



# **IFHOHYP**

International Federation  
of Hard of Hearing Young People

## **IFHOHYP Annual Report 2009**



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## 1. Introduction

IFHOHYP work in the year 2009 greatly enhanced the representation of hard of hearing young people in the international disability field. As new member organisations joined IFHOHYP, we expanded to more regions. It was a successful year! Our main achievements in 2009 include:

- Joining Global Partnership on Disability and Development
- Participation of IFHOHYP at the European Commission and the United Nations meetings concerning discrimination on the basis of disability
- IFHOHYP representation in the European Disability Forum and active contribution to the the EDF Youth Committee
- Successful IFHOHYP study session „*Training for Facilitators for Inclusion*“, Strasbourg
- IFHOHYP Representative – the first-time hard of hearing speaker at the European Commission European Day of People with Disabilities Conference in Brussels
- IFHOHYP representation at the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
- Continued fruitful cooperation with IFHOH and EFHOH, especially in relation to improving accessibility for HoH people.
- Continued expansion of IFHOHYP (7 new member organisations from various world regions)

From the challenges and setbacks the less active work of some committees can be mentioned. However, some committees will renew their active work in the 2010. The Board worked very well and invested a lot of energy and efforts into IFHOHYP activities and its development. IFHOHYP Secretary Lianne de Jonge was away in Australia for her study for a few months, which affected the Mailing Lists' dissemination, but in the end of the year Lianne fully and successfully returned to her duties.

### Box 1 What is IFHOHYP?

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 is also represented in the 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.

## 2. IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting 2009

The IFHOHYP AGM-2009 was organized by the Swedish organisation during the Easter weekend. Before the IFHOHYP AGM, IFHOHYP Board meeting took place for one day. This proved to be a very good practice and will be continued in the future.. Prior to the AGM, workshops and discussions were organised, the main focus of which was the IFHOHYP Strategy Plan development.

At the AGM, there were 14 delegates with the right to vote. New IFHOHYP Board members were elected. Noora Penttinen (Finland) was elected as a Vice President for one year since Maria Lopez Garcia resigned in the middle of her term. James Aniyamuzaala, Vice President of the UNAHOH (Uganda), was elected as a Board member of IFHOHYP for a two years term.. This was seen as a good sign of expansion of IFHOHYP work to Africa and other regions apart from Europe. Christi Menheere (The Netherlands) was elected as a Treasurer for next two years. Lianne de Jonge (The Netherlands) was elected as a Secretary of IFHOHYP for two years. Anna Vita Ross (Denmark) was elected as an auditor for one-year term.

EFHOH was represented at the AGM by its Secretary Jan Lamby who did a presentation and informed everyone of the latest developments in EFHOH.

Taking into consideration the priorities of IFHOHYP Strategy Plan, the following committees were established or were decided to continue:

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

IFHOHYP Board expresses its thanks to UH for the very well organized AGM 2009!

## 3. Representation of IFHOHYP at different levels

In the year 2009, IFHOHYP was represented on the EFHOH and IFHOHYP Annual Great Meetings', as well on the EFHOH International Conference on Induction Loops for Hard of Hearing People and People with Cochlear Implants. Moreover, Karina Chupina attended the expert seminar "*Strengthening EU-UN Co-Operation in the Struggle against All Forms of Discrimination*" on behalf of EFHOH and IFHOH.

### 3.1. EFHOH Annual General Meeting, 23-25 April, London, the United Kingdom

Christi Oost-Menheere was a representative of IFHOHYP at the EFHOH Annual General Meeting and the Conference "Communication in the Information Age", which was held at the beautiful location „Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund“. This even was well organized by the Royal National Institute for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RNID).

At the EFHOH AGM Marcel Bobeldijk from the Netherlands was elected as a president, Jan Lamby from Sweden was elected as a general secretary and Ritva Liisa Schaeding from Germany was elected as a treasurer.

