



# **IFHOHYP**

International Federation of  
Hard Of Hearing Young People

## **IFHOHYP Annual Report 2008**

prepared by Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP president



*On the photo: hard of hearing pilot Johan Hammartström (Sweden), Noora Penttinen (Finland), Karina Chupina (Russia), Hanh Duong Phuong (Vietnam), Lianne de Jonge (The Netherlands). IFHOH Congress, Vancouver, Canada, 4-7 July 2008*

It can be said without any doubt that 2008 was a very busy year for IFHOHYP. It was a very successful year in terms of extended networking with old and new partners of IFHOHYP: IFHOH, EFHOH , European Disability Forum, Council of Europe, European Commission, European Youth Forum and new member or partner organisations from America, Africa and Asia. IFHOHYP got greater visibility on the international level thanks to the European Disability Forum meetings and the biggest event of the year, IFHOH Congress in Canada. The Board worked hard during all the year in a mutually supportive manner and proved to have a good teamwork. It must be noted that a lot of work was done on contents' and financial reporting (EC Youth in Action grant, IFHOHYP study session' 2007) as well as fundraising and writing grant proposals (EC Youth in Action grant 2009, IFHOHYP study session 2009, and other). Due to many important events during the year not all planned work was fully completed in 2008 and is continued into 2009. Overall, it was a good year that brought new members and partnerships for working together towards better quality of life for hard of hearing young people worldwide.

### **IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting, 20-24 March, Valencia, Spain**

The IFHOHYP AGM-2008 was organized by the Spanish organization Bonaventura during the Easter weekend (20-24 March). There were 8 organizations represented: ASF from Burkina Faso, Bonaventura from Spain, FFHOH from Finland, Fund of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth from Russia, Jugehörig from Switzerland, SHJO from the Netherlands, SOMNED from Slovakia, UH from Sweden.

Prior to the AGM, workshops and discussions were organised, the main focus of which was the IFHOHYP strategic plan development. The mission, vision and possible actions were discussed. Another important decision taken was to adjust and "translate" the complex text of the IFHOHYP constitution into an everyday language to make it more clear and understandable to everyone.

The priorities for the next years were established:

- 1) *Adapting the IFHOHYP constitution,*
- 2) *Improving internal & external communication in IFHOHYP,*
- 3) *Developing political agenda,*
- 4) *Promoting IFHOHYP in national organisations and*
- 5) *Developing strategic plan.*

In the field of communication, it was defined that the website and the newsletter have to become more up to date and modern. In the context of political issues, participant suggested to give more attention to subsidizing hearing aid and subtitling.

Taking into consideration the priorities, the following committees were established or decided to continue:

- Communication (Newsletter – Website) Committee
- English Language Course Committee
- Constitution Committee
- Political Committee
- Research Project Committee
- Nomination Committee

New Board members were elected at the AGM. Karina Chupina was re-elected as President

for the next two years. Maria Lopez Garcia was re-elected as Vice-president for the next two years. Christi Menheere was elected as Treasurer for one year and Lianne de Jonge was elected as Board member for one year.

IFHOHYP Board expresses its thanks to Bonaventura for the very well organized AGM 2008.

### **Promotion of IFHOHYP**

Apart from IFHOHYP brochures that are always distributed at various international events on hearing loss, human rights or disability issues, IFHOHYP got promotion pens for distribution. Christi Menheere of IFHOHYP Board produced promotion pens and special gift pens with the inscription 'IFHOHYP' and the website link for IFHOHYP members, guest speakers, partners and active volunteers. IFHOHYP business cards were also printed for IFHOHYP Board for distribution at the IFHOH Congress.

### **IFHOH and EFHOH Board meetings, 27 April, Dublin, Ireland EFHOH Annual General Meeting, 27-29 April, Dublin, Ireland**

Noora Penttinen was a delegate to both meetings on behalf of IFHOHYP. One of the most important issues at IFHOH meeting was the Education task committee chaired by Ruth Warick. IFHOH would like to co-operate with IFHOHYP on this issue as IFHOHYP has first hand knowledge about secondary and tertiary education. IFHOH is trying to make guidelines about education for HoH but it's very difficult as different countries have totally different levels. IFHOH is trying to work on this at the International Disability Alliance as well. Another current issue was the effect of the CI to the Deaf community and how the CI kids will become members of the HoH community instead: in the developed countries there are no really „deaf“ kids anymore - they all have either hearing aids or a CI. It's a challenge to both the HoH associations and the deaf associations to tackle this issue. Obviously there will still be a lot of deaf people in the third world countries and that is a big issue for the World Federation of the Deaf. IFHOH is trying to co-operate with WFD and the deaf-blind organisation on this matter. IFHOH prepared accessibility guidelines to be presented in Vancouver at the IFHOH Congress.

