



IFHOHYP

International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People

IFHOHYP Annual Report' 2007

prepared by Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP President

2007 was a successful and a very busy year for IFHOHYP. The highlights of the year were:

- New and unique international project: the International Research and Publication *"Hard of hearing young people in Europe: developing strategies on access to equal participation, social inclusion and protection of human rights"*.
- IFHOHYP study session on leadership *"Building necessary competences for hard of hearing youth – getting strong in the future"*, European Youth Centre Budapest, 16-23 September,
- IFHOHYP Strategy Conference *"Building the Future of IFHOHYP"*, 23 September, European Youth Centre Budapest.

IFHOHYP was also successful in fundraising for its projects and administrative costs. For the first time ever IFHOHYP received the European Commission grant "Bodies active at the European Level in the Field of Youth" intended to support the operational costs of IFHOHYP. Thanks to the grant, IFHOHYP was able to organize and run a Conference on IFHOHYP Strategy "Building the Future of IFHOHYP", to organize a Board meeting, produce IFHOHYP promotion materials, support communication and administrative costs of IFHOHYP.

This year was a challenging year for the IFHOHYP, too. The Board underwent changes in its composition – the official treasurer left IFHOHYP in the middle of the year. The Board had to keep working on IFHOHYP projects & activities despite difficult family circumstances for some members of the Board – the President and fifth Board member. At a time, resignation of IFHOHYP treasurer blocked all IFHOHYP. But thanks to new acting treasurer Christi Menheere, good teamwork and a few dedicated individuals from and outside the Board such as Christi Menheere, Maria Lopez Garcia and project coordinator Aleksandar Bogdanovic, the projects and study session preparation were continued well under the guidance of the President. After her forced leave during summer, President fully joined all IFHOHYP projects and organizing study session by the end of August 2007.

IFHOHYP Board thanks the previous treasurer Greet Penneman for her work while she was on the Board of IFHOHYP and for her availability, even if extremely limited, to be still contacted for finalizing financial issues/reports from the year 2007. IFHOHYP Board also deeply thanks Committees and all volunteers who contributed to IFHOHYP meetings, projects and study session success in 2007 – Aleksandar Bogdanovic, Berna Cibik, Laura Marti as well as Juraj Variny and contributors to the IFHOHYP Newsletter.

5-9 April, IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting (AGM), Bern, Switzerland

AGM Programme included an extra day of the visit to Phonak factory arranged by Phonak, Karina Chupina and Jugehoerig. The costs of extra night accommodation and meals were covered by Phonak. IFHOHYP would like to thank Swiss organization Jugehoerig for organizing the AGM.

Important new decision was taken at the AGM: IFHOHYP Board will have a 5th Board member with flexible tasks and with the duty to assist other Board members in their work. See more details in the AGM minutes at www.ifhohyp.org.

2-5 May, EFHOH AGM, Oslo, Norway

Karina Chupina was an IFHOHYP delegate to the EFHOH AGM where she was asked to make a presentation about the IFHOHYP Multimedia and IFHOHYP research projects. The delegates of the adult Danish and Irish organizations expressed a very high interest in having their youth organizations join IFHOHYP, and IFHOHYP was invited to participate in the next EFHOH AGM in Ireland in 2008.

July, Intercultural Language Course of English of the Council of Europe, Dublin, Ireland

Katerina Monakhova (Russia, Fund of Assistance of Disabled Children and Youth) applied for the Intercultural Language course of English of the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sports, was nominated by IFHOHYP and selected for participation by the Council of Europe.

July, Intercultural Language Course of Italian of the Council of Europe, Italy

Laura Marti (Jugehoerig, Switzerland) applied for the applied for the Intercultural Language course of English of the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sports, was nominated by IFHOHYP and selected for participation by the Council of Europe. Experiences of Laura Marti and Katerina Monakhova at the language courses are described in the latest 2007 issue of IFHOHYP newsletter.

16-23 September, 2007 - IFHOHYP study session “Building necessary competences for hard of hearing youth – getting strong in the future”, European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary.

29 people from 13 countries participated in this study session. Participants were mainly hard of hearing people aged from 18-35. They were active volunteers involved in organizations of and for hard of hearing people. This study session was one of the most active and dynamic study sessions ever. Participants collaborated a lot in various activities and workshops, they put forward their proposals, opinions.

