

IFHOHYP NEWS

Summer 2007



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

New Trends in Educating Hearing Impaired People

by Svetoslava Saeva (Bulgaria)

In the period 21-25 March 2007 an International Contact Seminar New Trends in Educating Hearing Impaired People was held for the first time in Bratislava, Slovakia (<http://akademia.exs.sk>). The seminar is realized as a main activity of a project of the European Culture Society, Bratislava and is financially supported by: Youth Programme – Action 5, Open Society Fund and Austrian Culture Forum.

All activities were interpreted into English, Slovak, Slovak Sign language and International Sign.

The seminar was under the auspices of Mr. Dušan Čaplovič – Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Slovakia for Knowledge-Based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities and Mrs. Viera Tomanová – Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Slovakia.

The seminar was divided into two main parts concerning activities in the whole period.



Svetoslava (in the right)

The first part was on 22 March when Open Public Seminar was realized in the capital of Slovakia – Bratislava. There were more than 110 people from different countries that took part in the seminar. Many of the participants were hearing impaired.

There were many interesting presentations about technologies and innovations in education and preparation for universities as well as for the labour market of hearing impaired and deaf people. Mr. Andrej Buday – a Slovak project manager and president of the Association of Driving Schools in Slovak Republic shared very valuable experience about teaching deaf and hearing impaired people how to drive correctly and safely.

I took part in the presentations by sharing information about the experience we have in Bulgaria for teaching Physics, Astronomy, Science and English deaf and hearing impaired people (children and adults). The topic of the presentation was „Innovative Trends in Education Hearing Impaired youth in Bulgaria”.

There are four new products in the educational system in Bulgaria which I presented and two of them (the Physics and Astronomy CD-ROM and the English teachnig CD-ROM) were new for most of the country representatives on the seminar. I participated in the creation of all presented products.

After all presentations were made a discussion emerged in which we shared our own experience and the experience of the organization and/or country we represented at the Seminar.

The second part of the seminar included the other days of the stay in Slovakia and they were organized as workshops in a place 20 km away from Bratislava – Senec. This second part were

attending less people than the Open Public Seminar – 12 people (7 deaf and hard of hearing and 5 hearing). There were: International Sign, Slovak and English interpreting.

The participants were representatives of 13 organizations. There were brief presentations from a Hungarian specialist ingeneer László Kutor who demonstrated communication technologies for the people with hearing difficulties.

All participants presented themselves and the organizations they represent on the seminar so everybody could know the field of interests and work of the participants. This helped in finding the best topics for discussion in the informal conversations.

The workshop (altogether on 23 and 24 March) continued with discussion of the current and most important topics in social aspect for deaf and hearing impaired people. Each of the participants made their own suggestion about this and finally we had to come to only four topics that we all agree that are very important for deaf and hard of hearing people. The final four topics are:

1. New educational programs for teaching deaf and hard of hearing;
2. Advocacy
3. Special preparation for deaf and hard of hearing people for education at universities;
4. Teaching deaf lecturers and linguists Sign language by Deaf people.

In the next activity all participants had to go to their group of interest, discuss it with the other participants there and make a short presentation of the most important topics in the group. All ideas had to get their way of realization so each group had to prepare a draft-project on the realization of the ideas they had exchanged during the discussions.

Before the seminar was closed all information was summarized.

I am glad that I had the opportunity to participate in the International Contact Seminar (ICC) in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. It was a wonderful experience for me because I had the chance to meet d/Deaf people from different nationalities – we could share signs from our countries, we could compare them and see the similarities and differences, we had the chance to enrich our International Sign vocabulary, we could exchange thoughts and ideas, share experience and information.

Highlights from the program

By Martin Novák

Michal Hefty is lector of computer course for hearing-disabled people and he shared his experiences. The advantages are ability for further education, gaining familiarity with computer, communicating with sign language more easily and improved self-esteem. The course was free, but there was low count of applicants, people were not interested from the beginning. People over age of 50 years have problems to comprehend the material and not all available classrooms have internet access. The laws also often don't allow to buy computer as supportive technology what is big disadvantage.

