



The International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People

www.ifhohyp.org

WELCOMES YOU TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY SESSION

“Striving towards policy impact, awareness raising and access to social rights”

Run in cooperation with the Council of Europe

Place:

European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Date:

20-27 November 2011

- Participation fee to the Council of Europe is 50 €.
- Participants' travel expenses are reimbursed by IFHOHYP from the Council of Europe grant, with deduction of the participation fee.
- Accommodation and meals during the session are provided by the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.

What is IFHOHYP?

International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) is the only international non-governmental federation for national and regional youth organizations that are dedicated to improving quality of life of hard of hearing young people throughout the world.

IFHOHYP's long-term goal is to provide continuous support and training to hard of hearing young people in order to empower them to work towards their full participation in society. IFHOHYP follows the principle "*Nothing about us without us*" and puts its efforts to ensure that needs of hard of hearing young people are taken into consideration in development of disability and youth policies.

Background to the study session theme:

Full participation in society might be achieved by working and co-working with the majority of hearing people around us. A very important aspect is which rights the government awards the disabled, particularly, in this case, those hard of hearing. In exchanges among members of IFHOHYP, very often our members explore different structures and situations in the various countries: some countries are very developed and their governments grant a lot of support to disabled people, others do not. As we want to train multipliers which are able to aim at full participation for people hard of hearing, we found we need a space for all of us to work more intensively on how we can both reach the people around us and improve the legislation on our behalf.

Introduction to the themes of the study session:

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is defined as an organised attempt to change policy, practice, and/or attitudes by presenting evidence and arguments for how and why change should happen.

What is lobbying?

Lobbying means that a group of people seeks to influence legislators and policy makers on a particular issue. A lobbyist is a person who tries to influence legislation on behalf of a special interest.

What is policy making?

It can be described as a process in which either individual persons or groups in a leading position in business, politics and other organizations decide on the goals that have to be achieved in a certain time and also in a certain way

What is awareness-raising?

Awareness raising does not necessarily rely on an extensive campaign, but can also be done by talking to other people about the situation of people hard of hearing, about their strengths and weaknesses in everyday life. In other words, the aim of awareness raising is to increase society's sensitivity to the needs and wishes of minorities, in this case people which are hard of hearing.

What are social rights?

Social rights regarding our topic are laws that grant support to socially handicapped or disadvantaged persons. As mentioned above, different countries have very different sets of social rights, and these need to be compared and analyzed to find out which kind of support is most useful or most morally acceptable to both disabled and non-disabled people.

Putting it together...

To gain full participation, both the legal and the social situations need to be improved. Thus we need to strive towards policy impact (through advocacy and/or lobbying), awareness raising and access to social rights.

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

To provide young hard of hearing people with campaigning and lobbying competences, to give them skills and methods to raise awareness, reach policy makers and access to social rights in their respective countries.

Objectives:

- ⤴ to equip participants with knowledge on concepts of human rights, social inclusion and discrimination
- ⤴ to learn methods on campaigning and public relations to reach the society and stakeholders in order to raise awareness on hearing loss
- ⤴ to develop lobbying competences and skills to influence policy makers in order to defend the rights and interests of hard of hearing people
- ⤴ to work in an intercultural environment formed by hearing impaired young people from different countries and share good practices of awareness-raising
- ⤴ to develop and create a practical and concrete awareness-raising product at the end of the study session (video files, series of campaigning clips or other)
- ⤴ to provide participants with ways to increase their motivation and passion to continue their development, to enable them to successfully motivate other hard of hearing young people in local and regional organisations to work on impacting society.

Profile of participants:

Participants should:

- Be *primarily* hard of hearing young people aged from 18 to 30 who are actively working/volunteering in organisations on issues of hearing disability; other applicants who are actively involved in work on hearing disability issues are also welcome to apply.
- Be interested in raising awareness about hearing disability and concerns of hard of hearing youth.
- Be able to communicate and **work in spoken English without the help of another person.**
- Be motivated to develop a project/training related to youth, inclusion and disability/hearing loss in their organizations or communities after the session.

Note: Preference will be given to applicants from IFHOHYP member organisations, but participation from non-member organisation is also encouraged.

Age:

The majority of participants must be under 30 years of age, with a maximum of 25% over the age of 30.

Study session official language:

English.

Note: Speech-to-text service and induction loop system are provided by the organisers to help with the communication, but the main means of communication is spoken English.

Study Session Team:

- **Carlos Muncharaz (Spain):** Course Director, IFHOHYP Secretary, Vice President of Bonaventura CV association of hard of hearing people in Spain.
- **Laura Scholler (Germany):** IFHOHYP Vice – President. Took part in the Study Session 2009
- **Juliane Große (Germany):** took part in the Study Session 2009, studies Pedagogy for the disabled at university, cooperates with schools for the hard of hearing regarding empowerment of both hard of hearing students and their relatives.
- **Andrea Rejka Sabova (Slovakia):** Volunteer and member in organisations “Smile at me!”, SOMNED, Greenpeace, Amnesty International. Took part in the Study Session 2009.
- **Cristina Dumitru:** Educational Advisor of the Ministry of Education Moldova, volunteer and member in ACTA Autism Arges, took part in the Study Session 2009.
- **Sabine Klocker:** Educational trainer.
- **Mara Georgescu:** Educational Advisor of the Council of Europe.

How many participants:

35, from countries mainly from member states of the Council of Europe. Young people from countries which are not members of the Council of Europe are also invited; they should constitute no more than 15 % of the total number of participants. 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, Republic of Belarus) can be invited in their capacity as members of youth organisations involved in the holding of a session.

Methods:

Training workshops, discussions, work in small groups, brainstorming, theatre, ‘role games’ and simulation exercises in non-formal education methodology.

Note that study session is NOT about passive sitting and listening to lecturers (even though there will be inputs), but about dynamic & interactive learning through experience! The methods of non-formal education are used to stimulate young hard of hearing people to work together and generate solutions and strategies to use them back home.

Technical and other important information:

Reimbursement of Participants' Travel and Visa Costs:

Travel expenses (**the cheapest route possible only**) and visa costs are reimbursed by IFHOHYP to each participant from the Grant of the Council of Europe, Directorate of Youth and Sport. The Council of Europe participation fee of 50 Euros per person will be deducted from reimbursement. It is very important for you to collect and provide all tickets, invoices and documents you want to have reimbursed.

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. Vegetarian meals are available and no pork is served.

Important technical information for hard-of-hearing:

For this study session, speech-to-text (palantype) service, also called captioning, 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 the text on the 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.

ATTENTION for applicants from IFHOHYP non-member organizations:

Apart from the fee to the Council of Europe, those participants who belong to non-member organisations shall contribute to IFHOHYP with a fee of € 35 (*i.e. if your organisation is not a member of IFHOHYP and you paid € 200 for travel, you will be reimbursed € 200 - € 50 - € 35 = € 115*). Note that the latter fee goes to the IFHOHYP only and not to the Council of Europe.

How can you participate in the study session?

Please fill in the application form in the attachment and send to email before October 9th. Please note that once you applied, it does not mean you will be selected. Selection of the participants will be done on the basis of **motivation, experience or learning needs** of an applicant. Should you have any questions, please contact the team at:

ifhohyp.studysession@gmail.com

Deadline: 1 October, 2011

The sooner you apply, the better!!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IFHOHYP AT WWW.IFHOHYP.ORG!