The participation of Canada, Pakistan and Turkey made this study session special because of the increased diversity of cultures. This also helped IFHOHYP to open up more on international level and have member organisations from outside of Europe.

Team consisted of the Study Session course director Aleksandar Bogdanovic (Serbia), Karina Chupina (Russia), Berna Cibik (Turkey), María López (Spain) and educational advisor from the European Youth Centre Budapest Goran Buldioski (FYRMacedonia).

The main aim of this study session was to develop and improve leadership skills in order to empower:

- to raise awareness on how to overcome obstacles created by hearing loss
- to develop and sustain existing youth organizations where hard of hearing young people participate, as well as to set up new ones.

This study session was more of a training session than a seminar in a way that it provided many interactive skills-building workshops. Many activities and workshops were centered around different concepts such as leadership and identities of HOH young people, leadership skills, teamwork, facilitation, public speaking, social inclusion, Intercultural dialogue (the 2008 is the European year of Intercultural dialogue), European Citizenship. One of the tools given special attention was human rights education in the context of disability related discrimination.

The study session finished with the presentation of interesting projects proposed by the participants that can be developed in IFHOHYP or in its national/regional organizations.

23 September 2007 – IFHOHYP Strategy Conference “Building the Future of IFHOHYP”, European Youth Centre, Budapest.

The first ever conference on strategy of IFHOHYP was made possible to organize through the support of the EC grant. At the AGM' 2007 IFHOHYP member organisations' delegates asked to organize a conference where they can discuss IFHOHYP future. The result was the conference organized and run by Karina Chupina, Maria Lopez Garcia, Aleksandar Bogdanovic, Christi Menheere and Goran Buldioski, external expert from the Open Society Institute.

Strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for IFHOHYP were discussed in small groups at the Conference. Later on, participants tackled the issues of Financial and Human resources, Impact of IFHOHYP and awareness-raising on an international level, Structure and membership, and produced strategy plans for these issues accordingly which were extremely useful for IFHOHYP and were taken into consideration by the Board. The Board

already sent to its members the Call for reviewing the IFHOHYP Constitution as it was suggested at the Conference. Workshops preceding the AGM' 2008 will be devoted to the follow-up of this conference, to finalizing IFHOHYP strategy for the next 5 years and to the realization of the strategy. The completed report, inputs, and strategy recommendations from the Conference will be sent to the Conference delegates and IFHOHYP members before the AGM.

IFHOHYP Research Project "Hard of hearing young people in Europe: developing strategies on access to equal participation, social inclusion and protection of human rights."

Meeting of Research Production Project (RPP) team – Berne Switzerland, 1-5 April 2007

This team consisted of: Karina Chupina (Russia), Aleksandar Bogdanovic (Serbia), Christi Menheere (The Netherlands), Greet Penneman (Belgium), Maria Midbøe (Sweden), María López García (Spain), Suzana Ivanovic – expert in social research (Serbia). Greet Penneman and Suzana Ivanovic could not attend the first meeting.

Team discussed the timeline for project, analysing the 1st draft of Q-re, designing the questionnaire and possible countries involved. The team also approved the qualifications of expert Suzana Ivanovic.

Step-by-step process afterwards was as follows. May 2007: The Call for national coordinator for RPP. The 2nd draft of Q-re made. June/July 2007: Karina Chupina was forced to temporarily leave the project due to family circumstances. Project is slightly delayed for this reason and also because of the slowed communication in the team. Maria Midboe decided to leave project for personal reasons and due to forced delay (she concluded that she could not contribute enough to the project given its changed timeline). August 2007: National coordinator from Poland – Damian Dudala joined the project. September 2007: The team continued to work on questionnaire. October 2007: Greet Penneman decided to leave project for personal reasons (she concluded that she cannot contribute enough to the project and had disagreement with the expert's proposals; the other reason was that she also resigned from her Board position within IFHOHYP). The Serbian expert involved more experts in the project in order to speed up the process and to change the questionnaire into a simpler and user-friendly version without losing the scope of the main and complex issues addressed in the questionnaire. The project was again delayed due to illness of the expert Suzana Ivanovic and her being in the hospital. December 2007: Questionnaires are finished and tested on the field in Belgrade, Serbia. Two questionnaires were finalized: one for young hard of hearing - simple, allowing to express personal view of situation of hard of hearing in their community/country; and the second – interviews for experts/ organisations' leaders who can give more precise and accurate information on actual situation in their countries. January 2008: The questionnaires sent for translation at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade. The web site for RPP has been in construction since December.

