



Ifhohyp News Autumn 2006

*The International
Federation of Hard of
Hearing Young People
Magazine*

NEWSFLASH - what's new in IFHOHYP?

NEW MEMBERS in IFHOHYP!

Serbian organization for inclusive society and accessibility joined IFHOHYP; Swedish organization for hard of hearing young people joined IFHOHYP this autumn again. Welcome! :-)

Meeting on the IFHOHYP Multimedia production project “What is it like to be young and hard-of-hearing in Europe?” - August 24 – September 2, 2006

IFHOHYP project “*What is it like to be young and hard-of-hearing in Europe?*” is carried out within the European Youth Campaign “All Different – All Equal” on Diversity, Human Rights and Participation (see <http://alldifferent-allequal.info> for more information). The project is supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.

IFHOHYP Multimedia project preparatory team met in Belgrade, Serbia. Aleksandar Bogdanovic (Serbia), Karthik Vijayanandam (UK) and Karina Chupina (Russia) were involved in the meeting. Yana Domuschieva (Bulgaria) assisted via Internet. The meeting was a successful start for a more coordinated work on the project and established agreement with the Serbian multimedia company “WebHouse” that will produce DVD in co-operation with IFHOHYP.

What had been done:

- Comprehensive instructions + criteria for the multimedia production by National project coordinators and their teams (to be sent out soon)
- Announcement of the DVD and brochure cover IFHOHYP competition (to be sent out soon)
- 2 Questionnaire draft models for the national coordinator and for HOH individuals
- Editing English-language texts submitted by the National coordinators
- Reviewing submitted materials and videos; timeline for the montage of the videos from IFHOHYP summer camps and study session' 2006
- Meetings and consultations with experts in Multimedia production
- Reviewing DVD model designed in DVD-format and rejecting the model
- Meeting with other expert and choosing the final format of the DVD (between flash-presentation and website; allows for more learning and interactivity)
- Protocol on IFHOHYP Multimedia Project implementation with the Serbian company, and more

European Conference and the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan Launch in St.Petersburg, Russia - September 21-22, 2006

The Conference launched the *Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015* which aims to improve the quality of life, inclusion and active participation of people with disabilities in society, and to strengthen equal opportunities and non-discrimination. It also developed practical recommendations to national authorities aimed at promoting good practices at national level and increasing co-operation with civil society. You can download Action Plan at http://www.coe.int/t/e/social_cohesion/soc-sp/integration/02_council_of_europe_disability_action_plan/Council_of_Europe_Disability_Action_Plan.asp#TopOfPage .

Karina Chupina was present at the conference and met the experts from the Council of Europe Directorate of Social Cohesion who gave inputs at the IFHOHYP study session'2006 in Strasbourg. She is convinced that Council of Europe Disability Action plan is crucial and its implementation by the State should be monitored at all levels. Karina stressed that more NGOs should have been invited to this event and expressed hope that more attention will be paid to participation of Youth disability organizations. Karina was the only representative of international and Russian youth disability organizations at the Conference.

Council of Europe Youth Event “All Different – All Equal” within the European Youth Campaign on Human Rights, Diversity and Participation, St. Petersburg, Russia - September 22-24, 2006

Youth Event in St.Petersburg was one of the key events in the European Youth Campaign. Karina Chupina took part in the event and in the workshop on Human Rights Education, Diversity and Anti-discrimination. She made sure that the promotion of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 was included in the final St.Petersburg Declaration of the Event; that disability dimension is taken into account in the declaration, that disability features as one of the bases of discrimination and that declaration calls for access to participation for disabled young people.

