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IFHOHYP AGM 2014

IFHOHYP AGM 2014 is moved from Jerusalem, Israel, to Copenhagen, Denmark, in July. More information coming soon on IFHOHYP Mailing List!

Summer Camp 2014

IFHOHYP Summer Camp 2014 will be held from August 23rd-September 3rd in Bad Tölz, Germany! We strongly encourage our members to participate for a week of informal learning and socializing with hard of hearing youth.

More information on their website:
<http://isc2014.bundesjugend.de/>

IFHOHYP Study session

There is a new IFHOHYP Study session taking place in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg in the fall'2014! Not only palantype service will be provided, but also International Sign Language interpretation.

More details will follow via Mailing List.

Topic: «Organisation Development: from strengthening youth organisations in Disability Rights work to enhancing social inclusion on regional, national and international levels»

Place: Strasbourg, France (European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe)

Date: Expected - October/November, 2014 (6 working days). Preliminary dates are 16-23 November, tbc.



AUGUST 23RD - SEPTEMBER 3RD SUMMERCAMP 2014

IFHOHYP BAD TÖLZ GERMANY

Arrival
Saturday, 23th of August, 2014

Departure
Wednesday, 3rd of September, 2014

Location
Jugendherberge, Am Sportpark
Bad Tölz Germany

Activities

- Excursions
- Hiking in the Bavarian Alps
- Outdoor Sports
- Relaxation activities
- Learning more about Germany and its culture
- Evening activities such as bar hopping,
- Game nights and Movie nights

Participants
The International Summercamp 2014 is for hard of hearing and deaf people from the age of 18 to 35 years. The number of participants is limited. We only can accomodate 88 participants.

Costs
The total price for the International Summercamp 2014 is 450 €. This participation fee includes board, lodging and all group activities. Not included are travel expenses from your home country to Bad Tölz, visa expenses, additional beverages and snacks as well as optional activities.

More information
More information about Bad Tölz, International Summercamp 2014, applications or other questions you can find it at:
<http://isc2014.bundesjugend.de>

Participating countries until now:




The international summercamp team

German Hard of Hearing young organisation **bundesjugend** host organisation of Summercamp 2014

FULL

News from the Council of Europe Conference:

“Full inclusion of children and young people with disabilities into society”

By Karina Chupina

President
IFHOHYP



On November 21-22, I took part in the conference organised by the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Belgian government that was devoted to inclusion of children and young people with disabilities. It felt special to see that the conference is not only about children, but “youth” as well.

“Inclusion is like a stone: we have to push it up the hill; if we stop to rest, the stone will run down” – David Rodrigues, speaker at the Conference



courtesy of Karina Chupina

The adopted Recommendation has four key objectives:

Previously, youth have been often left out of policy discussions on disability due to legal distinctions between a child and an adult where anyone above 18 is classified as adult. There has been a tendency to forget the transition phase between childhood and adulthood, and between education and employment.

However, last year, the adoption of the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2013) 2 on ensuring full inclusion of children and young persons with disabilities into society was one of the important steps in filling this policy gap and making young persons with disabilities visible.

This Recommendation was presented and discussed at the conference in Brussels.

<http://www.e-include.eu/news/1410-council-of-europe-calls-on-member-states-to-ensure-full-inclusion-of-children-and-young-people-with-disabilities>

— To promote full belonging to society - supporting deinstitutionalisation in Member States and enhancing the social roles of children with disabilities to increase their self-esteem and enjoy their rights.

— To reinforce participation, choice and decision-making - providing children and youth with disabilities with accessible and age-appropriate information that would enable them to make informed choices.

— To support the empowerment of children and young persons with disabilities - service providers in the Members States should shift from an approach based on care to one based on human rights.

— To strengthen inclusive education facilitating full citizenship - countries should adopt the inclusion model in the educational system which adapts to the needs of all learners in order to respect human diversity.

INTO SOCIETY

Laura Scholler and Karina Chupina of IFHOHYP contributed to this Recommendation through their work at the CoE Consultative Meeting in 2012 on Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities in Council of Europe programmes. The Consultative Meeting produced the recommendations on inclusion of young people with disabilities that were submitted to the Council of Europe experts' body (CS-RPD) on the rights of persons with disabilities and considered in the development of the Council of Europe Recommendation.