IFHOHYP Multimedia production project *"What is it like to be young and hard of hearing in Europe?"*

1500 brochures were published in 2007 and many of them were distributed to IFHOHYP members at the study session and at the Conference in Budapest. Others will be distributed by post to IFHOH, EFHOH and other IFHOHYP members. Due to president's illness and at the same time, a change of the head of the production company in Serbia that was responsible for producing the DVD, the DVD production had to be temporarily stopped. After the responsible DVD producer in Serbia had to leave its post in the "WebHouse", IFHOHYP MMP team and the President had to work with the new people in the "WebHouse" company, explain all over again the expected results of the project, outlines, structure of the production, explain the connection between the files and the place of each file in the DVD, correct the mistakes in the production submitted by National Coordinators, etc. Work with new people therefore took much more time and the DVD production will be completed in 2008. The Council of Europe funds from the Multimedia project grant have already been transferred to the Serbian "WebHouse" company in 2007 and there is an agreement that the company will finish the DVD. A few costs for MMP project have to be still transferred to recipients – according to the agreement with the Council of Europe, they can be transferred only from the IFHOHYP bank account in Brussels, i.e. this can be done only by the former treasurer. Former treasurer promised to perform the remaining payments in March 2008, explaining that before March 2008 it is impossible for her. IFHOHYP thanks its members for their patience and understanding.

IFHOH / EFHOH Board meeting, 26-28 October, Stockholm, Sweden

Jacob Selin represented IFHOHYP at the EFHOH and IFHOH Board meeting. Both IFHOH and EFHOH are very interested in cooperation with IFHOHYP and welcome IFHOHYP expansion on the International level. Participation of IFHOHYP at the IFHOH Congress-2008 in Vancouver, Canada was also discussed.

15-16 December, 2007 - IFHOHYP Board meeting, Borne, The Netherlands

Christi Menheere, Karina Chupina, Noora Penttinen and Jacob Selin were present at the Meeting. Part of the meeting costs was covered by the Dutch organisation SHJO and travel expenses were covered by the European Commission grant. The meeting was very useful in that it helped to define the tasks of the extended Board and to divide them; to review the work of IFHOHYP in the past two years, to discuss the strategy and further steps for consolidating IFHOHYP work at different levels. The Board meeting minutes will be sent to IFHOHYP members.

NEW MEMBERS in IFHOHYP

Bulgarian organisation "Friends", Polish International Institute of the Study of Education and Culture became members of IFHOHYP in 2007. Pakistani organisation "Danishkada" and German organisation of hard of hearing youth applied for IFHOHYP membership since 2008. Canadian youth organisation CHHA-YAN is currently considering prospects of IFHOHYP membership.

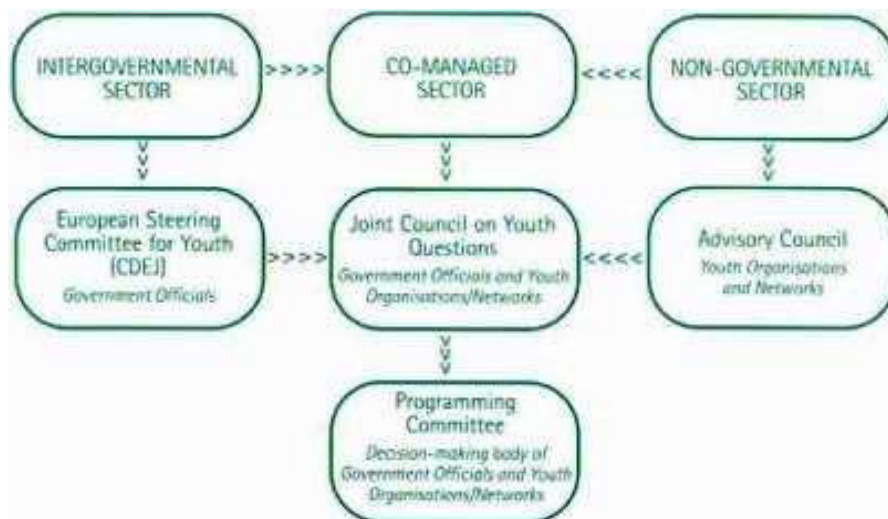
Representation of IFHOHYP in Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe:

Short intro:

The **Advisory Council on Youth (AC)** 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.