Via Lucis project led by doc. Darina Tarcsiova from Comenius University in Bratislava aims to create better environment for university students with special needs. Center for help to students with special needs was founded, which prepares study materials and helps 100 disabled students with their needs. It works with high school and university teachers, too, to improve their knowledge.

Mr. Andrej Buday informed about problems with educating hearing-disabled people in driving license courses. In coopeartion with Belgium, Netherlands and Sweden was this area mapped. In Slovakia they organize special workshops for 12 driving course instructors, and prepared specially modified texts, video and CD with basics of sign language for instructors.

The proposal and preparation of materials for European Computer driving license – ECDL for HoH and deaf people by Slovenian University in Maribor. Autors asked themselves whether e-learning can be useful for education of people with hearing loss. They used videos with sign language interpreter, subtitles and accomodated user interface. In the project participated 337 unemployed people, from these were 22 deaf or HoH. After the course, disabled participants improved on average more than other participants.



Martin talking about IFHOHYP

Another very important fact for me about the ICC was the contact with specialists from my professional area – work with d/Deaf people – as well as specialists in the field of Sign language communication and interpretation and communication process of Deaf people in general. Another aspect of this was that the specialists were from different countries so we could exchange not only our personal experience but the experience of our countries.

The next valuable point about ICC is that we had the chance to meet in person people with whom we can cooperate in future and we could be partners in further projects and collaborations.

During the Open Public Seminar I could get a closer look at the political and law system of Slovak

Republic concerning education and labour market for hearing impaired citizens in the host country.

It was a wonderful experience for me and I thank to everyone who took part in this Seminar.

AGM 2007 Bern

By Lianne de Jonge and Juraj Variny

During Easter 2007 (4th of April till 8th of April), the Annual Great Meeting took place in Bern. This year the AGM was organized by the Swiss organisation 'Jugehörig'. There were delegates from several countries: Russia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Slovakia, The Netherlands, Spain and Italy. Also were there observers from Germany and Burkina Faso. Sweden and Bulgaria joined this year.

The number of applicants was never so big before and this will give a positive development in the future of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People. Program contained four days with presentations, discussions, the annual meeting and some activities like sight seeing of the city Bern and an excursion to the Phonak factory.

Phonak is largest producer of hearing aids and FM systems worldwide. It also makes communication systems for industry and TV studios. Executive manager Evert Dijkstra welcomed participants with presentation about Phonak. Later we could discuss with members of development team led by Markus Buehl and FM systems marketing manager Hans Mülder. We had excursion to places where hearing aids are assembled, presentation of knowledge about hearing loss and workshop about our needs regarding FM systems. We could try on ourselves newest technologies like SmartLink and MyLink.



IFHOHYPers rest after having invaded Bern

During the program, we could use the MyLink system and this considerably improved the communication between the participants. During the second day of the AGM, all organisations gave some presentations about their own organisation. The member organisations have a lot of differences, some are very small and others are quite big. Furthermore, the Research Project was explained and this gave an image of the new IFHOHYP project for 2007/2008. The just finished Multimedia project, its results and problems were another matter of discussion.

Annual meeting itself was held on Saturday 7th April. Its program contained several aspects like financial issues and election of new board members. New secretary is Noora Penttinen from Finland and the auditor is Ulrike Haase from Germany. Furthermore, a new “flexible” board member was chosen. This flexible board member is Jacob Selin from Sweden. The evenings were closed with a traditional Swiss fondue, an intercultural dinner and an performance of the pantomime group. This was the end of the program and the next AGM, in 2008 will be hold in Spain.

We wish to thank very much to organizers – Claudio, Laura and others for creating interesting program and maintaining very positive atmosphere. We are also very grateful to Phonak staff for providing support and sharing their knowledge, notably to Mr. Hans Mülder, who together with Karina Chupina arranged the visit.

Deaf and HOH Advocacy in Poland

By Karina Chupina, published at www.i711.com

We are continuing our personalities series about active and interesting persons who work for the cause of deaf and hard of hearing in the countries of former communist bloc. Next on the list is Poland.