Christi gave a presentation about IFHOHYP and gave additional information about the IFHOHYP study session „Training for Facilitators for Inclusion“ that was to be held in November 2009. Everyone at the AGM was very interested to hear about the study session. The important issue of EFHOH – „The Standardisation document on hearing aid services“ – was also extensively discussed.

On the next day there was a conference – „Communication in the Information Age“ – with a lot of guest speakers. All presentations were very interesting and demonstrated achievements in science and technology for the use by hard of hearing people. The research indicated that the damaged hair cells in cochlea can be restored, but the big question is how to implement it? Another important lecture was presented by the head of RNID projects Luke Crossey, and covered Inclusion in London „Making the Underground more accessible for people with hearing loss“. The London Underground area is now accessible for HoH people, and the achievements were impressive.

Both EFHOH AGM and the Conference were proved to be a very good opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences between EFHOH and IFHOHYP.

### **3.2. EFHOH and IFHOH Joint Board meeting, 15-17 October, Bergen, Norway**

The EFHOH and IFHOH joint board meeting took place in Bergen where IFHOH will have their International Congress for Hard of Hearing People on June. 25-28, 2012. Bergen is a beautiful city and a gateway for visiting Norway. The Congress theme will be “Better Life for hard of hearing people”. The IFHOHYP President, Karina Chupina, took part in the Joint Board meeting. There, apart from exchanging the recent news, actions and strategies, all participants visited the future Congress venue and discussed the possible titles for the Congress, its accessibility and its programme. The Congress will be open and available for young people, the inexpensive accommodation for them is already found in one of the hostels close to the venue. More information will follow in IFHOHYP Newsletters.

### **3.3. EFHOH International Conference on Induction Loops for Hard of Hearing People and People with Cochlear Implants – “Hearing Loops”, 25-27 September, Winterthur, Switzerland**

A first international “[Hearing Loops International Conference](#),” hosted by the EFHOH, was held in September, 2009 near Zurich, Switzerland and convened by EFHOH vice-president Siegfried Karg. The conference was attended by nearly 100 people from fifteen nations, nearly all of whom were people with hearing loss or hearing organization and industry representatives. Sanne Osterkamp (the Netherlands) and Karina Chupina (Russia-Germany) participated in the conference on behalf of IFHOHYP. James Aniyamuzaala was also invited to the Conference, but he could not attend it due to organisational reasons in Uganda and apologised. He sent the presentation of his organisation that was projected on screen for everybody.

The conference resulted in the Resolution, main points of which were:

- Hearing aid manufacturers, manufacturers of cochlear implants, physicians, audiologists and hearing instrument specialists shall communicate the benefits of hearing aid/cochlear implant telecoil receivers for phone listening and assistive listening and educate people who are hard of hearing accordingly.
- Venues and service points where sound is broadcast shall offer assistive listening, such as induction loop systems designed to the IEC 60118-4:2006 standard, that broadcast sound directly to hearing aids and cochlear implants, enabling them to serve as customized, wireless loudspeakers (without the need for extra equipment).

The Resolution and all presentations can be found on the conference web site [www.hearingloops.org](http://www.hearingloops.org).

### **3.4. Expert seminar “Strengthening EU-UN Co-Operation in the Struggle against All Forms of Discrimination”, Brussels, 14 October 2009**

This seminar was organized by the United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the European Commission in the framework of the co-operation through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. It consisted of three thematic panels on racial discrimination, discrimination on the basis of gender, and discrimination on the basis of disability. The panels explored manifestations of discrimination, the impact of discrimination on the life of individuals, and shared examples of anti-discrimination good practices and legislations across the regions.

Karina Chupina replaced the IFHOH and EFHOH representatives who could not attend this seminar, and was the only delegate representing hearing loss. From disability organizations present, there were European Disability Forum, Disabled People’s International, Light for the World, and a few organizations for blind people.