At the EFHOH Board meeting the discussions centered around standardisation document on hearing aid service: e.g. how long a person can test a hearing aid before deciding on taking it. At the EFHOH AGM Siegfried Karg from Switzerland was elected as a vice president and Knut Magne Ellingsen from Norway won the post of the board member over Anna Klemettilä from Finland. Everyone at the AGM was interested to hear about IFHOHYP. The Norwegian and Danish organisation are becoming IFHOHYP members and the Irish organisation is also interested. On the next day there was a conference with a lot of guest speakers. The most important was Ann Heelan from AHEAD, who talked about access to education and employment for the HoH. IFHOHYP also presented to IFHOH and EFHOH boards the annual and financial reports. It was a very good exchange of ideas and experiences.

### **IFHOH Board meeting, July 1, Vancouver, Canada**

From the IFHOH Board there were IFHOH President Jan-Peter Strömngren, Ahiya Kamara, EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk, Ruth Warick. Observers at the meeting were: Charlotta

Göller, International Officer for HRF; Karina Chupina of IFHOHYP, Marcia Dugan (Immediate Past President of IFHOH) and Stefan Andersson, magazine editor for HRF.

The main issues on the agenda of this meeting were: preparation for the biennial General Meeting on July 4, 2008, membership fees, greater visibility of IFHOH, exchange of reports about activities in EFHOH, IFHOHYP, and plan for the end of 2008. The Virtual Institute for Hearing Accessibility Research launched by Dr. Charles Lazslo, was another highlight of discussion. The Virtual Institute for Hearing Accessibility Research is intended to be a centre for research, training and dissemination of information in the field of hearing accessibility and to foster connections among people from a broad range of disciplines, professionals, industries and organizations of hard of hearing people to promote hearing accessibility worldwide. IFHOH agreed to express their support of this initiative.

### **EFHOH and IFHOH Joint Board meeting, July 1, Vancouver, Canada**

At this meeting were present: EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk, Siegfried Karg, Knut Magne Ellingsen, Jan Lamby; IFHOH President Jan-Peter Strömgren (Chair), Vice-President Ahiya Kamara, Ruth Warick, and Charlotta Göller as a guest. IFHOHYP was represented by Karina Chupina. The main issues discussed at the meeting were: membership fees in IFHOH, the universal international symbol of hearing loss, new members, exchange of information from IFHOH, EFHOH and IFHOHYP. At the meeting it was decided that the standard hearing assistive listening symbol should be adopted in accordance with the EFHOH AGM motion in Dublin. It was noted that different symbols are presently in use and the aim would be to have a proposal for the IFHOH BGM in 2010. It was noted that if a symbol was agreed, it would be worth pursuing with the International Standards Organization (ISO).

### **IFHOH Bi-annual meeting, 4 July, Vancouver, Canada**

IFHOHYP was present at the Biennial meeting as a delegate and had a right of vote. The delegates present at the meeting, were: Marilyn Dahl (Canada - CHHA), Anna Klementtilä (Finland - FFHOH), Sonja Londen (Finland - FFSH), Paul Zylberberg (France - Bucodes), Dr. Harald Seidler (Germany DSB), Krisztian Fodor (Hungary - SINOSZ), Michael Tighe (Ireland - IHHA), Becky Schocken (Israel - Bekol), Kees Twilt (Netherlands - NVVS), Knut Magne Ellingsen (Norway HLF), Ulf Olsson (Sweden - HRF), Siegfried Karg (Switzerland - PAS), Brenda Battat (USA - HLAA), Marcia Dugan (USA - HLAA), Joseph Gordon (USA - HLAA), Anne Pope (USA - HLAA), Karina Chupina (IFHOHYP)

The IFHOH Board was re-elected for a two-year term: Jan-Peter Strömgren, President; Ahiya Kamara, Vice-president; Katja Vis, Treasurer; Ruth Warick, General Secretary.