The **Joint Council on Youth** is a co-decision body, bringing the CDEJ and the Advisory Council together. It establishes the youth sector's priorities, objectives and budget envelopes.

The **Programming Committee on Youth** is a co-decision body comprising 8 members each from the CDEJ and the Advisory Council. It establishes, monitors and evaluates the programmes of the European Youth Centres and of the European Youth Foundation



The **Advisory Council on Youth and the European Steering Group for Youth (CDEJ)** meets twice a year in separate meetings (two days) and meet for a one day joint meeting, the Joint Council on Youth. The Joint-Council on Youth drafts and decides upon proposals and recommendations for the Directorate of Youth and Sport to be implemented.

The European Youth Foundation

The Council of Europe established the European Youth Foundation (EYF) to provide financial support for European youth activities, with an annual budget of approximately € 2.5 million. The EYF is a powerful tool for European youth co-operation. It supports European youth activities organised by non-governmental youth organisations, networks and initiatives, primarily international youth meetings, but also campaigns, exhibitions, publications, audio-visual material, websites and pilot projects. The EYF also provides grants for the development and administration of non-governmental international youth organisations and networks.

Activities report:

17th Meeting of Advisory Council - Strasbourg (EYC), 19-21 March 2007

On this meeting the main topics were:

- Renovation of the EYC Strasbourg – has to be finished in spring 2008.
- Working group on violence against children - Information was given on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on a draft convention to be drafted by the end of 2007.
- Presentation of the Forum on the Future of Democracy
- Working groups: White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue - expected to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers before the end of 2007. As to the content, the White Paper would provide a vision of what could be achieved by a policy promoting intercultural dialogue, would include examples of good practice, and suggest policies and initiatives which could be implemented to support the promotion of intercultural dialogue. It is seen as support to the “European Year on Intercultural Dialogue” (2008)
- “Council of Europe Youth Policy, Agenda 2020” – drafting of a strategy paper on youth policy. Rights covered are also political, cultural, social and economic rights: employment or rather lack of or changing employment perspectives, working conditions, the link between employment and autonomy, the increasing problem of “brain drain” in some countries; social inclusion; health as a basic human right for youth living in disadvantaged areas and provision of at least basic health care, costs being covered by health insurance; sport for all; training and access to it; education and recognition of qualifications across boundaries.
- Update on the implementation of the “All different – All equal” European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation.

CDEJ Training Session, Prague 27-31 August 2007

Training session for new members of CDEJ and AC to be more knowledgeable about structures of CoE, decision making process, youth policy conceiving and also good opportunity to meet with more experienced people from CoE and get some connections. The main topics were:

- CoE youth policy: concept, instruments, implementation, perspectives
- Presentation of the CoE’s youth sector: aims, structures, programmes, partnerships, work priorities)
- Group discussions on youth policy – related topics (ie: White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue, Non-formal education, Youth participation at local and regional levels, Human Rights Education and intercultural learning, etc.)
- The youth sector in 2007-2008 (state of affairs): current developments and challenges.
- Co-management in the CoE’s youth sector: functioning of statutory bodies, decision-making, administrative aspects, secretarial services/staff, etc.

Croatian Youth Network International Conference – “Different Backgrounds – Same challenges”, near Zagreb 10-14 October 2007.

As member of Advisory Council Aleksandar Bogdanovic was sent as its representative to hold the workshop about co-management system in youth policy decision bodies, social inclusion and involving minorities (youth with disabilities, internally displaced, young Roma).

18th Meeting of Advisory Council – Budapest (EYCB), 17-19 October 2007

- 2008 budgets and programmes;
- Renovation of the European Youth Centre Strasbourg (including task force on the renovation and voluntary contributions to finance the renovation);

- Campaign “All Different – All Equal”; reports and closure
- Preparation of a policy instrument on democratic citizenship and human rights education;
- Progress report on the work of the Advisory Council;
- Recent developments concerning the European Youth Foundation;
- 8th Conference of Europe Ministers responsible for Youth – draft papers
- Council of Europe youth policy: “Agenda 2020”
- [Work priorities for 2009-2011] and the different types of activities to be implemented in the framework of the annual youth programme
- Partnership with the European Commission in the youth field (including the issue of the involvement of the co-managed bodies of the CoE youth sector)

At this meeting Aleksandar Bogdanovic found the contact for joining European Youth Forum for becoming member and to seek possible funding to cover membership fees in the European Youth Forum.