As the seminar was not accessible for hard of hearing people (despite the requests to provide induction loop or palantype service), Karina Chupina openly raised the issue of accessibility for people with disabilities at such meetings. This sparked a discussion and was a very good way to make the needs of HoH people visible. IFHOHYP later suggested that EFHOH, IFHOH and IFHOHYP address a joint letter to the EC and OHCHR on accessibility of their meetings for hard of hearing people + submit all necessary information about the assistive listening devices, palantype service and induction loops. IFHOHYP expresses its thanks to EFHOH for their financial support, covering travel and accommodation , as it made IFHOHYP participation in this important seminar possible. The IFHOHYP Newsletter Spring 2010, will feature an article about the contribution of Karina Chupina at this seminar.

## **4. IFHOHYP work in the European Disability Forum Youth Committee**

In the European Disability Forum (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 the Women’s Committee, and Karina Chupina, in the Youth Committee.

EDF Youth Committee is currently composed of the following members:

- EDF Executive Committee member and Chair: John Patrick Clarke (EDSA - European Down Syndrome Association)
- Vilmantas Bacikonis (LNF - Lithuanian Disability Council)
- Aurélie Baranger (Autisme Europe)
- Karina Chupina (EFHOH - European Federation of Hard of Hearing; IFHOHYP)
- Giovanni Padovani (IDF - Italian Disability Council)
- Aimee Richardson (EDSA - European Down Syndrome Association)

EDF YC is very important because it is the voice of young persons with disabilities in EDF and accordingly, in the overall European disability movement: its role is to mainstream the specific needs and interests of young disabled people in EDF work and activities, as well as to represent youth with disabilities at the EU level, whenever appropriate. The committee meets once a year to decide its action plan, which has to be approved by EDF board afterwards, and to discuss the most important themes and dossiers. Then, most of the work takes place via emails through calls for information/comments/approval, to which YC's members committed to contribute.

**The Achievements of the EDF YC in 2009 included:**

- ExchangeAbility Handout and ExchangeAbility Leaflet, 2009
- EDF Position Paper on the Future EU Strategy for Youth, November 2009
- Memorandum of Understanding between EDF and the European Youth Forum, the European umbrella organisation representing young people

The Key EDF youth activities in 2009 were:

- Survey research on participation of youth with disabilities in the EDF and its members
- Exchange ability project
- Promotion of EDF Position Paper on the Future EU Strategy for Youth
- Participation of Karina Chupina on the European Day of People with Disabilities 2009

The next paragraphs describe these activities more into detail.

#### **4.1. Survey on participation of youth with disabilities in EDF and its members**

From March to June 2009, EDF organised a survey, with the aim to investigate the participation of young people in the disability movement, and especially in EDF and its membership. Two complementary instruments were used: a questionnaire to understand the motivation of individuals, and a mapping to know the existing representative structures of young persons with disabilities in EDF membership. The questionnaire targets young persons with disabilities aged between 15 and 35, involved or not in DPOs. The results of the survey will then be presented by Aurélie Baranger and Karina Chupina at next EDF Board meeting on 21 March 2010.

#### **4.2. Exchange Ability project**

In cooperation with the Erasmus student Network (ESN) and the Youth Agora, EDF is part of the ExchangeAbility project. Its main aim is to make ESN an association accessible for disabled students on all the levels of its activities. The project also aims, in the long term vision, to encourage the increase of the



number of exchange students with disabilities and to create the best conditions for them during their stay abroad. As part of this project, EDF YC has several actions:

- EDF YC wrote the ExchangeAbility Handout.
- On 6 February 2010 the first ExchangeAbility meeting between EDF YC members and Erasmus Student Network took place in Brussels. Karina Chupina was in charge of the training 'Disability Awareness Raising' that she designed herself and which consists of simulation exercises and extensive debriefing.