Karina Chupina and Noora Penttinen presented a report on behalf of IFHOHYP. They reported that IFHOHYP, which was actually established before IFHOH in 1968, has members from 14 countries (2008 data) and has expanded to Asia and Africa.

The IFHOH Accessibility Guidelines document, based on the EFHOH document and was developed to increase awareness of hearing accessibility, was presented.

The presentations of the possible venues for the next IFHOH Congress 2012 were made. Oslo was selected as the venue with the Norwegian Association of the Hard of Hearing as the hosts for the IFHOH 2012 Congress.

The next IFHOH biennial meeting will be held in 2010, Stockholm, Sweden.

## **IFHOH Congress, 5-7 July, Vancouver, Canada**

The IFHOH Congress was a key event of the year. Over 500 hard of hearing delegates and consumers from Vietnam to the US to Australia, gathered this July for the International Federation of the Hard of Hearing (IFHOH) Congress, A Global Community of Communications that was held for the first time in North America. The event was also co-hosted by the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA).

IFHOHYP was represented at the Congress by Karina Chupina, Lianne de Jonge and Noora Penttinen) prepared and ran the IFHOHYP workshop on “**The Role of Intercultural Communication and Collaboration for Hard of Hearing Youth and Adults**”.

### **Key highlights of the Congress:**

The President of IFHOH, Jan-Peter Strömngren, as well as former IFHOH President Marcia Dugan and Charlotta Göller shed light on the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. The importance of the Convention for hard of hearing people worldwide is that it is a legally binding international human rights treaty that makes people with disabilities visible in the human rights arena and reinforces already existing rights for people with disabilities. While the Convention does not directly refer to people who have hearing loss or who identify as hard of hearing, its references to people with disabilities include both deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Another highlight was launching the **Virtual Institute for Hearing Accessibility Research**. The brainchild of Dr.Charles Laszlo of the CHHA, the Virtual Institute will allow researchers and practitioners of hearing loss-related issues unite in an online consortium that would serve as a centre for research, training, and dissemination of information in the field of hearing accessibility.

Among the workshops led by young people, the Swedish workshop on bilingualism led by Maria Midbøe of Unga Hörselskadade was notable. It changed minds for many who visited it, and raised controversial questions. Several workshops, including IFHOHYP workshop, were held within the Youth section. CHHA-Youth led such effective sessions as “Power me Up!” on empowerment, “Identifying and Exploring Issues Relevant to HoH Young Adults” and “Peer Mentoring”, the latter was conducted by James Ferguson.

In the IFHOHYP workshop “**The Role of Intercultural Communication and Collaboration for Hard of Hearing Youth and Adults**” first part presented the results of the pilot survey on the situation of hard of hearing youth across Europe. Another part was interactive: the role-play on intercultural learning and communication, and discussions afterwards. participants discussed how intercultural differences and hearing loss affect each other in our cross-border work towards improving the quality of life for hard of hearing people. This way IFHOHYP showed what kind of events based on non-formal education methodology are held in the Federation. The workshop was a real success.

All IFHOH Congress workshops’ presentations can be read at [www.chha-ifhohcongress2008.com](http://www.chha-ifhohcongress2008.com).

The main results of the Congress for IFHOHYP were:

- greater visibility
- understanding that IFHOHYP does serious and unique projects on international level
- new partnerships and new members

IFHOHYP expresses its big thanks to Ruth Warick, Janice McNamara, CHHA, James Ferguson, CHHA-Youth, Caldor Foundation, Dr. Charles Laszlo, IFHOH and EFHOH for their support and making IFHOHYP participation at the Congress possible! IFHOHYP looks forward to cooperation with CHHA and its Youth section.

### **IFHOHYP Summer camp, July 26 – August 8, Slovakia**

The Summer camp was organized by Solidarity of Hard of Hearing People in Slovakia and brought together 31 participants, most of them were from Italy and Spain, Czech Republic, The Netherlands and Finland. First three days were spent in the capital Bratislava and next 10 days in the village named Vernor in nice mountain setting. SOMNED organized such international activity for the first time, so not everything went as smooth as could be expected by participants. However, the team eventually solved everything and acquired a lot of experience. After the summer camp, young people exchanged photos and appreciated the Summer camp a lot. Thanks to SOMNED for their efforts and organizing the enjoyable summer camp!

It has been advised by IFHOHYP Board that the summer camp team should regularly consult with the previous summer camp teams. This should help to make summer camp organization smoother.