Other good news is that Erasmus +, the new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport for 2014-2020, will start in January 2014 to bring together seven existing EU programmes in the fields of Education, Training and Youth; it will for the first time provide support for Sport.

Erasmus + programme has 40 % more funding than the previous programmes and covers volunteering, working abroad, training, education in the EU. It aims at boosting skills and employability, and modernising Education, Training and Youth work. The seven year programme will have a budget of à14.7 billion.

In the Youth domain of this programme, there is an objective that relates to youth with disabilities as well:

▬ To improve the level of key competences and skills of young people, including those with fewer opportunities, and youth workers, as well as to promote participation in democratic life in Europe and the labour market, active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity.

“Next part of the conference consisted of three workshops: Intersectoral approach to children's rights; Support for families and the community; and Inclusion in education and leisure activities.”

This means that IFHOHYP and its member organisations should take an opportunity to apply for the grants from the new programme in order to organize and run educational activities for hard of hearing young people, mixed ability activities (where participants with and without disabilities are involved), or involve hard of hearing youth in mainstream non-formal educational activities, projects.

Read more about Erasmus + at http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm.

The Erasmus+ Programme Guide is already available at http://ec.europa.eu/languages/news/20131217_en.htm!

Next part of the conference consisted of three workshops: Intersectoral approach to children's rights; Support for families and the community; and Inclusion in education and leisure activities. At each workshop, challenges and examples of good practices in inclusion were explored. Though the conference was devoted to young people with disabilities, there were sadly only a few young persons with disabilities represented. On the other hand and on a positive note, young people with disabilities from different countries were given a voice at the conference in the section “Accounts and views of young people” where they shared their experiences in the UK, Romania and Poland.

I was the only one representing hard of hearing youth, and there were a few rep-

resentatives from the Belgian deaf youth organization. Interestingly enough, the palantype was not provided for this conference, even though I requested for it in advance. I said openly in the meeting that the access was denied to me.

After a lengthy discussion with the Belgian organisers who deeply apologized for lack of access, explained the miscommunication and mistakes they admitted, I could see that at least participants and the organisers are much more informed about the needs of hard of hearing persons now than before. Having said that, in the future, hard of hearing representatives visiting international conferences on inclusion, should accept no excuse for the lack of accessibility through a palantype.

The numerous presentations from the conference are available on the website <http://www.awiph.be/youthinclusion/apresconference.html> and I welcome you to have a look at them. (Even though the titles of presentations are in French, the majority of them are in English).

Hopefully next time there will be much more young people participating and taking part in discussions concerning them. This will fully follow the motto “Nothing about us without us”. It is obvious that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done with, by and for young people with disabilities – with their direct involvement. ■

BOA

IFHOHYP Board's Lovely days in Eastbourne

Several IFHOHYP board members attended the 3rd Loops Conference in Eastbourne, a beautiful sunny town on the southern coast of England, from October 5 to 7, 2013. The conference, which was held by the UK organization for people with hearing loss and their families, Hearing Link, preceded the IFHOHYP Board meeting. Astrid Fejro, Secretary; Anna Vita Ross, Treasurer; and Nomy Bitman, Board Member, attended the conference.

By Nomy Bitman



IFHOHYP
Board Member

«One subject was about using hearing loops in public places and other useful information, of importance for audiologists and hearing aids users.»



courtesy of Nomy Bitman

The first day included long flights and trips to the beach town. In the following evening, there was a great welcome reception for conference participants, including EFHOH and IFHOH Board Members, at the Historic Eastbourne Pier. That evening was part of a special English traditional holiday, which included a beautiful parade of people wearing lovely medieval clothing and holding torches on the main street.

