



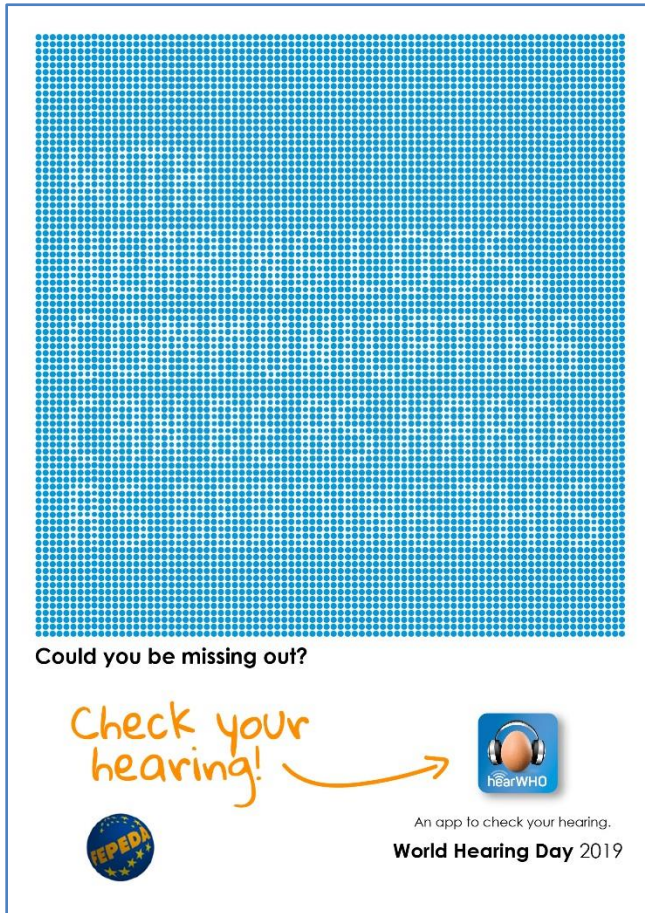
Fédération Européenne des Parents d'Enfants Déficients Auditifs
European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children
Europäischer Verband der Eltern Hörgeschädigter Kinder
Federación Europea de Padres de Niños con Discapacidad Auditiva

PRESS RELEASE

World Hearing Day 2019. Early identification and intervention for hearing loss.

(Helsinki, 3.3.2019) On the World Hearing Day 2019, the European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (FEPEDA) would like to join World Health Organization's (WHO) message and draw attention to the importance of early identification and intervention for hearing loss.

As WHO points out, hearing loss is on the rise and unless action is taken, by 2030 there will be nearly 630 million people with disabling hearing loss and by 2050 the number could rise to over 900 million¹. Data from studies in middle- and high-income countries analysed by WHO indicate that among teenagers and young adults aged 12-35 years, nearly 50% are exposed to unsafe levels of sound from the use of personal audio devices and around 40% are exposed to potentially damaging levels of sound at entertainment venues².



It is important to know that your child may have a hearing loss if he/she doesn't respond to sounds, cannot understand what you say properly, has delayed or improper speech development, suffers repeated episodes of pain in or blockage of the ear. In these cases, you should visit the specialist doctor in order to assure an early detection and intervention.

Furthermore, FEPEDA reminds to EU State members that it is essential to develop and implement neonatal hearing screening programmes as well as programmes afterwards, in order to assure that every child, every person with a significant hearing loss is early detected. However, detection and diagnosis must be followed by intervention and access to high-quality assistive hearing technologies, including hearing aids, hearing implants and other assistive devices, as part of universal health coverage.

FEPEDA, established in 1990, is the main platform of representation of families with deaf and hard of hearing children in Europe.

¹ <https://www.who.int/deafness/world-hearing-day/WHD-2019-infographic.pdf?ua=1>

² http://www.wpro.who.int/vietnam/mediacentre/releases/2015/hearing_loss_pr/en/