In 2009 there will be no summer camp in Poland: Damian Dudala informed IFHOHYP that the situation of Polish IFHOHYP member IISCE changed and he will not be able to be a coordinator of the summer camp. In 2010, the summer camp will be held in Switzerland.

### **IFHOHYP COMMITTEES**

Most of the committees' work started later than it was expected.

At the AGM 2008, it was decided that committees develop an action plan for 2008/2009. The action plan defines the main goal and clarifies committee tasks. Because of the late development of the committee action plans, committees were not able to perform many tasks or to achieve high results. This was caused due to several reasons:

- 1) In the first months after AGM 2008, the communication with the committee coordinators went very slowly. This resulted in limited contact between the responsible board member and the committee coordinators. This, in turn, resulted in a limited overview of the problems inside the committees.
- 2) Most active people in the committees were busy with the IFHOH Congress preparation and participation, or preparation of the IFHOHYP events such as summer camp.
- 3) The development of the guidelines for the committee action plan was a time consuming and difficult process. The first edition of the guidelines contained a too high workload for the committees. Finally, the guidelines for the committee action plan were sent in January 2009.
- 4) After sending the guidelines for the committee action plan, the coordinators had to develop the action plan. They had to send it back to the board to receive feedback and help if necessary. Unfortunately, only the communication committee coordinators developed a very specific and clear committee action plan. After some weeks of delay, the board received short action plans from the constitution and research committee. Most committees are struggling a lack of volunteers and mostly it is only coordinators are working on the committee issues. This issue should be raised at the AGM 2009.

### **Newsletter Committee**

The newsletter was prepared by committee members Juraj Variny, Lianne de Jonge, María López, Laura Martí. The committee closely cooperated with Board members Karina Chupina and Christi Menheere. In 2008 there were only two issues near the end of the year - „Autumn“ and „Winter“, as all members of the committee were busy throughout the year. Council of Europe training course, Preparation of the summer camp and participation in IFHOH Congress also took a lot of time from the main editor of the Newsletter. But the biggest challenge was insufficient number of contributions from IFHOHYP members.

Plans emerged on the AGM to cooperate newsletter content more tightly with website by creating blog where most articles would appear first, as well as improve newsletter design. This was not realized yet and the Committee hopes to do it in 2009 with help from volunteers that responded to call in the last 2008 IFHOHYP Newsletter issue.

### **Research Committee**

The Research Committee applied for additional funding to be able to carry out the research and publish its results. CRID (Serbia) received a grant of 10.850 Euros from Ministry of labour and social policy, Sector for protection of rights on people with disabilities. Additional expert, Zoran Gavrilović, was involved in the project, as well as Irina Stojanovic, the coordinator for Serbia and operative coordinator for rest of European countries involved in the Research. The research project is ongoing and will be continued throughout all 2009. Due to difficulties that the project faced in 2008, the committee is now rethinking its strategy and involves new people and experts.

## **IFHOHYP COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

### **European Youth Forum Info Day on Funding for International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, October 24, Brussels**

Lianne de Jonge participated on behalf of IFHOHYP in the Info Day on Funding for International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations in October, in Brussels. She learnt more about funding opportunities that the European Commission and the Council of Europe offer. Report and article by Lianne can be read in IFHOHYP Newsletter at [http://www.ifhohyp.org/documents/newsletter\\_2008\\_01.pdf](http://www.ifhohyp.org/documents/newsletter_2008_01.pdf).

### **Work with the European Disability Forum - representing HoH youth**

In EDF, there are only two working committees since 2008: Women's Committee and Youth Committee. It is a really big success for EFHOH and IFHOHYP that hard of hearing representatives were selected for both committees on behalf of EFHOH: Anna Klemettila (Finland) in Women's Committee, and Karina Chupina, in Youth Committee.

### **European Disability Forum Youth Committee meeting, October 18, Brussels, Belgium**

Karina Chupina was nominated by EFHOH for membership at the Youth Committee of the European Disability Forum. She will represent EFHOH in the committee, because only full EDF members can be represented there (IFHOHYP is an associate member of the EDF). At the same time, she promotes the interests of hard of hearing AND young people in the EDF Youth Committee.