#### **4.3. Promotion of EDF Position Paper on the Future EU Strategy for Youth**

The European Commission adopted the Communication "An EU strategy for youth – investing and empowering; a renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities". This Communication sets out the main challenges the EU should address in the next 10 years with regards to youth. To ensure that the needs of young persons with disabilities are taken into account as part of this strategy, EDF issued a position paper on the future EU strategy for youth. The EDF Paper has been commented and approved by EDF Youth Committee in November 2009.

### **5. European Day of People with Disabilities 2009, „Creating Conditions for Independent Living“, Brussels, 3 and 4 December 2009**

As a Member of the EDF Youth Committee on behalf of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH) and IFHOHYP President, Karina Chupina was invited to the European Day of People with Disabilities Annual Conference in Brussels. She was the first hard-of-hearing speaker to be invited to such an event and make a presentation in the European Commission. She presented the input on „The limits of choice? Constraints in selecting the best device“ at the session on „Tools for independence: the role of assistive technology“.

Karina Chupina described a number of constraints in access to assistive technology (AT): cost; unavailability/long waiting lists; limited training on how to use devices; and the complexity of devices. Lack of information is a key issue. Karina Chupina also outlined important barriers relating to assessment and eligibility. Technology devices are provided mostly by social services and health and insurance services. The disadvantage is that there is a prescribed list of equipment, which limits choice. A key problem arises from the fact that assessment is based on the medical model (hearing aid may let you hear but will you be able to understand speech with it?). It is important to recognize that hearing aids are not enough: changes of attitude to disability/ hearing loss and environment are required. In terms of the environment the provision of induction loops is very important because they reduce background noise and filter sound. A further important area of environmental access is the provision of subtitles for television programmes.

You can read more about the event in the IFHOHYP Newsletter Spring 2010. Karina Chupina's presentation can be seen on IFHOHYP homepage in the "Documents and presentations" section, [http://www.ifhohyp.org/front/documents/EDPD2009\\_Constraints\\_in\\_selecting\\_the\\_best\\_device.pdf](http://www.ifhohyp.org/front/documents/EDPD2009_Constraints_in_selecting_the_best_device.pdf) . All presentations from the event can be found online at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=429&langId=en&eventId=205&furtherEvents=yes> by using "Search" mode.



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

Aleksandar Bogdanovic, Serbia (CRID) is the representative of IFHOHYP in the Advisory Council (AC) on Youth of the Council of Europe. Box 2 below, provides additional information on the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe.

Box 2 The Council of Europe – Directorate of Youth and Sport

### **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)

In all activities of the AC, such as discussions, working groups and forums, Aleksandar Bogdanovic tries to raise the aspect of inclusion, to pay attention to HoH people as part of minority group, to raise level of conscience among other AC members about necessary actions and policies regarding young people with disabilities/ hard of hearing people.

### 6.1. 21st meeting of AC, organized at CEULAJ (Centro Eurolatinoamericano de Juventud)

Mollina, Spain, 23-25 March 2009. This meeting was generally the set up meeting for future work of AC and its members, including the collaboration with other bodies working on youth issues. Important highlights of the meeting, relevant to IFHOHYP and social inclusion issues, were:

- Report by the Secretariat on developments in the youth sector (budget, projects approved, collaboration)
- the AC's recommendation to increase the budget of International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations from € 20,000 to € 37,000 in the 2009 programme of the youth sector.
- Activities to be undertaken and priorities to be pursued during the present mandate of the Advisory Council – composition of working groups (see in box below): the representative of IFHOHYP at AC, Aleksandar Bogdanovic was assigned for the working group on **Social inclusion**.

**Box 3 AC Working group on the Agenda 2020**

AC Working group on the Agenda 2020 Social Inclusion was created:

- Jelena SPASOVIC – Serbia
- Ruxandra PANDEA – Romania
- Ramiza SAKIP – FYROM
- **Aleksandar BOGDANOVIC, IFHOHYP**

**6.2. Youth Event prior to the 1st Council of Europe Ministerial Conference on the Media and New Communication**

The Youth Event (YE) was organised prior to the 1st Council of Europe Ministerial Conference on the Media and New Communication, on 26-29 May 2009, Reykjavik. It was devoted to the role of the media that has become crucial for the work of youth organisations as a tool to enhance access for young people to information and for active youth participation.