NEW IFHOHYP representative in the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth

Aleksandar Bogdanovic, Serbia, was chosen to replace Johan Bijleveld in the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth. His first Advisory Council meeting is on 2-4 October in Budapest. Aleksandar is a deputy director of the Inclusive Society Development Center in Belgrade. He was a participant of the IFHOHYP study session' 2006 and is a National Coordinator in the IFHOHYP Multimedia project “*What is it like to be young and hard of hearing in Europe?*”

IFHOHYP represented at the Diversity Youth Forum of the Council of Europe

IFHOHYP delegates Andrea Pietrini (Italy) and Aleksandar Bogdanovic (Serbia) were selected to take part in this Symposium in Budapest, October 24-29. The symposium aims to deepen and explore the concepts, the issues and threats to Diversity in Europe today and well as the youth work and youth policy responses required to address them, including actions of the “All Different – All Equal” European Youth Campaign. Read more in next Newsletter issues!

IFHOH / EFHOH Board meeting, 29 October, Helsinki, Finland.

An IFHOHYP Board representative will come to take part in this meeting and discuss current projects (such as Multimedia project), exchange ideas and experiences, and discuss possible joint projects in the future.

LATEST NEWS!

Have a look at the new Council of Europe leaflet dedicated to youth initiatives.

All pictures used on it has been taken during the 2006 IFHOHYP Study Session in Strasbourg.

**You can check it at
www.ifhohyp.org**

IFHOH/EFHOH Annual General Meetings in Dubrovnik (Croatia)

By Greet Pennemann

From 27th April until 1st May, the IFHOH & EFHOH Annual General Meetings were hosted by the Croatian organisation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I arrived at Dubrovnik airport by plane on Friday afternoon where someone was waiting for me to drive me in a jeep to the Grand Hotel Park. When I arrived in the hotel, the meeting had already started so I missed a little bit of the presentations. It was nice to see that there were a lot of people who I had met the year before at EFHOH's AGM in The Hague (the Netherlands). After the presentations, I went to the center of Dubrovnik together with Marcel Bobeldijk (the Netherlands) and Barbara Wenk (Switzerland) to have a walk around. For those who have not been in Dubrovnik yet, I can really recommend to visit it as it is beautifully located near the sea and has a special atmosphere with very nice buildings and a lot of stairs.

On Saturday morning, I got up very early to swim. The inside pool was getting a little small as there were a lot of hard of hearing people who all wanted to swim. After a while, I went swimming in the large pool outside. As it was raining, the water was very cold but very effective too to wake up as well. ☺

The Annual General Meeting of EFHOH on Saturday morning was very accessible thanks to the loop system and the excellent velotypist Daniel Tuijnman (the Netherlands). Siegfried Karg (Switzerland) and Ulla Konkari Koski (Finland) were re-elected so the EFHOH board remained the same. At the end, I gave a short presentation about IFHOHYP and the Multimedia project.

In the afternoon, we had a very interesting guided walk tour in Dubrovnik's city. In the beginning of this walk, the guide explained us on a map which parts of the city were destroyed during war. I forgot a lot about the city's history and important buildings but I'll never forget the feeling I had during the whole walk. I couldn't imagine that the same place was once bombarded not that long ago (about 10 years before)... After the walk, we had a nice dinner in a beautiful wooden ship, sailing for about 2 hours. Really nice to go upstairs during sailing and to have a look at the coastline or the sea with a glass of wine.

On Sunday, the AGM of IFHOH took all day. I remember a presentation of Jan-Peter Strömgren (Sweden) about a project in Laos where the Swedish organisation (UH, Unga Hörselskadade) is trying to enhance the living circumstances of hard of hearing people in Laos. I hope other countries learn from it and set up similar projects in other developing countries.

Marcia Dugan (United States) has been president of IFHOH for many years and is now succeeded by Jan-Peter Strömgren (Sweden), a nice, calm and I guess also a strong man with a lot of sympathy for the organisation of young people. He told me that he would strongly encourage the Swedish organisation for young hard of hearing people to join IFHOHYP again. The election of the other board members was a little bit surprising as three new board members were elected: Ruth Warwick (Canada) as secretary, Ahiya Kamara (Israel) as vice-president and Katja Perttila (the Netherlands/Finland) as treasurer. I was very pleased to see that Ahiya and Katja were both elected and I hope this new board will invest a lot of efforts to make IFHOH stronger than ever.