The Youth Committee today consists of six members: Aurelie Baranger (Autism Europe), Gina Waggott (ELSA – European League of Stuttering Associations), Giovanni Padovani (FID), John Patrick Clarke (EDSA – European Down Syndrome Association), Milla Ilonen from Finland, and Karina Chupina. At the meeting on 18 October in Brussels, the Youth Committee discussed action plan and decided on three major types of actions in 2008-2009:

- I. Mainstreaming youth issues within EDF structure and policies
- II. Lobbying the European institutions on ongoing dossiers regarding youth with disabilities
- III. Implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the European Youth Forum.

Most of the work of the committee is done via email and active participation in relevant European events. A good start for actions was given. The next Youth Committee meeting will be held summer or autumn in 2009.

Read more about the Youth Committee and its Plan of action in IFHOHYP newsletter at [http://www.ifhohyp.org/documents/newsletter\\_2008\\_01.pdf](http://www.ifhohyp.org/documents/newsletter_2008_01.pdf).

### **IFHOHYP work in the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe**

Aleksandar Bogdanovic, Serbia (CRID) is the representative of IFHOHYP in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

#### **Brief description, role and place of Advisory Council**

***Council of Europe - Directorate of Youth and Sport - Statutory bodies***

*The European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) brings together representatives of ministries or bodies responsible for youth matters from the 48 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention. The CDEJ also organizes the Conferences of European Ministers responsible for youth and drafts legal instruments regulating youth policies in member states.*

*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.*

*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.*

*More info on [www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural\\_Co-operation/Youth/7. About us/Structures.asp](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Youth/7. About us/Structures.asp)*

#### **Advisory Council on Youth in 2008:**

Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport launched the election of new members of Advisory Council in 2008, because the old mandate finished and new mandate 2009-2011 is coming.

The Directorate of Youth and Sport received fifty applications for the ten places available for the NGOs which do not belong to the European Youth Forum. The selection process of the candidates was partly run by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and was based on established criteria, bearing in mind the need to respect a balance between organisations and networks active in the priority fields of the youth sector for the coming year, geography, and the renewal of some seats.

It is a big success and honour for IFHOHYP that Aleksandar Bogdanović, was re-elected again for new mandate in the Advisory Council on behalf of IFHOHYP. According to the information by the Council of Europe, in this competition several disability organizations proposed their candidates for AC membership.



### **Contribution of Aleksandar Bogdanovic in AC:**

In all activities (discussion groups, forums) and document evaluation processes performed by AC, Aleksandar tries to raise the aspect of inclusion: to pay attention of impact of all those activities and papers on hard of hearing people as part of minority group, to raise level of conscience among other members of Advisory Council about necessary actions and policies regarding young people with disabilities/ hard of hearing people needed in order to involve them into social development process. It means: "If you are talking about youth, don't forget that hard of hearing are youth also."

As well, Aleksandar Bogdanovic is:

1. Helping other members to understand/ remind the importance of including people with disabilities into society mainstream – for example providing documents on sessions and workshops with disability matter, giving the examples of good practices, etc.
2. Making the proposals for making the decisions, documents and policies to be inclusive and not limited to youth only (without disability)
3. Collecting the good practices from different HOH/disability organizations projects which can be connected to AC activities.

In general in recommendation and other activities of AC (programs, partnership, trainings) there is now more visible awareness raising about young people with disabilities.

### **Indirect contribution:**

Due to contact with Ministry of Youth and sport delegate at CDEJ, Serbian member of IFHOHYP, CRID got additional funding for the IFHOHYP Research project.

### **The EFHOH Board meeting in the Netherlands, November 8, Utrecht, The Netherlands**

The EFHOH Board meeting was held on November 8 in Houten (Holland) in the office of the NVVS Dutch organisation for hard of hearing and facilitated by EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk. IFHOHYP was represented by Karina Chupina. Among the issues raised at the EFHOH meeting, were:

- EFHOH AGM, London, 23-26 April 2009
- The Royal National Institute of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Seminar, London, 25 April 2009
- Evaluation EFHOH of the IFHOH world congress Vancouver
- EFHOH strategy on Women and Girls
- EFHOH strategy on Youth
- EFHOH action plan for the next IFHOH World Congress 2012 in Oslo, Norway
- EFHOH Programme for 2009

Dutch guests from SHJO (IFHOHYP member organisation) were invited to attend the last part of the meeting – Christi Menheere, IFHOHYP treasurer, and Lianne de Jonge, IFHOHYP Board member, both from Holland. It was a very good idea to have the opportunity to introduce both national and international HoH youth organizations and their activities to the EFHOH Board and Dutch NVVS delegates.

