

## **IHAC Overview**

### Membership of the Steering Committee

Andrew Thomas, International Hearing loop Manufacturers Association (Chair)

Aida Regel Poulsen, Secretary, European Association of Hard of Hearing People

Dr. Ruth Warick, International Association of Hard of Hearing People

Avi Blau, International Association of Hard of Hearing People

Dr. Hans Seidler, DSB – German Association of the Hard of Hearing

Dr. Juliette Sterkens, HLAA Hearing Loop Advocate

Dr. Rob Drullman, Secretary of the EHIMA Technical Committee

### Background

At the 4<sup>th</sup> conference about hearing loops and technology held in Berlin October 6-8, 2017, a proposal was made for the formation of a Steering Committee. The Committee was established in 2018 and has held three meetings by internet.

The aims of the Committee are:

1. To foster a greater understanding and awareness of the benefits of accessible technology and sound systems for persons with hearing loss with particular attention paid to hearing loop technology
2. To further developments for hearing technology and hearing loop technology use and availability as well as continual improvements in technology
3. To foster improved telecoil function and innovative application and raise awareness of its benefits among the providers in the hearing industry providers.

Objectives are

1. To develop a strategic plan for the development and promotion of hearing technology including hearing loop technology worldwide.
2. To develop a mapping plan of existing technology and resources
3. To assist IFHOH in the planning for the next Future Loops and Technology event/conference.

The scope of the work is recognized to encompass a wide audience: consumers, advocates, audiologists, hearing aid and cochlear implant industry providers, sound engineers, architect, audio/visual designers and installers, facilities covered by disability laws, accessibility committee, manufactures of assistive listening systems, and others interested in this technology.