The weekend in Dubrovnik has been short but intensive with a lot of talks to hard of hearing people from all over the world. I especially remember the talks with people from Hungary, China and Kuwait. I am very glad that I have been able to attend these meetings and hope an IFHOHYP's representative will be able to go to next EFHOH AGM in Oslo (Norway) in 2007 and next IFHOH AGM in Vancouver (Canada) in 2008.

Education for Hard of Hearing people in ...Turkey

By Berna Cibik



In Turkey, there are special schools only for deaf students, but there are no specialized schools for hard of hearing ones. So, some of the hard of hearing students attend in mainstream education and the others are go to deaf schools.

Higher Education Council is taking responsibility for disabled students and it established a national disability advisory committee. All universities have to set up disability support units now.

In July 2005, Turkey's first "Comprehensive Disability Act" was passed (www.ozida.gov.tr). The Implementation of these laws has just started. Turkey has not always been good in implementing laws, but the disability movements are growing and going to use this laws to ask for change. These disability movements include all people from different disabilities.

In 7 April 2006 there was an agreement that TID interpreters will be trained and available from social services for any signer doing official business; doctor, hospital, lawyer, local authority.

Also disabled people with low income will be given computers and internet access, but conditions and times are still unclear.



Course of English in Dublin 2006

By Frantisek Smolik

I have participated at the intercultural English language course for youth leaders (July 4-28 2006) in Dublin, organized by the National Youth Council of Ireland on behalf of the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science in co-operation with the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe.

The Course was great. I gained in communication skills (writing and spoken language), specific language skills applied to international youth work, project management, Human Rights, social issues, knowledge about international youth structures, local youth NGOs, international youth programmes, Council of Europe and Directorate of Youth and Sport. More, I went for some Intercultural learning (theory and practice).

My experiences were positive and negative. I was provided induction loop system and I could to hear better, but I did not understand my teacher and other students during all course. This English course was not for Deaf and Hard of Hearing participants, but for normal hearing ones. I understood some words of English, but some didn't. When teacher spoke about topics of interest during workshop, I could not hear and understand her. The speaker had microphone and I had loop system provided by National Association for Deaf People in Dublin. The best experience in my communication was „one to one“ between teacher and student. When I had problem I told them if they could write their question on a paper, or speak more slowly. So it was very difficult for me. We used English books and papers in English. In this case, I had not any problem. My english improved slowly during the Course.

We had three levels of English (beginner, intermediate, advance) and I was in the beginner level. The students in my class had great patience with me and I was pleased for this. Thank you very much!. Many participants from this Course did not know or had not an experience with any hard of hearing people.

We had a presentation about National Youth Council of Ireland and we informed about NYCI Structures, Policy, Work etc. I would like to establish partnerships with NYCI and I think that Czech organizations could need some „know-how“ from NYCI. Maybe even IFHOHYP need some „know how“ from NYCI.

I enjoyed Irish Pubs, Riverdance, Song Workshop (where we sang Irish songs), Theatre – *The Importance of Being Ernest*, Bus Tour of Dublin, Cinema. We played „Murder Mystery“ Performance, Irish Dancing class, and we had an International evening.

It was great experience for me and I learned a lot of new things.

I am happy to have participated in this Course spending my time in Ireland. I made a new friends too.

I would like suggest to IFHOHYP participants and delegates to have a good knowledge in English, and to have patience. My idea is to have similar Courses dedicated to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. We have special needs, and the Course could be effective.

Special thanks to Karina Chupina for her recommendation me in this Course of English in Ireland.

SUMMERCAMP 2006 IN SPAIN!!!!

By María López García

Hi people!!! Do you know what happened last summer in Spain? Yes, I heard that an organization called Bonaventura arranged a Summercamp where a lot of young people from all Europe enjoyed themselves, had fun, swam, visited a lot of places, and.... Don't you know that? Come on, read it and you will see how 53 participants spent 14 days in Spain.