What can we recollect about Poland? Instead of an introduction, here are some aspects of Poland as a country in a period of transition:



Poland is an ancient nation that was conceived near the middle of the 10th century, a nation with an interesting history and a strong national identity. In 1980, strikes at the Gdansk shipyard led to the first independent political movement within the Soviet bloc. Today Poland is still emerging from its communist past, but unemployment and deprivation remain high. The country is currently being led by the twin brothers, Lech Kaczynski, the president, and Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the prime minister. Both are members of the conservative Law and Justice party, which is promoting traditional catholic values.

Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. With its transformation to a democratic, market-oriented country largely completed, Poland is an increasingly active member of Euro-Atlantic organizations.

Damian Dudala who is my main source of the news from Polish deaf community, works in the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education (IISCE) at University of Lower Silesia of the Association for the Advancement of Education in Wrocław (www.iisce.org). He is a project manager on projects devoted to disability and human rights, and is a Vice President of the non-governmental organization "Together Poland Foundation" (www.network-together.eu). In the network, with support of his friends, he organizes various projects for young people with disabilities, several of whom are youngsters with hearing loss. Apart from this, he studies deaf education at the University.

Damian works with people who are responsible for formal and non-formal education activities for youth with disabilities. His tasks include working with students with disabilities, among them people who are deaf or hard of hearing, in the University, and assisting the Plenipotentiary Rector of the University - which is responsible for students with disabilities.

"The IISCE is an interdepartmental, academic, and research center mission charged with fostering education built on the culture of pluralism, which is critical to participative democracy and thriving civil society in East Central Europe", explains Damian. "Central themes of the IISCE are ethnic and cultural pluralism, human rights and human right education, disability rights, gender equity, and conflict resolution specifically in the context of school curricula and teaching practice."

The Institute has broad experience in organizing open seminars, national conferences, training courses, workshops that give participants a chance to work on hearing loss issues, and work with/for deaf and hard of hearing people who participate in the projects. Deaf and hard of hearing students sometimes help to organize the activities.

"In Poland, the majority of deaf vocational schools train students to become dressmakers, bookbinders, car mechanics, or carpenters. Through the deaf educators we meet at these seminars, we're starting to see an increase in the number of deaf young people who want to study computer specialization, information technologies, education (especially deaf education), or psychology. I think it is a good sign. For example, when it comes to deaf education, we do not have enough deaf or hard of hearing teachers in Poland (in 2000 we had just 33 teachers who are deaf!)."

In Poland, a country with 5.5 million people with disabilities, the majority - 84 percent - lives on social security benefits such as disability allowances. Work is the main income for only 8% of them; a significant number of people with disabilities do not have enough money for subsistence.

"According to the statistics, we have about 100,000 deaf people in Poland, and other sources mention 4 million people with hearing loss. Every year 650 children are born deaf or hard of hearing," says Damian.



Damian at the conference on Human Rights Education

High unemployment is also a plaguing issue. While it's diminishing slightly now, that rate reached 14.9% in December. "We do not have anti-discrimination legislation or regulations to employ assistants or sign language interpreters to support deaf and hard of hearing people in the workplace. The Polish Disability Act was changed 45 times within a few years! Obviously, this shows government's irresponsibility. Another important thing to consider is that the deaf community in Poland is not considered a minority and Polish Sign Language is not an official state language," explains Damian.

When I asked if there are any famous deaf people in Poland, Damian cited as examples Feliks Peczarski - artist and painter from 19th century, writer and

poet Petronela Pawlowska, and finally, Bogumila Gawronska whose poster won first place in the international competition in the 5th Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf 1967 and 6th Congress of the WFD in 1971.

Damian, who admires Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and re-read for 9 times his favorite Polish book by Stefan Zeromski "The homeless people" (about Doctor Judym whose selfless help to people stems from his own challenging life experiences), is a young worker on hearing loss issues with an acute sense of injustice that even I had rarely observed.

