

Budapest Declaration – IFHOH World Congress 2022

Auracast – New Bluetooth Technology: Implications for Hard of Hearing Persons

At the 2022 IFHOH World Congress in Budapest Hungary, IFHOH praises the Bluetooth SIG for its work with the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) toward creating a wireless universal technology, known as Auracast, that promises to assist hard of hearing individuals to hear better in venues where their hearing aids and cochlear implants are insufficient to function.

It is understood that the Auracast concept may offer several useful and innovative features currently unavailable to the hearing aid user, such as the ability to transmit different languages, captions, audio descriptions, better quality of sound, and even stereo listening. IFHOH will be glad to help make Auracast a success. Until it becomes widely available and proves its promises to the satisfaction of all concerned, it is important that the globally used and proven systems of Hearing Loops, FM, IR + Telecoils, not be dismissed. As a new technology, Auracast will take time to become stable, reliable, and easy enough to use for potential users. Therefore, it is important to have both Telecoil and Auracast technologies in hearing aids and cochlear implants, until most hard of hearing users will feel they can rely on the new Auracast technology.

The Telecoil is the key element that enables all types of systems to work for Hard of Hearing persons. IFHOH recommends that manufacturers of hearing aids and cochlear implants continue to integrate Telecoils in their products. Telecoils need to come with clear user instructions, and with clear information and training to the hearing health professionals.

IFHOH foresees a world where FM, IR and hearing loop systems (including those found in taxis, ticket counters, airports, theatres etc.) will function for the foreseeable future alongside Auracast systems. Therefore, all assistive listening systems, hearing aids, and cochlear implants need to be A+T (Auracast + Telecoil) compatible.

Avi Blau – President of IFHOH

Dr. Adam Kosa – President of SINOSZ

International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH)

IFHOH is an international, non-governmental organization, which represents the interests of more than 466 million hard of hearing people worldwide. Email: info@ifhoh.org Website: www.ifhoh.org

The National Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Hungary (SINOSZ)

A member of IFHOH - Works to promote the social integration of deaf and hard of hearing people in Hungary. website: www.sinosz.hu