The Strategies on Youth and Women by Karina Chupina of IFHOHYP and Anna Klemettila of EFHOH were presented accordingly.

More can be read at [http://www.ifhohyp.org/documents/newsletter\\_2008\\_02.pdf](http://www.ifhohyp.org/documents/newsletter_2008_02.pdf).

## **Successful application for IFHOHYP study session 2009 – “Training for facilitators for Inclusion”.**

In autumn 2008 IFHOHYP volunteers applied for the next study session to be held in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The theme is “Training of Facilitators for Inclusion”. The application was approved and the study session will be held on 15-22 November 2009 at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.

### **NEW IFHOHYP Members**

Many new organisations became new members of IFHOHYP in 2008. Welcome to IFHOHYP family!

*Bundesjugend im DSB e.V.* from Germany

*Danishkadah* from Pakistan

*Hørselshemmedes Landsforbund* from Norway

*Ho Chi Minh Deaf Association* from Vietnam

*Association du Sourds du Faso* from Burkina Faso

*Høreforeningen* from Denmark and Israeli organisation for hard of hearing people *Bekol* will apply for membership in 2009.

## **IFHOHYP INVOLVEMENT IN THE EVENTS AND TRAINING OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS**

### **Council of Europe DYS Training Course for Facilitators of Non-formal Education Activities, 1-10 February, European Youth Centre Budapest**

Juraj Variny was nominated for the Training Course by IFHOHYP and selected as a participant. Juraj will be a team member of IFHOHYP study session in 2009. His article about his experiences at the Training course as the only participant with a hearing loss, and the learning outcomes, can be read at [http://www.ifhohyp.org/documents/newsletter\\_2008\\_01.pdf](http://www.ifhohyp.org/documents/newsletter_2008_01.pdf)

### **Council of Europe Training for Trainers for Diversity and Inclusion of Minority Youth, 14-23 May, 2008, European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary**

IFHOHYP member Rinne Oost from The Netherlands and Berna Cibik, honorary IFHOHYP member from Turkey, took part in this challenging training course. Aim of the course was to develop the competences of trainers active and experienced in youth work for diversity, particularly with minority youth groups, in view of strengthening their capacity to prepare and carry out training activities based on intercultural learning and non-formal education practices.

The ToT was facilitated by trainers Nadine Lyamouri-Bajja (France), Marius Jitea (Romania), Alexandra Raykova (Bulgaria) and Karina Chupina (Russia-Germany). The course was particularly very helpful in raising more awareness on special needs of youth with disabilities and understanding how to tackle these needs in training activities, including for hard of hearing youth. It also contributed a lot to the pool of trainers in IFHOHYP, as IFHOHYP

always needs hard-of-hearing trainers who can organize, prepare and run non-formal education activities.

### **Council of Europe Intercultural French Language Course, August 6 – September 3, Strasbourg European Youth Centre**

Noora Penttinen, IFHOHYP secretary, was supported by IFHOHYP and selected by the Council of Europe to participate in the French Intercultural Language Course held by the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport in Strasbourg. There was no Council of Europe Intercultural English Language course in 2008, therefore, despite high interest from IFHOHYP members, no one could participate in it.

### **European Union “Youth in Action” 4.1 grant**

IFHOHYP Board applied for the EC grant **Action 4.1. Support for bodies active at European level in the field of youth** in December 2008 and is expecting the decision in spring 2009.

### **IFHOHYP 2007 study session report**

The IFHOHYP study session 2007 team (Berna Cibik, Aleksandar Bogdanovic, Maria Lopez Garcia and Karina Chupina) finalized the extensive and detailed study session report which will be published both on the website of the Council of Europe and available in printed version.

Annex:

**IFHOHYP members in 2008:**

- Italy – A.Fa.M.U.T.
- Finland – Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing
- The Netherlands – SHJO
- Russia – Fund of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth
- Spain – Bonaventura-C.V.
- Sweden – Unga Hörselskadade
- Slovakia – SOMNED
- Switzerland – Jugehörig
- Serbia – Inclusive Society Development Centre
- Germany – Bundesjugend im DSB e.V.
- Pakistan – Danishkadah
- Norway – Hørselshemmedes Landsforbund
- Vietnam – Hochiminh Deaf Association
- Burkina Faso – Association des Sourds du Faso

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

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