Damian identifies himself as hard of hearing and, contrary to some young people with hearing loss, does not question his identity. "To people I say, 'Please, speak slowly and clearly.' My identity always

was, is, and will be closer to people who hear. I never lose faith in it. When I worked for two years in the Polish Association of the Deaf, many times my suggestions and ideas were rejected by deaf people. Why? I could not fully understand it. Perhaps because of my poor sign language? Or, because I am more 'hard of hearing' than deaf? It is my identity, it is my right - and I decide about it. Yes, I admit, my identity is not always pleasant for myself. I try to understand the Deaf community, and I do have respect for them, for their culture, and for their language. But I can not accept an intolerant attitude just because I am not 100 % Deaf."

At the same time, Damian wholeheartedly acknowledges the biggest success of the Polish Association of the Deaf. They started dialogue with the Polish government to give official status to Polish Sign Language and to recognize the Deaf community as a minority.

"An inevitable process had started and we can hope its effect will be positive," Damian tells with optimism. "It is very important," he stresses again, "because with minority status, like the deaf community has in the U.S., the deaf community in Poland will have rights and may get campaign support from the government. As a minority group, they can have more possibilities to protect themselves, their culture, and language."

SOME FACTS ABOUT POLAND

Location: Central Europe, east of Germany

Border countries: Belarus 407 km, Czech Republic 658 km, Germany 456 km, Lithuania 91 km, Russia (Kaliningrad Oblast) 206 km, Slovakia 444 km, Ukraine 526 km

Area-comparative: Slightly smaller than New Mexico

Population: 38,536,869

Ethnic groups: Polish 96.7%, German 0.4%, Belarusian 0.1%, Ukrainian 0.1%, other and unspecified 2.7%

Religions: Roman Catholic 89.8% (about 75% practicing), Eastern Orthodox 1.3%, Protestant 0.3%, other 0.3%, unspecified 8.3%

Humour: Accomodating the normals

With kind permission of Andrea Ray Chandler from his blog: <http://qw88nb88.wordpress.com>

In your place of business, educational institution, or public service area, you will have to make certain accommodations for the "normal" ("Temporarily Able-Bodied") patrons. (Please note that within Normal culture, it is considered appropriate to refer to them as "normal people" rather than as "people with normality".) Normal people will usually succeed in schooling, and will apply for jobs that they can do, presuming that they are given accommodations. These needs are diverse, and such accommodations include, but are not limited to, the following items:

Normal people don't go around in wheelchairs, so they need to have chairs made available for them everywhere.

Normal people need to see what they're doing, so they need to have lighting made available to them everywhere. This includes locations with very limited routes and signage, such as stairwells. It also includes bedrooms, even though most of the time spent there is when the person is asleep.

Normal people need caffeine to help them compensate for their hypoactivity, so they should be supplied with coffee, tea, cola or other culturally-equivalent beverages at work. Likewise, normal people have a low need or tolerance level for fidgeting or pacing. This is typical, and although some

interest in doing such may be observed, their ability to sustain such for extended lengths of time is impaired.

Normal people associate loud noise with having fun, and will desire background music in a variety of places, such as waiting rooms, social areas, work stations, and eating areas, even though the background music interferes with verbal forms of communication. Most normal people do not sign, so their speaking volume will also increase the ambient noise levels. Although mainstreaming of normal people is considered to be good educational practice, their noise levels can aggravate those with hyperacusis or migraines, so your normal students may need special resource rooms where they can participate in adaptive mealtime programmes.

Normal people are likely to engage in such stereotypicals as long bouts of eye contact, and chit-chatting about famous people or nothing much in particular. Their communication gestures are often not true signs or signifiers, but rather false tics that are *socially learned* responses, and are considered by some researchers to be a form of “social stimming”. These activities are harmless, although they may need to be reminded not to disturb others, especially in work environments.

Secondary and tertiary normal students have unusual deficits of ability to monologue about topics in extended detail, and will need supplementary tutoring and practice to reach adequate achievement levels.

Normal people are extroverts who need structured social activities to fill their free time, because they don't become self-absorbed in their special interests. They will also associate “being alone” with “being lonely”, and given a living or working space with six rooms, all six normal people will frequently be found clustered together in the same room.

Normal people have a readily-recognised phenotype, and are remarkably consistent in their features and physical makeup (e.g. overall bilateral symmetry, regular walking gait). Due to their pronounced socialisation needs, they will exhibit strong tendencies for “following fads” and “team identification”, and will often be seen wearing clothing of great uniformity. Despite this, they frequently have savant skills for facial recognition (“hyperprosopy”), and will be able to identify and name literally hundreds of their peers.

