



# *Ifhohyp News*

September 2003

***This issue:***

- Study Session in Strasbourg 12-19 October 2003***
- Summertime 2003 in Holland: thoughts medley***
- H-O-H people education in: Bulgaria***



International Federation of Hard of Hearing  
Young People (IFHOHYP)

Study session

**"Building communication for hard of hearing youth: breaking barriers and stereotypes",**

European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

12-19 October, 2003

**Background to the study session theme:**

Communication is one of the major problems facing youth groups and youth organizations in their work, and is especially difficult for hard of hearing youth. The lack of communication skills and self-confidence resulting from hearing impairment makes hard of hearing less visible on a scale of local and international youth work; it hampers the efficacy of hard of hearing youth work in non-governmental structures – in addressing the needs towards various bodies and authorities, in lobbying, interacting with governmental structures and simply in business conversation (at press-conferences, fourchettes, receptions) with donors, project officers, politicians and other key figures supporting NGO activities. On the other hand, people often don't know how to deal and communicate with hard of hearing people – which may result in frustration, intolerance and conflict for both hearing-disabled and non-disabled members of community.

In the age of information it is necessary to keep pace with political and social developments. Keeping up with changes in reality is difficult for hard of hearing youth who lack access to information, communication and thus to institutions and society processes. Majority of hard of hearing people turns out to be outsiders in society life. In turn, society has formed the stereotype that hard of hearing minority is complacent with life in their own secluded environment, that sign language and a number of privileges compensate for their disability - this stereotype is equally common in countries of different level of economic, cultural, ethnic and social development.

**In light of this, aim of the study session is:**

To increase participation of hard of hearing youth in the civil society and empower hard of hearing youth in informing society about their needs.

**Objectives** through which the aim shall be achieved:

- ❑ To help participants in building their self-confidence and improve competences in addressing disability concerns to the public
- ❑ To assess participants' communication needs and explore variety of communication methods for hard of hearing youth
- ❑ To develop personal communication skills
- ❑ To provide tools of communication for effective participation in group work and at the organisational level

Subjects and methods to be covered in the Study session are:

*Input Phase:*

- Communication is the Dialogue: from personal to interpersonal, organizational and intercultural level
- Communication and interaction problems: coping with conflicts
- Input from lecturer on complexity of communication for hard of hearing people and how to deal with this challenge
- Forum Theatre – building self-confidence and transformation of participants' experiences

*Skills Learning Phase:*

- Conflict management, Group facilitation, Team building, Leadership, Communication and Public speaking workshops; experts will be invited for their presentations

*Multiplication Phase – looking into the future:*

- Negotiation process
- How to combat negative stereotypes?
- Fundraising and Lobbying
- How to learn from different realities and different experiences of the Western and Eastern European countries; exchange of good practices and ideas

**Profile of participants:**

Participants should:

- *primarily* be hard of hearing young people aged from 18 to 30 who are working/ volunteering in organisations on issues of hearing disability; non-disabled applicants who work on issues related to hearing disability, are also welcome to apply
- Be interested in raising awareness about hearing disability and concerns of hard of hearing youth
- Be interested in improving communication for hard of hearing young people and their participation in society
- Have at least basic knowledge of the English language
- Be willing to multiply skills and knowledge gained at this study session, in their organisations/communities

**Study session Team:**

Karina Chupina, Russia – course director

Jennie Westh, Denmark

Markku Kunnas, Finland

Ervinas Klimavicius, Lithuania

Arturas Deltuva, Lithuania - External Trainer, Pool of Trainers of the Council of Europe

**Reimbursement of Participants' Travel and Visa Costs**

Travel expenses and visa costs are reimbursed by IFHOHYP to the individual participant from the Grant provided for this purpose by the Council of Europe, Directorate of Youth and Sport. Participants' travel and visa expenses will be returned to participants either on spot in European Youth Centre Strasbourg or by bank transfer.

**Participant Enrolment Fee**

There is an enrolment fee for study sessions of € 43 per participant. The enrolment fees will be deducted from the payment of the total financial contribution of the Council of Europe.

**Accommodation and meals:**

Accommodation and meals are provided by the European Youth Centre at the expenses of the Directorate of Youth and Sport, Council of Europe.

**Compensation for cost of living for young workers and young unemployed persons**

A system of compensation exists for young workers and the unemployed persons who have to take unpaid leave in order to attend the session or who lose their unemployment benefits. Forms and other relevant documentation will be sent to selected participants by email. Participants must complete the relevant forms in advance of arrival and bring with them to the respective Centre, accompanied by all the necessary supporting documents. This information will be further sent to selected participants.