Draft on Strategy paper on youth Serbia – Belgrade (EYCB), 22 October - 24 December 2007

As member of Advisory Council, Aleksandar Bogdanovic got the opportunity to work on the draft document on Strategy on youth in Serbia, a big size project with over 250 persons involved. Aleksandar Bogdanovic was the only representative with disability and coming from disability organization (IFHOHYP) who worked on this document – this caused more awareness about young people with disabilities.

Role of IFHOHYP representative:

The main role of IFHOHYP representative is not only to be present on the Advisory Council meetings and activities, but to be also active in discussions and workshops, especially concerning conception of youth policy that will have impact on the situation of HoH young people in the future. An example is: making the parallel between intercultural dialogue and including the HoH into social mainstream.

The second role is to be more “visible” among other members of Advisory Council and Joint Council, to raise awareness about problems and possibilities of HoH – lobbying. Aleksandar as the member of fundraising committee, also tries to find the potential funding and connections for IFHOHYP, such as Programming committee, European Youth Forum and other.

Expanding IFHOHYP Membership in the international organizations such as the European Youth Forum (www.youthforum.org)

European Youth Forum is made up of more than 90 National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, which are federations of youth organisations in themselves. It brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests.

Membership in the European Youth Forum brings such benefits as access to information about the funding possibilities, access to grants and foundations, educational and training activities, lobbying, formulation of youth policy on the European level (and contributing to it from the perspective of youth with disabilities), partnerships with many other youth organizations across Europe and the world.

In 2007, Aleksandar Bogdanovic and Karina Chupina started discussion with the Advisory Council, representatives of the European Youth Forum and the Solidarity Fund of the Council of Europe about possible membership of IFHOHYP in the European Youth Forum – in order to acquire at least the observer member status. They were informed that European Youth Forum membership fees were not lowered for minority youth organizations despite IFHOHYP requests back in 2002. However, the Solidarity Fund may provide financial support to IFHOHYP with the aim to cover membership fees in the European Youth Forum. The procedure of membership application and approval is very long and could take about a year or more. Plan for 2008 is to prepare all necessary documents and apply for membership at the European Youth Forum.

Resignation of IFHOHYP treasurer and appointing new acting treasurer

Greet Penneman, treasurer of IFHOHYP re-elected at the AGM 2007, resigned from her post in the middle of 2007, due to family issues and inability to cope with too many financial tasks in 2007 connected with providing project financial reports to the Council of Europe. Christi Menheere from Holland was appointed a new acting treasurer.

Protocol of resignation and appointment of a new acting treasurer are available to IFHOHYP members.

With the assistance of former treasurer, Christi Menheere operated the accounts and financial reports in the 2nd half of 2007. She also had set up a new IFHOHYP bank account in the Netherlands, since the Brussels-based account is not possible to reach from the Netherlands, including online-banking. Official elections of the IFHOHYP treasurer will be held at the AGM 2008 in Valencia, Spain.

IFHOHYP COMMITTEES' Reports:

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee is represented by Juraj Variny, Christi Menheere, Gerard van Maurik, Vanessa Migliosi, Lianne de Jonge and María López.

The newsletter group compiled and edited the newsletter every 3-4 months. In 2007 only 2 newsletters were published because members were quite busy and they had to write and collect a lot of articles.

The style of the newsletter has been changed by the editor Juraj who tried to give a new and more modern style. The structure of the newsletter remained the same as in the past years: 14 interesting articles, interviews, situation of HOH people in different countries ...

Many articles were written by the members of the committee, but in 2007 quite a few were also written by people out of the committee as there were lots of different activities promoted or supported by IFHOHYP (meetings, conferences, Council of Europe Language Course) in which IFHOHYP members participated, and they wanted to share their experiences with IFHOHYP newsletter readers. Communication Committee is grateful to all the contributors:

Maria Garcia Lopez, Spain
Karina Chupina, Russia
Juraj Variny, Slovakia
Lianne de Jonge, The Netherlands
Damian Dudala, Poland
Svetoslava Saeva, Bulgaria
Martin Novak, Czech Republic
Laura Marti, Switzerland
Katerina Monakhova, Russia

The website group did all updates where needed, such as the newsletter, news, some specific pages, etc. Besides, Christi and Gerard got the task to establish a page with online questionnaires for the Research Project. They worked three whole weekends on that, but unfortunately the research project was delayed for several reasons and due to this, the online page with questionnaires is delayed too.