**6.3. Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and New Communication Services A new notion of media? (28-29 May 2009, Reykjavik, Iceland)**

Participants of the Youth Event in all sessions as speakers/ panelists and as participants. Also the European Co-ordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 submitted the document on Trust in present and future media. More documents and resolutions available at <http://www.ministerialconference.is/>.

**6.4. 22nd meeting of AC**

Organized at Budapest (European Youth Centre Budapest), 5-7 October 2009. Aleksandar Bogdanovic wasn't present at this meeting due to organizational reasons – apologized to the Council of Europe. Important decisions were related to the programme and projects for the period 2010-2012, such as on priorities for pilot projects in 2010 that will be funded by the European Youth Foundation. To be coherent with the DYS programme, the Secretariat suggested that emphasis of these projects is on *social inclusion*. It also suggested that:

- since a long-term training course (LTTC) on access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods has started; priority should be given to participants of this training in obtaining funding opportunities to develop their projects.
- projects should deal with the reintegration of young offenders;
- NGOs from Turkey and Russian Federation should be encouraged to apply, because few projects were received from these countries.

The programme title for 2010-2012 is: **“Developing European youth co-operation through youth policy, youth work and non-formal education/learning”**, and includes the following four projects:

- Project N<sup>o</sup>. 1: *“Human rights and democracy: youth policy and youth work promoting the core values of the Council of Europe”*
- Project N<sup>o</sup>. 2: *“Living together in diverse societies: youth policy and youth work promoting*

*intercultural dialogue”*

- Project N° 3: “Social inclusion of young people”
- Project N° 4: “Policy approaches and instruments benefiting young people and children”

Taking account of a request for a more balanced distribution of funds between the three major themes of the CoE “Agenda 2020”, the distribution for 2011 could be as follows:

**Table 1 Council of Europe Youth Directorate Budget allocation 2010-2011**

	2010 (%)	2011 (secretariat's proposal) (%)
Project “Human rights and democracy: youth promoting the core values of the Council of Europe”	27	25
Project “Living together in diverse societies: youth against racism and discrimination”	27	25
Project “Social inclusion of young people: the role of youth policy and youth work”	13	17
Project “Policy approaches and instruments benefiting young people and children”	10	10
Partnership - European Commission & DYS	23	23
Total programme activities	100	100

### **Forum on Human Rights Education with Young People “Learning, Living, Acting for Human Rights” European Youth Centre Budapest, 14-18 October 2009**

The forum aimed to promote, consolidate and develop human rights education with and by young people within the Council of Europe’s mission and framework. The representative of IFHOHYP at AC, Aleksandar Bogdanovic took part as lecturer at the workshops Human Rights Education and people with disabilities, facilitated by Siarhei Salei (Working Group on Human Rights Education for Children and Youth, Belarus), with Gabor Gobos from Mental Disability Advocacy Centre. Andrea Pietrini, Italy, was representing IFHOHYP as well at the Human Rights Education Forum as its participant. You can read his impressions of the Forum in the IFHOHYP 2009 newsletter at:

[http://www.ifhohyp.org/front/documents/newsletter\\_2009\\_12.pdf](http://www.ifhohyp.org/front/documents/newsletter_2009_12.pdf).

### **European Co-ordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 (CAHPAH)**

On the 22nd meeting of AC, the AC decided to propose to Aleksandar Bogdanovic, the only member of AC with a disability – and the only one to represent disability and youth issues - to participate to the 2nd meeting of Committee of Experts on participation of people with disabilities in political and public life (CAHPAH-PPL) in Strasbourg, 9 - 11 December 2009.

On this meeting the Committee of experts took note of the activities of the Advisory Council on Youth, and decided to invite the Advisory Council on Youth to send a representative to all future meetings of CAHPAH-PPL.