Note that this special population not only has special needs that must be accommodated, but they are also a vociferous and sometimes petulant lot if those special needs are not met. Your legal adviser or Human Resources coordinator can consult with you about compliance issues and the ADA, DDA, or other local laws concerning accessibility and discrimination.

FIVE MINUTES WITH....

By María López García

Last April, IFHOHYP had the Annual General Meeting in Bern (Switzerland) and the Board team changed a little bit, now the secretary and auditor are Noora and Ulrike.

There was also an agreement for making the team a little bit bigger with a new more member, and Jacob was selected for it.

Greet was voted to continue as treasurer but a few months later she had to resign it because personal reasons. And Christi proposed herself to be “acting treasurer” until the next AGM in 2008.

From here we want to say Welcome to the new members and have a nice time in IFHOHYP!! ☺

NOORA PENTTINEN (FINLAND)

what is your age? 22 years in September

Where do you live? until September in Tampere, Finland, after that in Uppsala, Sweden – I'm going there for a student exchange

What are you doing now? I am studying languages and international politics at the University of Tampere, soon I'll be studying for the autumn semester in Sweden.

What will you do in the future? I will hopefully graduate and get an interesting job, maybe something in an international organisation.

What are your hobbies? Listening to and playing music, jazz dance, voluntary work in organisations, hanging around on the internet.

Are you involved in any organization in your country? What is your role there? I am a member of the youth committee in our organisation Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing People. I am in charge of the international connections of Finnish HoH young people.

Why are you involved in IFHOHYP? why do you wanted to be board member? I am interested in working with different kinds of people from different countries. The work in IFHOHYP will benefit the HoH young people as a whole and I want to be involved in it and of course making all the practices better and better.

What do you like of IFHOHYP? Mostly I like exchanging ideas and opinions with people from other countries. I also like that I can use all the languages I speak. IFHOHYP does important work among the young HoH.

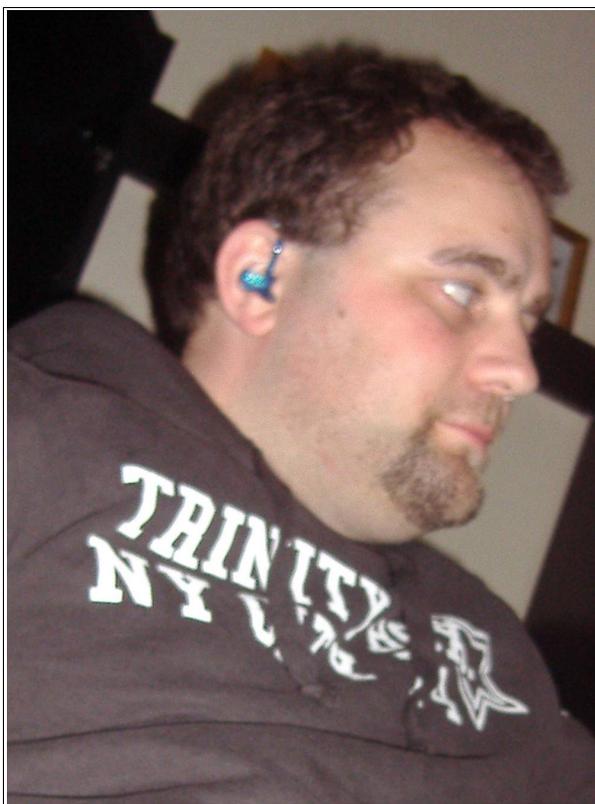
Why are you HOH? My father is also HoH, so my hearing imparement is genetic, I've had it since birth.

What do you think about the hearing disability? In my schoolyears I had some doubts and didn't understand why I had to be HoH, but right now I'm just glad I am, because I've got to know so many interesting people due to my hearing disability. I've got great hearing aids and am really happy that I



live in a country that can provide a lot of support for the HoH. I couldn't even imagine a life without my hearing impairment.