The payment of this compensation will be calculated by the finance department of the DYS and paid in cash in EUROS during the session to the participants concerned, or where necessary by bank transfer. Please note that this system of compensation only applies to residents of the member states of the Council of Europe and of the Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe.

**Important technical information:**

For this study session, speech-to-text/also called text-to-screen service (palantype) will be provided - it will allow hard of hearing participants to understand and follow *EVERYTHING* said in the plenary meetings. Participants will be able to follow all oral presentations by reading text on screen simultaneously. Furthermore, induction loop system is provided by the European Youth Centre for use at meetings for hard of hearing people. Everything is undertaken in order to make sure that participants follow the contents and process of the study session programme, as well as all speeches in the plenary.

**Study session official language:**

English.

**Selection of participants:**

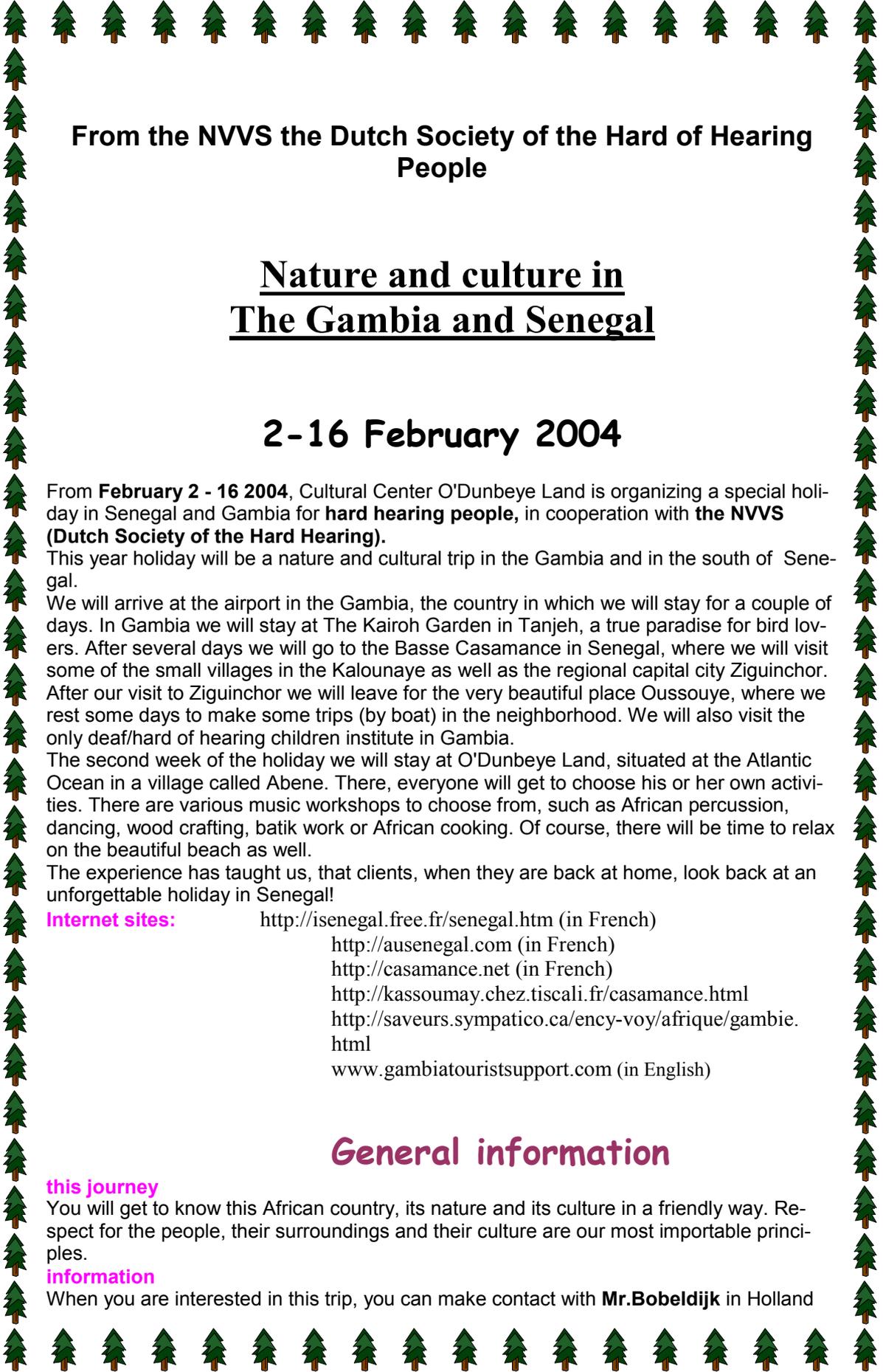
Please fill in and send to Karina Chupina and Jennie Westh the attached application forms due by **September 5**. Once you applied, it does not mean that you have been selected.