At the moment the most important task is developing of the “Questionnaire on the participation of people with disabilities in political and public life” that has to be realized during 2010 in all member countries of the Council of Europe.

Alexandar Bogdanovic contributes to the AC by:

- Helping AC members to understand/remind the importance of including people with disabilities into society – e.g. providing documents on sessions and workshops with disability matters, giving the examples of good practices, etc.
- Proposing the decisions, documents and policies to be inclusive and not limited only to youth in general (without disability)
- Being the only youth representative member in the CAHPAH-PPL – this gives the opportunity to IFHOHYP to make impact on identifying and developing the strategies, actions and policies concerning people with disabilities and youth with hearing loss.

## **7. Work of IFHOHYP in GPDD - Global Partnership for Disability and Development**

IFHOHYP work in GPDD fully responds to the Strategic Goal priority of IFHOHYP expansion. James Aniyamuzaala of IFHOHYP Board participated in the Second Membership Meeting of the Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD) which was held from October 14th to 16th, 2009, in Turin, Italy, in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino (CRT) and the WorldBank. Approximately 140 participants from more than 85 organizations attended the meeting. During this meeting, the current members of the GPDD discussed options for prioritizing and implementing development actions towards the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities, particularly in light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities(CRPD), brainstormed knowledge sharing strategies and tools for the GPDD, and identified more focused priorities and means to orient the adjustment of GPDD’s Strategic Plan, to be elaborated and approved by the GPDD Board of Directors. In addition, a Full Board of Directors was elected and established.

IFHOHYP during this meeting was confirmed as a new member of GPDD which is an unprecedented alliance of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), government ministries, bilateral and multilateral donors, United Nations (UN) agencies, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national and international development organizations, and other organizations, committed to promoting economic and social inclusion of people with disabilities in low-income countries. The full report is available at [www.gpdd-online.org](http://www.gpdd-online.org).

## **8. Cooperation with the European Youth Forum – application for membership**

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is an independent, democratic, youth-led platform, representing 99 National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations from across Europe. The YFJ works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives, by representing

and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations towards the European Institutions, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. The YFJ, at present, does not have any disability youth organisation represented in it.

IFHOHYP applied in 2009 for the YFJ membership. The whole package of documents carefully prepared by the Board members, was submitted to the YFJ. IFHOHYP application for observer membership will be reviewed by the European Youth Forum Bureau in 2010.

## **9. IFHOHYP study session 2009 – “Training for facilitators for Inclusion”, 15-22 November, European Youth Centre Strasbourg**

The IFHOHYP study session 2009 – “Training for facilitators for Inclusion” was held on 15th to 22nd of November 2009 in European Youth Centre Strasbourg in cooperation with the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport.

This years study session was yet another successful and demanding one with general training for facilitators such as non-formal education and human rights education, as well as specific themes concerning hard of hearing youth.

The aim of the study session was to develop and improve facilitation competences of hard of hearing young people in order to strengthen their capacity to prepare and run international and national non-formal education training activities targeted at raising awareness on disability and social inclusion.

The objectives of this study session were:

- To explore the concepts of non-formal education, human rights education and social inclusion
- To introduce the Council of Europe's educational tools that can be used for facilitation
- To develop skills important for facilitation in non-formal education (teamwork, conflict management, communication, programme design, public speaking)
- To provide space to practice facilitation skills
- To reflect on one's own facilitation competences
- To develop competences needed for running educational activities for/with hard of hearing young people
- To motivate participants to continue their development as facilitators/trainers and to empower them to motivate hard of hearing youth to get active in their organisations and to work for social inclusion
- To contribute to the creation of a network of facilitators working on issues related to youth, disability and social inclusion

The study session team for 2009 was:

- Noora Penttinen (Course director) – Finland, IFHOHYP Vice-President,
- Karina Chupina – Russia/Germany, IFHOHYP President,
- Christi Oost-Menheere – The Netherlands, IFHOHYP Treasurer,

- Rinne Oost – The Netherlands, Project team leader of SHJO (Dutch organisation of Hard of Hearing Young people),
- Juraj Variny – Slovakia, Board member of Solidarity of Hard of Hearing Youth – SOMNED, national organisation of people with hearing disability in Slovakia, one of the editors of the IFHOHYP Newsletter.