A message for the newsletter readers: Keep up the good work! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have anything to ask.



JACOB SELIN (SWEDEN)

what is your age? 27

Where do you live? Örebro Sweden

What are you doing now?

I work parttime with computer support and part time as teacher

What will you do in the future?

I would like to work more as a teacher for adults.

What are your hobbies?

Computers, climbing, friends and societylife

Are you involved in any organization in your country? What is your role there?

Yes, I have been a member of the board for the Swedish association for hard of hearing young people since 2001. My role are as responsible for international contacts.

Why are you involved in IFHOHYP? why do you wanted to be board member?

First of all cause I think that I can contribute with

my knowledge but also cause I see ifhohyp as a possible platform for influence.

What do you like of IFHOHYP?

That it is a organisation who gather together the hard of hearings in the world and make it possible to compare the situations in different countries. Also it's make it possible to find similar needs and demands to politicians and other powerfull peoples

Why are you HOH?

We (my family) are actually not sure but we believe that its mainly is genetic but also cause my mother had the rebulla during the pregnancy.

What do you think about the hearing disability?

Well, what shall I say. I have grown up with it so I have nothing to compare with.

Of course it sometimes hard but also I have received a lot of knowledge, experiences and friend because of my disability. Things I might not had found if wasn't hard of hearing.

A message for the newsletter readers:

Have a nice summer and never give up the fight for our right to contribute in the society on your conditions.

**ULRIKE HAASE
(GERMANY)**

what is your age? 26

Where do you live?
In Berlin, Germany

What are you doing now?

I study Bioinformatics
(Master) at the Free
University in Berlin

What will you do in the
future?

I hope, I can finally finish
my study in one year in order to get a job.

What are your hobbies?

- Quite a lot of biking (lots of my friends often see me flitting on my bike through Berlin)
- Taking photos, especially of people, when they do not remark my camera
- Listening to music (I need music like the air for breathing)
- meeting my friends
- Travelling

Are you involved in any organization in your country? What is your role there?

In Berlin I am the leader for the Youth Group for hard of hearing people. Since the end of 2005 I try to reanimate the Youth Group, which years ago fell asleep. But now my initial work fields the first fruits, and we are now a bigger organisation team and do more events for our dear HOH youngsters.

Germany's hard of hearing organization also has a sub-organisation: called Bundesjugend (Federal Youth), which plans every second year a very big national summercamp, for approx. 200 people with a wide variety of workshops. With the Help of Bundesjugend and friends, we also organize Workshops beyond the summercamps.

One further task will be for me to deal with IFHOHYP matters for Germany, if Bundesjugend joins the IFHOHYP.

Why are you involved in IFHOHYP? why do you wanted to be board member?

In time of European Union we need a closer collaboration of the hard of hearing people in order to get something going: to fight for our special rights, to make more contacts between the individual countries, to give support for countries, who needs help for building a new hard of hearing organisation and so on.

And I am now a part of the IFHOHYP-Team, because I want to see, how IFHOHYP works and because I want to offer them my help.

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What do you like of IFHOHYP?

I appreciate that there is a organisation for young hard of hearing people on international level, because on that way we maybe achieve some day, that hard of hearing people do get more rights. Another main point is, IFHOHYP is a fantastic organisation for getting to know new people from different countries and for sharing the HOH-Experiences with people coming from different countries.

Why are you HOH?

I just was born with a genetic defect, that is why I am from birth on hard of hearing.

What do you think about the hearing disability?

Well what I do think about that? The hearing disability complicates a lot of things in my life, but I can not change that. Some people see the hearing disability as a challenge, but in my opinion you can accept a challenge or refuse a challenge. But a hearing disability you can not refuse, because it simply exists. So for me it is not a challenge. The best thing is, you come to an arrangement with the hearing disability, do the best of it. And even when we are HOH, even we can do the same things like other people, it just costs more efforts. And when we want to be honest, in some moments the HOH has little advantages ;).

A message for the newsletter readers:

Only when we work together, we can achieve something on international level. But that needs your help. So if you think we should do fight more for our rights as a HOH person or if you think there should be more activities for HOH people then just help the IFHOHYP team. Only when we work together, we can get something going.