Yes, yes, 53 young people came to Spain, to the summercamp, they were from many European Countries as Italy, Holland, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Bulgaria, Czeck Republic, Hungary, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland.

What did we do during those 14 days? The first 10 days we were in a youth hostel in the centre of Castellón. I can remember the first day, some people met old friends again, there were new faces, some people tired because the travel, some people blowing and drinking water because the hot weather.... But all of us were very very happy because summercamp was started and we had a lot of things to live.

As we had to know each other and remember the names of all people, we started with some ice-breakings games and the Fan workshop, yes, the fan was very useful for the typical Spanish weather, it was very hot!!!

Next day we could enjoy the amusement park called Terra Mítica, everybody enjoyed the switchbacks, spectacles, views....

The 4th and 5th day all of us had the opportunity to practise sailing and kayak in Mediterranean sea. For me it was one of the most beautiful and funny activities, we learnt how to drive the boat, move the sail according to the wind, ... practise Kayak (like canoeing) in couples and swim in the sea, where we could spend funny moments ☺. And we played minigolf too.

Saturday 22th of July we visited the Caves in Vall d'Uixó by boats where there is the biggest underground river of Europe. In the afternoon participants in different groups made a workshop about disabilities (every member of each group had a disability and all together had to make a spanish bull with some materials). After that, there was a debate where we could speak and explain how every team worked and if there were cooperation or not.

Picture: some participants and leaders close the Caves

Of course that there was time as well for going to discos, dancing, drinking, playing sports and having some free time.

Monday 24th of July everybody went to Aquarama, an aquatic park, for enjoying with toboggans and taking good colour of skin.

Next day we visited Peñíscola, a maritime village close to Castellón. It is famous because Papa Luna lived there and you can visit his castle that has beautiful views to the sea. It was a very very hot day, but people liked that special place a lot.



What about in the afternoon and evening? All participants turned in actors, yes, I was surprised how people performed, we had professional actors and actress!!!!. It was great to see how participants from each nationality represented the situation of a HOH person in their country. With this workshop we could learn a lot in a funny way, understand how our HOH friends from other countries live.

Next day some people went to hiking in “Desierto de las Palmas” and visited the Turtles’ Centre. The rest of the day we had free time for preparing our luggage for the next day, but hostel was empty!!!! Everybody knew how to get to the beach and they went there for sunbathing!!! Haha ☺

Thursday 27th we moved to Valencia, to Galileo Galilei, a good residence with conditioned air, wow!!! In this way people could sleep well!!!!

In the evening we went to a “Capea”, participants enjoyed “playing” with the small bulls in the bullfight square, the horses exhibition, a barbeque dinner and a small party. I can say that it was a very complete and typical Spanish day!!!

Friday 28th: Visit to the Oceanografic (the biggest aquarium in Europe) and the impressive Arts and Sciences City. In the aquarium we could see all kind of fishes and aquatic animals from all climates of the Earth, from the Arctic to Tropical areas, and see the dolphins spectacle. In Arts and Sciences City we watched a movie in a special cinema with a strange earpieces (we looked like Martians or Space men, haha), and then we visited the Sciences Museum where people could play as crazy researchers.

Saturday 29th: It was a very hot day, we visited by boat the Albufera, a salt lake close to Valencia, and after walking walking and walking (I thought that it was half Km, but it was 2 Km and half, I’m sorry, haha) we arrived to a hostel very close to the beach where we ate paella (again, haha) and we spent all afternoon swimming, sunbathing and having a relax time.

Last day arrived, I couldn’t believe it!!!! We started the day with a Gymkhana, a game where every group had to surpass some trials in the most important places of the Valencia centre: make an human tower in the middle of a famous square, paint their faces, dance, cross a street and play some theatre. At the end of the tour we met and did the last trial all together in the river of Valencia.

Picture: The last trial of Gymkhana all together

In the farewell party we had some “tapas” in a typical Spanish restaurant and people received “presents” in a funny way (everyone had to imitate a participant). We enjoyed a small flamenco spectacle and stayed talking, taking pictures and saying goodbye to all participants.