There were 29 participants from all over Europe as well as some participants from outside of Europe from the IFHOHYP member countries from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Canada and Israel. All participants are active in their local organisations, what means that they already had more or less experience with working with hard of hearing people. The participants were really active during the study session and a lot of people said that everything is different now, after they have had this experience. The study session gave the participants tools and confidence to work towards the inclusion of hard of hearing young people in their societies as well as encouraged them to use new kinds of methods in their work with young people. The study session showed that as IFHOHYP is growing, it is also getting more active young people who are active and can run lots of different kinds of projects.

## **10. IFHOHYP Committee work**

### **10.1. Newsletter and communication committee report 2009**

The newsletter issues during the year 2009 were prepared by committee members Juraj Variny (coordinator), Carlos Muncharaz, Hanh Duong Phuong, Akram Muhammad, James Ferguson and Andrea Pietrini, with valuable contributions from other people from IFHOHYP who provided the materials. The committee also tightly cooperated with Board - Karina Chupina, Noora Penttinen and Christi Menheere. In 2009 there were only two issues, one „Spring“ before the AGM and one in the end of the year - „Winter“, as all members of the committee were busy. The newsletter design improved much when compared to previous year, thanks to Carlos.

The biggest challenge remains insufficient number of contributions from IFHOHYP members. This question was pondered in the course of the year, but no suitable and immediately usable way to attract/motivate IFHOHYP members was found. The best idea was to cooperate newsletter content more tightly with website by creating blog where most articles would appear first without waiting for next newsletter issue. The blog posts would be also much more visible than articles inside newsletter. The committee could then advertise the blog among IFHOHYP members. The blog was not realized yet, partially due to big delays in communication with ifhohyp.org webmaster and partially because the committee did not put together everything the webmaster needed. But a promising progress is made as of February 2010, the committee is working on the blog design template.

### **10.2. Research Committee**

The Serbian team carried out a pilot research project in Serbia as part of the IFHOHYP international Research Publication and Production project. The aim of the overall Research and Production Project *“Hard of Hearing Young People in Europe: developing strategies on access to equal participation, social inclusion and protection of human rights”* is to collect information about the situation of HoH youth in Europe and use it for well-grounded policy recommendations to national and international bodies in order to improve social inclusion of HoH Youth in Europe.

A member of the Serbian team, Aleksandar Jovanovic, uploaded the questionnaires to website [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) for the following languages: English, Serbian, Russian, Swedish, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish, French, German and Polish. The questionnaire filled in in each language, could be automatically sent to survey evaluation team. Not all countries came up with the questionnaire translation in national languages on time. In August 2009, after 12 months the website account was closed. Upon recommendation of the CoE and European Youth Foundation, the grantee of the EYF should find additional funds in their countries or other funds in order to support their projects. For the needs of following the project, the Serbian team applied to the Ministry of Youth and Sport (fund for international collaboration projects) for additional funds for realizing the survey in Serbia. The Project has been approved and 10.850,00 Euros of additional funds were added for the realisation of a pilot survey research project in Serbia.

### **The Budget for Serbian project:**

The project was more expensive because of nature of survey: the survey was carried out not online, but face to face so it meant that it is necessary to cover the costs of:

- interviewer
- travel costs to different cities in Serbia
- printing/copying the q-res
- sign language interpreter's service (was required at times)
- Number of interviewed people is as much as for all RRP (Serbian team wanted to reach 1.000 people) so the analysis was more costly
- The media conference on publishing the results
- Translation and printing of publications in Serbian and English
- Mandatory auditing for such size project (800 Eur) and bookkeeping work for preparing it (200 Eur)

Aleksandar Bogdanovic was the project coordinator for this nation-wide project, and he decided to forward the money assigned to his honoraria to IFHOHYP to finish the overall RPP project on international level. This decision was approved by Steering Board of CRID.