Please note that only 35 participants can take part in the study session *including* the Preparatory Team.

The participation of residents of states not members of the Council of Europe is foreseen in the following manner:

Young people who are residents of states, not members of the Council of Europe but parties to the European Cultural Convention (e.g. Holy See, Principality of Monaco, Republic of Belarus, Serbia and Montenegro) can be invited in their capacity as members of youth organisations involved in the holding of a session.

A limited number of young people from continents other than Europe (usually not more than 2 or 3) may be invited to participate provided that such participation is envisaged in the application and receives prior authorisation from the Director of the Directorate of Youth and Sport.



From the NVVS the Dutch Society of the Hard of Hearing  
People

Nature and culture in  
The Gambia and Senegal

2-16 February 2004

From **February 2 - 16 2004**, Cultural Center O'Dunbeye Land is organizing a special holiday in Senegal and Gambia for **hard hearing people**, in cooperation with **the NVVS (Dutch Society of the Hard Hearing)**.

This year holiday will be a nature and cultural trip in the Gambia and in the south of Senegal.

We will arrive at the airport in the Gambia, the country in which we will stay for a couple of days. In Gambia we will stay at The Kairoh Garden in Tanjeh, a true paradise for bird lovers. After several days we will go to the Basse Casamance in Senegal, where we will visit some of the small villages in the Kalounaye as well as the regional capital city Ziguinchor. After our visit to Ziguinchor we will leave for the very beautiful place Oussouye, where we rest some days to make some trips (by boat) in the neighborhood. We will also visit the only deaf/hard of hearing children institute in Gambia.

The second week of the holiday we will stay at O'Dunbeye Land, situated at the Atlantic Ocean in a village called Abene. There, everyone will get to choose his or her own activities. There are various music workshops to choose from, such as African percussion, dancing, wood crafting, batik work or African cooking. Of course, there will be time to relax on the beautiful beach as well.

The experience has taught us, that clients, when they are back at home, look back at an unforgettable holiday in Senegal!

**Internet sites:** <http://isenegal.free.fr/senegal.htm> (in French)  
<http://ausenegal.com> (in French)  
<http://casamance.net> (in French)  
<http://kassoumay.chez.tiscali.fr/casamance.html>  
<http://saveurs.sympatico.ca/ency-voy/afrique/gambie.html>  
[www.gambiatouristsupport.com](http://www.gambiatouristsupport.com) (in English)