The summercamp was great: there were different activities, a very good atmosphere, we enjoyed a lot and we learnt a lot of things from the others.

As a leader I can say that it was a very very nice experience. Sometimes it was hard because there was a lot of work, and I didn’t have time to be with participants, enjoy and speak with them all that I wanted, but I am very proud of the result.

Before finishing I would like to say **THANK YOU VERY MUCH** to all participants who came for your participation, your patience, and your smile, **THANK YOU VERY MUCH** to the leaders for making the summercamp possible and I hope to meet you in the next summercamp in Finland!!! ☺



Thank you very much for all sponsors that we received: Medel, Phonak, Rayovak, Spar, INJUVE, Valencia city-hall, ONCE Foundation, IVAJ

LAUNCHING THE “ALL DIFFERENT – ALL EQUAL” CAMPAIGN IN ITALY

By Vanessa Migliosi

In 1995 - 50 years after the end of World War II - the Council of Europe ran a European Youth Campaign entitled **All different - All equal** in order to fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance. Nevertheless the struggle – 10 years afterwards – still goes on. For this reason, from June 2006 to September 2007, the Council of Europe decided to run a new campaign on **Diversity, Human Rights and Participation**, based on the same slogan and using the same successful logo. The objective is to guarantee equality and safeguard diversity. This campaign is being organized in partnership with the European Commission and the European Youth Forum. What does the slogan “All Different – All Equal” mean? It refers to the fact that people from all over the world differ in many ways.

Picture: Vanessa Migliosi during her speech

For example, there are differences in what people believe in and how people look, but regardless of these differences, people should be given equal rights. Did you know that in some regions of Europe, people with a non-white skin colour are afraid to walk alone on the streets?



Did you know that in some regions of Europe, gay people cannot kiss in public without fearing harassment? Did you know that in several regions of Europe, having a handicap means not taking part in public life? Did you know that you have the right to be heard in all decisions regarding young people’s issues? That is what the Campaign is about: to respect diversity, to know about human rights and to take action in defending your own rights, as well as to stand up against the discrimination of others. At the national level, each campaign is organized by the National Campaign Committee. In Italy, this Committee is comprised of the Italian Youth Forum and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Welfare. The Committee is implementing the campaign in cooperation with the Council of Europe. From August 11 - 13, 2006, the launching of the Campaign was organized in Florence, Italy. I participated in it as a representative of the European Disability Forum (EDF). I organized a workshop about disability, gave a speech at the round table and prepared an exhibition of the EDF organization. The following authorities were present at the round table: Ralf-Rene Weingaertner, the Director of the Youth and Sport section, Giuseppe Porcaro, the President of Advisory Council on Youth and George Boldt, the Vice-President of Advisory Council on Youth. The speakers were Mariam Yassin from the Women From Minorities organization, Fabio Saccà from International Gay and Lesbian Youth organization and me from EDF. Each of the three core themes of the Campaign (Diversity, Human Rights and Participation) was discussed. I spoke about “Being a Disabled Youth” from the human rights point

of view by doing a reflection of the rights of young disabled people.

Picture: Vanessa Migliosi with the interpreter Paola and two HoH friends.

Mariam Yassin spoke about diversity from the point of view of building up a multi-cultural society and Fabio Saccà focused on participation of Gay and Lesbian people. I hope that this Campaign will be as successful as it was in 1995, because now more than ever, all



people have to understand that the equal participation of disabled people is crucial to a richer, more diverse society. A society in which all people can express themselves and share their unique experiences and points of view.

Picture: Vanessa Migliosi speaking at the convention



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

"Ideated By MariaLopezGarcia"

IN THE AGM 2006 IN FINLAND THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE WAS RENEWED WITH SOME NEW PEOPLE. DO YOU KNOW WHO ARE NOW IN THAT COMMITTEE?

LOOK, LOOK ☺

ANDREA PIETRINI (ITALY)

(the boss ☺)

What is your age?

