spain;
- Switzerland** - Jugehoerig;
- Sweden** – Unga Hörselskadade
- The Netherlands** - SHJO;
- Serbia** - Inclusive Society Development Centre