During the next two days of the conference, the Board enjoyed listening to interesting lecturers (audiologists, advocates and hearing aids companies' representatives (including Univox and Contacta)). One subject was about using hearing loops in public places and other useful information, of importance for audiologists and hearing aids users. The lectures were given by impressive speakers, such as Juliette Sterkens, an American audiologist, who spoke about the importance of hearing loops and awareness of using it. Another interesting story was told by Gordon Morris, the managing

TRAYS

director of Gordon Morris Ltd. for hearing solutions, about his own hearing loss. The lectures were given in English, but their content is relevant for every hard of hearing people worldwide.

Another inspiring time was the great meeting with EFHOH board members: Marcel Bobeldijk, President; Jan Lamby, Secretary; and Lidia Best, Board Member.

The final day was the IFHOHYP Board meeting, and the Board had a special guest: Avi Blau, IFHOH Vice-President. The meeting included many discussions on upcoming events and matters of IFHOHYP, and lots of coffee. The meeting was a success and the Board celebrated the last day in Eastbourne with a great day on the beach. ■

bundesjugend



Hello everyone,



By Clara

member of the
team organizing
the IFHOHYP-
Summer Camp



My name is Clara and I am a member of the team organizing the IFHOHYP-Summer Camp taking place from August 23rd to September 3rd 2014 in Bad Tolz, Germany. I live in Munster, of which is a very lovely mid-sized town located in the north-west of Germany.

Here in Germany, kids usually attend kindergarten from age three to six. After kindergarten at age five or six, every child attends primary school for four years. After that there is high school which goes from fifth to twelfth or thirteenth grade. You usually finish by the time you are 18 or 19 years old. After graduating, lots of students decide to go to university, but many people graduate after tenth grade and start an apprenticeship.

It is interesting to know that there are kindergarten, primary schools and high schools for the deaf and HoH everywhere in Germany. This is due to the fact that it used to be very normal in Germany that children with disabilities went to special schools instead of attending regular schools, meaning that there was and still is some kind of separation. But nowadays there is a big change in politics in Germany which is really exciting. It is called

HELLO

«Through Bundesjugend activities I have had met a lot of HoH people and had some fantastic experiences. One of the best experiences so far was attending a German Summercamp for HoH people twice.»

“Inclusion” which means that every child regardless of his or her disability should be able to go to any school. This is a very new development and it is very challenging, but a great chance for everyone too.

But no matter what stage of life you are in - whether you attend kindergarten, a regular high school, a school for the deaf or whether you are working - there are always different types of organizations, groups and activities to help you along the way and connect with other HoH people in your vicinity. (Of course it partly depends on where you are living but in general it is always possible to do everything you want.) It is always great to be together with other HoH people and I have learned that HoH people connect really fast with one another - which is one of the reasons I love being with other HoH people.

Once you decide to be part of some activity offered for HoH people, for example attending a seminar or a workshop or going to monthly meetings of HoH people in your home town – most likely you will meet other HoH people and most likely you will make lots of new friends and acquaintances. You will probably end up traveling half of Germany afterwards (trust me - German trains are NOT always on time, especially not when you need them to be) to meet your new friends.

A really great place to connect with other HoH people is Bundesjugend. Bundesjugend is a German organization for HoH people. It organizes and prepares different workshops, seminars, excursions and recreational offers for young people with hearing disabilities nationwide - Bundesjugend is the only organization in Germany that does so across the whole country. Through Bundesjugend activities I have had met a lot of HoH people and had some fantastic experiences. One of the best experiences so far was attending a German Summercamp for HoH people twice. Those Summer Camps were organized by Bundesjugend. They took place every two years and they really were so much fun to be part of.

Naturally I am really excited about being part of the team that currently prepares the bi-annual IFHOHYP Summercamp. It will be the largest IFHOHYP Summercamp up to date with 44 German and 44 international participants. I love being part of the team and we are planning great activities like sight seeing tours of Munich and Bad Tolz, hiking, visiting some of the many lakes in Bavaria, maybe a beer tasting trip! I really hope to see you there and show you more about the German way of life! ■

AUGUST 23rd - SEPTEMBER 3rd
IFHOHYP
SUMMERCAMP
2014 BAD TOLZ
GERMANY



HOH

Being HOH in a workplace



courtesy of Alper Co kun

Everyone needs a job. It is a natural need to human beings. People without a job usually feel depressed, even if they don't have any financial needs. It is clear that hard-of-hearing (HOH) people are having difficulties finding jobs, but that is a subject of another article. I want to share some of my experiences as a HOH person in the workplace.