The Committee planned to establish a page about the Multimedia Production project, but there is still lack of final information (the DVD). This is hoped to be done in 2008.

The cost for hosting website during 2007 were determined as € 86 on annual basis.

This committee was also responsible to organize and develop the 2nd Christmas Card Competition. The conditions of participation were changed and only 4 people participated. The sponsor was a Rayovac company again and the 3 winner cards were selected by the jury. The novelty in this second-time competition was that the winners' card was printed and sent to all IFHOHYP member organizations and International institutions (such as the European Union, European Disability Forum and the Council of Europe) with Christmas congratulations and best wishes for the future partnership.

After the discussion with the Board, the Committee agreed to produce IFHOHYP promotion materials and leaflets. The Committee found a company of business gifts to produce IFHOHYP promotion pens. In the beginning of 2008 the promotion pens will be ready. The IFHOHYP leaflets will be published in the first half of 2008.

REPORT OF THE ENGLISH COURSE COMMITTEE:

This committee is represented by Lianne de Jonge, Loli Bermejo, Laura Marti, Silvia Castellón and María López.

This committee was quite active in 2007. Thanks to Loli, the Committee contacted a group of teachers who developed various English Language Courses in Ireland (www.interacting.info/). They offer dynamic courses where participants can learn the language using interactive methods such as theatre and other.

This teachers never worked with Hard of Hearing people before but they have experience with people with other disabilities and are ready to learn and to work with people with hearing loss.

The committee has been discussing some important points such as length of the course, place, accommodation (residence/family/ budget stay...). It was decided that the Committee can start with a pilot project, with a few people (8-10), with a basic language course and staying in host families. If everything goes well, the 2nd year would be with 30-40 participants and small groups that will study different levels of language.

The main obstacle is the funding. The teachers' team can adapt the course depending on the available budget, but the committee has to look for sponsors anyway.

The committee still works on the English Language Course and will try to arrange it soon.

REPORT OF THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

Fundraising committee consists of Laura Marti, Maria Lopez Garcia, Aleksandar Bogdanovic and Karina Chupina. Since the year has been very busy with IFHOHYP activities and there were grants that had to be already used for work in 2007, the committee did not apply for the grants together; the initiatives were taken by separate committee members according to the needs. Maria Lopez Garcia got support from Rayovac for the Christmas card competition. Karina Chupina and acting treasurer Christi Menheere applied for the EC grant "*Bodies active at the European Level in the Field of Youth*" for 2008 and are awaiting the results in 2008. Karina Chupina also discussed the possibilities of donations/sponsorships from Phonak, but for 2007 Phonak was not able to provide a sponsorship. Other initiatives that were taken:

- Partnership offer from Azerbaidjan – for joint application and carrying out project with HoH youth – in 2007 it was declined due to lot of workload for IFHOHYP but contacts and project idea are kept for the future;
- Request to Fundacion ONCE to support the IFHOHYP AGM 2008 – no answer yet;
- IFHOHYP has to apply for an activity first; only then IFHOHYP can apply for European Youth Forum membership fee funding from the Solidarity fund for Youth Mobility;
- Application for funding from the Serbian Ministry of Social is planned - for printing booklets with Research project results; there is a high possibility to receive funds.

**We thank our supporters in 2007:
The European Union
The Council of Europe
and Rayovac company**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



IFHOHYP member organizations in 2007, including new members:

- **Czech Republic** – Česká unie neslyšících
- **Finland** – Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing
- **Italy** – A.Fa.M.U.T.
- **The Netherlands** – SHJO
- **Russia** – Fund of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth
- **Spain** – Bonaventura-C.V.
- **Sweden** – Unga Hörselskadade
- **Slovakia** – AKMNP
- **Switzerland** – Jugehörig
- **Serbia** – Inclusive Society Development Centre
- **Bulgaria** – Friends
- **Poland** - International Institute of the Study of Education and Culture



IFHOHYP Board at work, 16 December 2007, Borne, the Netherlands.
(excluding Maria Lopez Garcia who apologised, could not come to the meeting)