### **The Pilot Project in Serbia:**

The survey research has been realized in the first half of 2009. with the same questionnaire all across Serbia including institutions, companies, private contacts etc. It was necessary because most HoH people in Serbia do not use internet as a way of communication. The research was finished and the results of analysis were published both in Serbian and English (hard copy and [e-format available](#)). The analysis was made by Bureau for social researches. The Ministry of Youth and Sport selected these results as material of value for Action plan for realization of the Strategy on Youth of Serbia. The Faculty for special education and rehabilitation also adopted the results.

### **Experience:**

The education of people realizing the survey was necessary. The additional explanation to the target group was also needed, due to the varied level of education. For example, in one factory, 40 HoH people were interviewed, 10 people in the department for graphic design/computers have finished much faster and easier without assistance, while the people in the metal-workshop needed more time and assistance.



### **Suggestions for starting up and finalising the project in other countries:**

To search for additional funds on national level as Serbian team did – such as gathering information for youth policy and employment policy development. Minimal additional funds that are needed for realization:

- Website – online survey
- Analysis – the cost of analysis is already paid to Bureau for social researches for this, but if national research teams get more funds on national level, then more people will be interviewed
- Translation of results of analysis to national and English language
- Cost of printing publication (for national team, in national language)
- Postage costs

### **10.3. Political work and lobbying Committee**

This work was started by the Board members, who are linked to or are part of the Committee, James Aniyamuzaala and Karina Chupina. James actively lobbied on the issues of hearing loss and inclusion of IFHOHYP into larger disability and development global structures to ensure a solid platform for further lobbying, for example, under his guidance IFHOHYP became a member of the GPDD. Karina Chupina gave start to actively calling in the EC and the UN representatives to ensure accessibility for HoH people in Europe and in the world, through her participation in the EC and the UN seminars, presentations at the European Day of People with Disabilities, and other. The Committee work as outlined in the actions of the Strategy Plan, will be continued in 2010 with involvement of other members of the Committee.

### **10.4. Other committee work**

Constitution and English Language Committee were inactive during the 2009 year, as some members of the both committees had to leave due to family or work reasons. Constitution Committee members had to take a pause during 2009, but they will be back in 2010 and openly expressed their wish on this. The group responsible for study session continued their work and organised a very successful study session in Strasbourg.

## **11. IFHOHYP Members**

Seven organisations became new members of IFHOHYP in 2009. Welcome to IFHOHYP! These organisations are:

- UNAHOH - Uganda
- Bekol - Israel
- Høreforeningen - Denmark
- BPKS - Bangladesh
- HOHAM "AUZ" - Moldova
- Česká unie neslyšících - Czech Republic
- ASSB - Burkina Faso

IFHOHYP had 21 member organization in 2009 (in 2008 – 14 member organisations), from many different regions on the world. This is displayed in table 3.

**Table 2 IFHOHYP members in 2009**

<b>Name of the organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
AFaMUT	Italy
Bonaventura C.V.	Spain
Kuuloliitto ry	Finland
FADCY	Russia
SHJO	The Netherlands
SOMNED	Slovak Republic
Unga Hörseldkadade	Sweden
CRID	Serbia
Jugehörig	Switzerland
Danishkadah	Pakistan
Bundesjugend im DSB e.V.	Germany
HLFU	Norway
HDA	Vietnam
A.S.F.	Burina Faso
UNAHOH	Uganda
Bekol	Israel
Høreforeningen	Denmark
BPKS	Bangladesh
HOHAM "AUZ"	Moldova
Česká unie neslyšících -	Czech Republic
ASSB	Burkina Faso