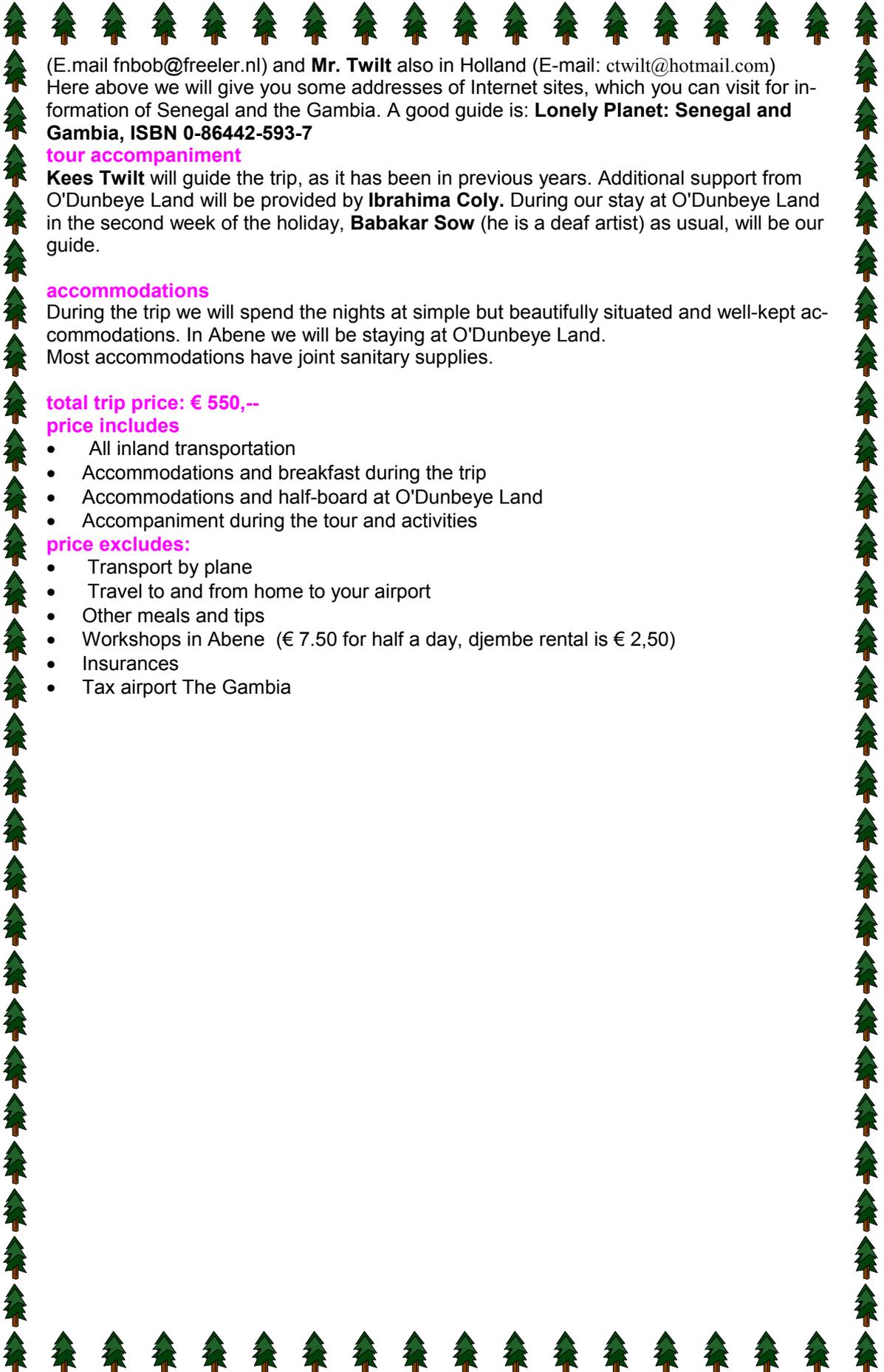
**General information**

**this journey**

You will get to know this African country, its nature and its culture in a friendly way. Respect for the people, their surroundings and their culture are our most importable principles.

**information**

When you are interested in this trip, you can make contact with **Mr. Bobeldijk** in Holland



(E-mail [fnbob@freeler.nl](mailto:fnbob@freeler.nl)) and **Mr. Twilt** also in Holland (E-mail: [ctwilt@hotmail.com](mailto:ctwilt@hotmail.com))  
Here above we will give you some addresses of Internet sites, which you can visit for information of Senegal and the Gambia. A good guide is: **Lonely Planet: Senegal and Gambia, ISBN 0-86442-593-7**

**tour accompaniment**

**Kees Twilt** will guide the trip, as it has been in previous years. Additional support from O'Dunbeye Land will be provided by **Ibrahima Coly**. During our stay at O'Dunbeye Land in the second week of the holiday, **Babakar Sow** (he is a deaf artist) as usual, will be our guide.

**accommodations**

During the trip we will spend the nights at simple but beautifully situated and well-kept accommodations. In Abene we will be staying at O'Dunbeye Land. Most accommodations have joint sanitary supplies.

**total trip price: € 550,--**

**price includes**

- All inland transportation
- Accommodations and breakfast during the trip
- Accommodations and half-board at O'Dunbeye Land
- Accompaniment during the tour and activities

**price excludes:**

- Transport by plane
- Travel to and from home to your airport
- Other meals and tips
- Workshops in Abene (€ 7.50 for half a day, djembe rental is € 2,50)
- Insurances
- Tax airport The Gambia



# Summercamp 2003 in Holland



## Thoughts medley



Ifhohyp Summercamp 2003 in Holland, organized by SHJO ( [www.shjo.nl](http://www.shjo.nl) ) was a complete success. Look what it has been told...