**GREET PENNEMAN
(BELGIUM)**

What is your age? 28 y.

Where do you live?
Essen (Belgium)

What are you doing now?
Inspector at the Ministry of Finances

What will you do in the future?
Enjoying my life both at work and in private life

What are your hobbies?
Swimming, reading (mostly thrillers), cooking.

Are you involved in any organization in your country? What is your role there?

At the moment I am not involved in any Flemish organisation.

Why are you involved in IFHOHYP? why do you wanted to be board member?



I like to meet other HOH's from all over Europe; I've been asked to become treasurer and agreed with it however it's sometimes quite hard to work good at international level

What do you like of IFHOHYP?

I like the activities such as Summercamp and Study Session most

Why are you HOH?

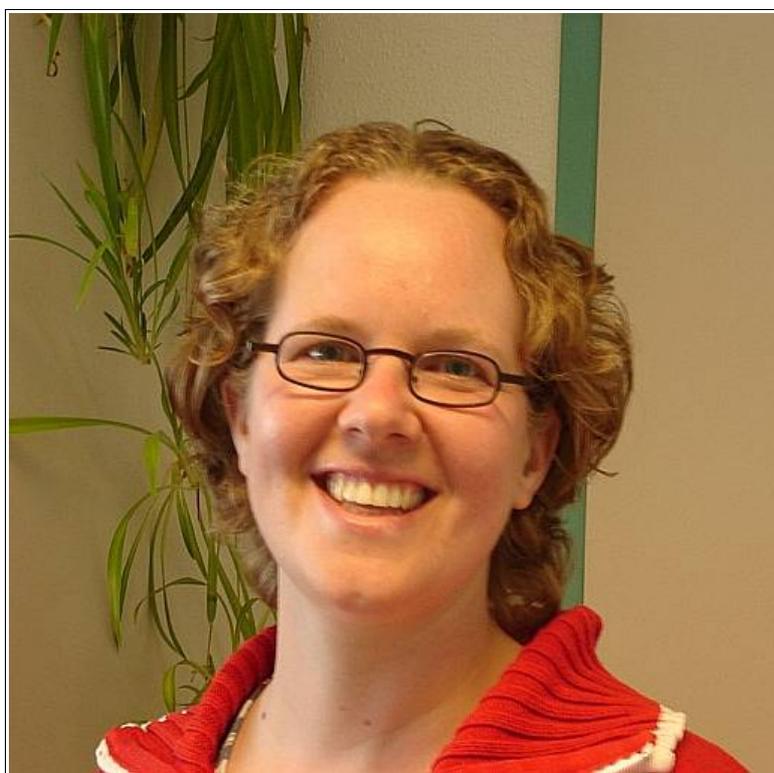
I am severe hard of hearing since I was born, probably a genetic cause but I don't know for sure

What do you think about the hearing disability?

It has big disadvantages on communication and alerting level but I love the advantage of total silence at some moments very much. I can't image a life with a lot of noise all the time.

A message for the newsletter readers:

Hope to meet you at the Study Session in September 2007!!



CHRISTI MENHEERE
(THE NETHERLANDS)

what is your age?

29

Where do you live?

In a small town Borne, The Netherlands with my lovely darling.

What will you do in the future?

Get married and ...?!?

What are your hobbies?

Playing basketball, playing darts, style dancing, cycling, cooking and take care of my two rabbits Pimmetje and Kimmy.

Why are you HOH?

Born with it.

What are you doing now?(study or work)

I am working as Quality, Health, Safety and Environment manager in a company, which produces and develops high-precision parts and modules.

Why are you involved in IFHOHYP? why do you wanted to be board member?

In 1998, during AGM in Italy I became in contact with IFHOHYP and it still give me challenges to do something for IFHOHYP. In the past I was Secretary for two years and was in the several committees and now I take up the challenge in the financial side.

What do you like of IFHOHYP?

Doing anything on international level with other members, such as discussing of topics, arranging activities, participating in projects, etc.

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 hearingimpaired 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.

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Go and see IFHOHYP at

www.ifhohyp.org