Anyway, too many years!!!

Where do you live?

During the day I live in too many different places from seas to lakes to mountains...the only sure thing is that I sleep in Rome, Italy

What are you doing now?

I'm answering to Maria's questions otherwise she will kill me!!

What will you do in the future? Getting a holiday, getting an holiday, getting an holiday....

What are your hobbies? books, movies, sightseeing, travels, museums

Why are you involved in IFHOHYP? What do you like of IFHOHYP?

Because I like international environments

Do you have any message for the Newsletter readers? Do your work and do your best!!! ☺

Put
Brad Pitt/
George Clooney
photo
here

JURAJ VARINY (SLOVAKIA)

What is your age?

25 years old

Where do you live?

I live in Bratislava, Slovakia

What are you doing now?

I'm working as programmer and network admin in small enterprise - www.equit.sk .

What will you do in the future? I'd like to get self-employed to have more control of my time and of stuff I'm doing.

What are your hobbies? I like to spend time in nature, by hiking or riding bicycle. Also personal growth interests me - how to get more out of my brain, developing sixth sense/awareness etc. But probably most of my free time I'm reading something on the internet as I'm quite information-hungry about all areas of life. This way it's much better than TV.

Are you involved in any organization in your country? I am secretary of Slovak club of HoH young people. We are only few and gaining new members very slowly, while we are spread around the country, so it's difficult to get together.

What do you like of IFHOHYP? I most like the people there. On their actions I felt for the first time that "yes I belong between these people".

Why are you HOH? Both my parents are HoH, and both me and my parents lost hearing as a children in result of taking antibiotics. But I have one younger brother with good hearing.

What do you think about the hearing disability? I think being HOH learned me to be more empathic and to think more deeply about life. Like HoH experience can't be easily shared with other people, but we like when others respect - more even love - us together with our experience, so everyone else has inner experiences that needs to be respected and loved from



us. My courage and self-esteem are more hardly build and have deeper roots than they would be otherwise. Sometimes I am even graceful that all that HoH experience served and continues to serve its purpose, and I feel my soul had chosen it sometime before my birth.

VANESSA MIGLIOSI (ITALY)

What is your age?

I'm 34 years old

Where do you live?

I'm living in Rome, Italy

Why are you HOH?

I am the only one HOH in my family and I still don't know why I am hearing impaired, even if I did genetic tests on the most popular genes (nowadays it is not possible to test all deafness genes).

What are you doing now?

I graduated in molecular biology in 1996 and after having done research on genetics for many years, I have had to come back to study at University one year ago, because of the difficulties in doing research in Italy. The next year I will get the teaching diploma, in order to become a teacher in mathematics and science at secondary school, and a teacher in biology, chemistry and geology at high school.

What are your hobbies?

I like to play sports like skiing and swimming. I go to gymnasium as well

Are you involved in any organization in your country?

I am member of the Youth Committee in the European Disability Forum and the Vice-president of the Italian Deaf Sport Federation.

Why are you involved in IFHOHYP? What do you like of IFHOHYP?

I met first time IFHOHYP organization in the 1995 Study Session in Strasbourg, the following year I become Secretary for 6 years, then I become President for two years. In 2004 I left Ifhohyp Board and I continued to co-operate with IFHOHYP writing articles to be published in the newsletter. It has been a wonderful experience to work for IFHOHYP and to gain new friends and contacts thanks to this Federation!

A message for the newsletter readers:

let's take easy!



LIANNE DE JONGE (THE NETHERLANDS)

What is your age?

21

Where do you live?

Now, I live in Coimbra, Portugal. I will stay here to the begin of January 2007. Before I went to Coimbra, I lived in Vlissingen in the Netherlands. At the begin of January 2007, I will return to the Netherlands.

What are you doing now?