The biggest problem for a HOH person in an office is noise. It can also be an advantage because HOH people can work more easily in a noisy environment by switching off their hearing aids or implants. But when you need to communicate with another person, you need a quite environment. You shouldn't hesi-

tate to ask to go to a silent place such as a meeting room. It is important not to hesitate to ask the person to repeat if you don't understand something, or if you are not sure about what he or she meant. Because it is worse to misunderstand something than not to understand it at all.

You don't have to be friends

By Alper Coskun



PLACE



courtesy of Alper Co kun

with everybody in an office. But there are some nice people who know how to deal with HOH people. Yes, there are also some rude people who wouldn't try to help you. Be positive and try to focus on your work. The most important thing at work is to do a good job, or even better, do a great job. You don't have to be best person in the office; be yourself, smile, and focus on your job.

You should use your strong skills. Be curious, and try to improve yourself every day. If you find a job, it doesn't mean that you should stop learning new things. If you improve your skills in your area and become more competent, your hearing loss will start to fade away in other people's eyes.

You should push your workplace to improve your office as a more accessible environment for people with disabilities. You should try to get some support from decision makers in your workplace to improve the company for HOH people with assistive devices such as loops. Fun and non-formal meetings about how to deal with HOH people would be also good. Some people are not rude - they just don't know how to deal with you. Educate them. For example, if you know sign language, you can also try to teach your colleagues some basics of sign language. It would be a fun class for sure.

You should never underestimate yourself. Your disability enhances some of your own strengths and skills. You can, for example, read body language better, and it can help your understanding of people in your workplace. Sometimes you will be the last person to learn of some important news about your office or your company, but it should not make you feel bad. Use technology and follow important people from your company, your sector on Twitter, and Facebook. Follow your sector's magazines and news. With effective use of technology, you will be surprised how often you get to know something important before most others.

«You should use your strong skills. Be curious, and try to improve yourself every day. If you find a job, it doesn't mean that you should stop learning new things..»

For final words, I want to emphasise the importance of using Internet technologies such as email, Facetime, Skype, and social networks. Internet and new mobile devices have had improved HOH people's communications beyond the wildest dreams of the previous generations who didn't have them. Wishing you fun and successful days in your office! ■

YOU

Challenges of getting young adults involved

By Rachel McCallum

Co-founder
of HEAR YA NOW
(organization in USA,
California)

Having a hearing loss is a challenge. Whether one claims hearing loss as a "disability" or not, hearing is one of the basic senses that humans are meant to be born with. That's why losing one's hearing can bring about a great sense of loss and a need to grieve. On the other hand, some are born without hearing or lose their hearing at such a young age that they learn to cope very early on and don't feel the same loss because it is all they know. It is the difference in these experiences and coping mechanisms that tend to divide young adults with hearing loss.

I have had a progressive hearing loss since elementary school. Before I became hard of hearing myself I had always thought that people with hearing loss belonged to one of two groups: elderly people who had lost their hearing with age, and those who were born deaf and communicate primarily through sign language. As I've gotten more

involved in the hearing loss community I've realized just how diverse the experiences of people with hearing loss actually are. As I mentioned above, the way an individual copes with hearing loss can vary greatly from person to person.

These variations in coping styles are what make it so hard to unite young adults with hearing loss spread across the United States. Some young people, particularly those who have lost their hearing later, prefer to keep it a secret. They get by as best they can in the same social groups they've always been part of in the general "hearing" society and deny that they need any peer support from the hearing loss community. Some of these will accept an online forum or Facebook group for support but will not want to spend time in person with other hard of hearing people. Since Americans spend so much time on the Internet, this can be all a person needs. They can still get a sense of community and feel that they have connected with others who understand. Others choose to become members of the Deaf community.