" I remember a lot the summercamp, it was a great experience!!! " Irene Pizarro Fernandez, Spain



"How can I describe it in a few words??? That's impossible!!! I can write so much about this Summercamp... I miss it a lot and every day, there is something that makes me remember those days." Greet Penneman, Belgium



"People coming from here and there..and mosquitoes..... Together, having fun, dancing, playing, traveling, all together! ... Those hateful mosquitoes!! ... Meeting each other, laughing, getting excited, knowing other countries ... those damned mosquitoes!  
Toni Alvarez "Azaghal & Rosetta", Spain



"My first Summercamp 2003 in the Netherlands was a nice meeting with people from the different countries! It was a unforgettable and adventure period! Congratulations for the good organisations!" Greet Vergult, Belgium



"Sex, drugs & rock n' roll - Summercamp 2003 had them all !" Gordon Hay, Great Britain



"It has been very very funny, I enjoyed a lot meeting my friends and new people. About the leaders: CONGRATULATIONS!!!! they have worked a lot and very very well. "  
Maria Lopez Garcia, Spain



"My best decision was to go to camp, got new friends, a lot of experiences and fun! Now I am planning to participate to Denmark camp in 2004" Ulla Konkarikoski, Finland



# EDUCATION AND SCHOOL FOR Hard-Of-Hearing PEOPLE IN : BULGARIA



Article written by Maria Pantaleeva

There are about 1800 hard of hearing young people in Bulgaria. 30% of them study in regular schools. There are 4 special schools in Bulgaria. Teachers use oral speech in the special schools and sign language as a subsidiary means. The pupils' textbooks are free there.

What about the education?

First of all, HOH people attend the center for early rehabilitation at the age 0-3 years. It has 5 branches in 5 cities + Sofia. This center is the first education unit for these children. It has the possibility of setting the basis for their integrated education. The groups in these 5 cabinets are located in neighborhood kindergartens and the children are included in groups with the hearing peers.

At early and pre-school age the leading task is speech forming. This means the basic work lies in the hands of the special teacher of the Deaf /surdopedagogue/. When a child goes to a regular school the roles change. The surdopedagogue has a supportive and a consultative role.

According to an instruction of the Ministry of Education pupils with disabilities /like me, my brother, you and all our friends from Holland/ can attend /enter/ professional and some secondary schools without exams.

It's a very hard work for these children, their families and their teachers, but they do their best and cope with the difficulties.

About the higher education – only few universities have some privileges for young people with disabilities /for HOH young people – if they have loss of hearing more than 72%, than there is some privilege, but it's only sometimes/. But in the all universities the have to pass the exam for entering the university – it's obligatory. There are about 30 HOH students in Bulgaria now.

In the last years most of the parents prefer mainstream schools.

**Employment:**

It is really hard for deaf and HOH people to find a job /by the way it's hard for all Bulgarians because of the economic situation in my country/. If an employer hires a deaf/HOH person this is the State that pays his/her salary, insurance and taxes for one year.

**Hearing aids:**

The Government gives about \$450 for 2. This is only **if you study**. This amount of money the Government gives you only for period of 3 years. You can change you hearing aids every three years and if you study! But the price of the most modern one is between \$600 - \$800. So, you can see what is the difference and in most of the cases parents don't buy the best for their children

For example me:

I bought my last hearing aids in the winter 2000/2001 and now I can buy new modern ones in this winter 2003/2004. Why? Because 3 years has passed!!! And I still study – it's now my 2<sup>nd</sup> year student. I will have the chance to use this reduction of the Government only one more time – just in the end of my study because I will study 5 years psychology.

Every HOH young person receives 40 batteries for hearing aids for free per year.

After the age of 18 years every person who has loss of hearing more than 71% receives a monthly pension. Until this age /18 years/ of the child, his/her parents are given financial support by the Government /70% of the minimum salary for the country/. Just to tell you that this money are not so much if you think – they are even not enough for some families who have HOH person in.

**TV:**

There are no subtitled programs in tv in Bulgaria. There are some broadcasts /mostly news/ with interpreters of sign language.

**IFHOHYP Board:**

-Vanessa Migliosi, President (Italy)

[mivane@tin.it](mailto:mivane@tin.it) or [vanessamigliosi@tin.it](mailto:vanessamigliosi@tin.it)

-Karina Chupina, Vice-President (Russia)

[travelmind21@yahoo.com](mailto:travelmind21@yahoo.com) (please always cc: to [karinac@hotmail.ru](mailto:karinac@hotmail.ru))

-Ervinas Klimavicius, Treasurer (Lithuania)

[kl.ervinas@takas.lt](mailto:kl.ervinas@takas.lt)

-Jennie Marie Westh, Secretary (Denmark)

[jennie@post9.tele.dk](mailto:jennie@post9.tele.dk)

[ladybirddk@hotmail.com](mailto:ladybirddk@hotmail.com)

**Webpage: [www.ifhohyp.dk](http://www.ifhohyp.dk)**

Ifhohyp News—The Magazine of the International Federation Hard of Hearing Youth People-  
For any request about this issue, please contact : [andreapietrini@inwind.it](mailto:andreapietrini@inwind.it)