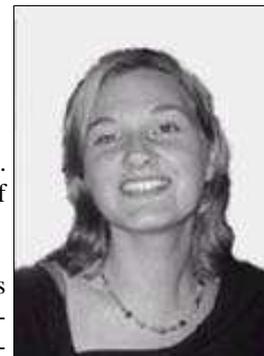
At the moment, I am in my last year of the Bachelor Water management. This studies contains subject like aquatic biology, environmental chemistry and hydrology. Actually, everything what has to do with aquatic water systems. For this studies, I am doing an internship at the Institute for Environment and Life in Coimbra, to get more work experience and to prepare myself of the graduate ship in the last part of this school year.

What will you do in the future?

I do not have really big plans for the future. Perhaps I will do another study or a master study on an university. I do not know, my future is completely open and unknown.

What are your hobbies?

At the moment, I am quite busy with working so I don't have much time to practice a



lot of hobbies. But I do really like it to read a good book or go to sport (swimming)
And in the weekends, I like it to have a good party!

My member organisation

I am a member of the organisation SHJO from the Netherlands. I don't really have a special role in there.

Why are you in IFHOHYP? What do you like of IFHOHYP?

I am in the IFHOHYP because it is important to make things like education, working and life easier for hard of hearing young people. It is very important that all people could have a good education and life without problems like discrimination. I think, organisations like IFHOHYP will be able to make things like this better (on long term) and can give more attentions to the problems of hearing disabled young people. Furthermore, I like the IFHOHYP because it is a good way to meet (HOHYP) from other countries, share experiences, getting more inspirations and have good times!

Why are you hard of hearing?

Why I am hard of hearing and some one else is not, I do not know. Sometimes, things are happening. In my situations, my inside ear (cochlea) does not work. This means, I cannot hear high frequencies only the low frequencies.

A messages for the Newsletter readers:

I wish to say that being hard of hearing is not the end of the world. When you are disabled, there are many many many thing which are still possible! So, go out and enjoy!

MARÍA LÓPEZ GARCÍA (SPAIN)

What is your age?

I'm 25 years old

Where do you live?

I live in Valencia, Spain

What are you doing now?

I finished Biology at University last February. And now I will start a pedagogic course for being teacher.

What will you do in the future? I'd like to work in a high school as a teacher with student who are 14-18 years old

What are your hobbies? I like very much to travel and meet friends, dance, listen music, chat with friends, sports.

Are you involved in any organization in your country? Yes, my organization is Bonaventura (regional organization) and I'm the secretary. I'm involved in some committees but I work coverall on international activities.

Why are you involved in IFHOHYP? What do you like of IFHOHYP? I like very much the international events, work with people from different culture, sharing, communicating. That's why I'm in many IFHOHYP committees and IFHOHYP board. And of course, I like to meet old and new people.

Why are you HOH? In my family we don't know why I'm HOH because I'm the only one in the family, but the most possible cause must be birth anoxia.

What do you think about the hearing disability? Of course I think it's not nice to have a disability, but in some way I feel proud because thanks of being HOH and be involved in a organization I'm living very nice experiences, meeting very interesting people from all the world and learning a lot about cultures and life. I almost sure that if I was a hearing person I wouldn't be living it. ☺

A message for the newsletter readers:

Enjoy the life and you will get everything that you want if you try and fight for it!!! ☺





The mission of IFHOHYP

IFHOHYP is committed to promoting equal rights for hard of hearing young people at all levels of the community. We believe that hard of hearing young people have the right to a good education, freedom of choice, the right to equal treatment at labour market, necessary support and technical aids they need to assimilate to life in the hearing community.

-To encourage a better understanding of hard of hearing young people and their problems among the general public.

-To defend the interests of hard of hearing young people and express them towards international bodies.

-To serve as a platform for cooperation and exchange of information between organizations of hard of hearing youth.

-To establish links with organizations of and for hearing impaired people, improve communication and cultural interchange between all hard of hearing young people worldwide; to receive new information from other international youth or disability organizations and provide with it hard of hearing youths in different countries.

-To collect and make available all information on different aspects of hearing loss, on technical advances, facilities and assistive listening devices for hard of hearing people.

IFHOHYP Board

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