The Deaf community in the U.S. can sometimes be a bit exclusive. They are very proud of American Sign Language and the Deaf culture. They see those who want to get cochlear implants as "others," outsiders who don't think the Deaf community should exist. Some believe that "you're either with us or against us." With this great divide, it can be hard to get young adults with hearing loss to become leaders within a hard of hearing community. Those who do will most certainly admit that they find it very comforting to spend time with others like themselves who "get it." They may have very different hearing loss stories, but they can understand each other in a way that no "hearing" friend ever could.

As co-founder of Hear YA Now, I've often tried to unite a diverse group of deaf, Deaf and hard of hearing young people. It's difficult to moderate online groups sometimes because of these differences. There are organizations here that lean to one side or the other. Deaf Youth USA is very much a part of the Deaf culture side while Cochlear America's forums and groups are obviously geared toward stating that cochlear implants are a blessing and all deaf

people would live better lives if they had an implant. I personally feel that some see the world in black and white. There is the "hearing world" and the "Deaf world" and that's that. Those of us in the many shades of gray that exist in between often feel left out.

That is why I see the need for more young adults to get involved with the Hearing Loss Association of America at a state and national level. This organization is mostly made up of elderly people, and they don't know how to reach out to young adults. In order to keep the organization alive we need younger leaders. Young people don't want to get involved, because the organization is made up of old people, and the cycle continues. If we can hit a critical number of young adults that can bring in even more young adults in the future we will be much better off in leading the United States' hard of hearing community into the future. We also need an understanding of one another. We need to understand and accept that not everyone copes with hearing loss in the same way, but we all have something in common and can support one another. ■

«We also need an understanding of one another. We need to understand and accept that not everyone copes with hearing loss in the same way, but we all have something in common and can support one another.»



Center for Research and Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING



Hanh Duong Phuong

Center for Research and Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Center for Research and Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CED) was established in 2011 by Ms. Duong Phuong Hanh as the first and only not-for-profit organization to help impoverished Vietnamese people with hearing loss in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

By Hanh Duong Phuong



Hanh Duong Phuong

VN Sign Language class for Social Work Students.

Being deaf herself, Ms. Hanh's vision is to provide a center that holistically addresses the needs of the three million deaf and hard of hearing children and adults in Vietnam. With its mission "Everything is Possible"; CED aims to achieve a full community life for everyone who is deaf or hard of hearing. Ms. Hanh is a strong advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing. CED works collaboratively with many organizations in Vietnam and abroad to improve services, education standards and teaching quality for people with hearing loss.

Today CED provides an impressive range of services including learning Vietnamese, English, sign language, life skills, lip reading, parenting skills, behavior counseling and interpreting services. Peer counseling service is a key service from CED, in that people with hearing loss and their parents can be empowered and built capacity to overcome the barriers of disabilities. In addition, CED looks for employment opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing people as well as raising social awareness within the community. An important aim is to help deaf children from poor families to hear, listen and speak so they can attend a regular school, have wider career choices and

can more fully participate in the hearing community. In the future Ms. Hanh hopes she can build CED into a mainstream school specifically focusing on needs of the deaf and hard of hearing in Vietnam.

CED also recognizes the vital role that parents play in teaching their children to listen and speak and works closely with parents. As one parent said "If I didn't have Ms. Hanh and CED to go to, my boy would have no hope." Although only a small organization relying heavily on donations and grants and with just three teachers supported by volunteers, CED is making a major difference in Vietnam. ■

«Today CED provides an impressive range of services including learning Vietnamese, English, sign language, life skills, lip reading, parenting skills, behavior counseling and interpreting services.»

A stylized graphic featuring a bright yellow sun with rays extending upwards, partially obscured by a white silhouette of a mountain range. The background is a gradient of green and yellow.

AUGUST 23RD - SEPTEMBER 3RD

SUMMERCAMP

FHOHYP 2014 BAD TÖLZ
GERMANY

A grey silhouette of a microphone with a circular head and a thin stand.

REGISTRATIONS OPEN ON DECEMBER 1ST 2013
ISC2014.BUNDESJUGEND.DE

A grey silhouette of a pair of headphones.

bundesjugend