

G.A. 2007 May

Comité Permanent de Liaison des Orthophonistes-Logopèdes

Standing Liaison Committee of Speech and Language Therapists



**Newsletter
Riga**

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Agenda

May 12th and 13th

Saturday

1. Opening
 - 1 a. Count of delegates with voting rights
2. Approval of minutes of the Extraordinary G.A. in Athens 2006
3. Activity report (president's, vice-presidents')
4. Accounts 2005-2006
 - A. Treasurer's report
 - B. Auditors' report
5. Welcoming Norway as a full member. Presentation and vote on admission of new members: Bulgaria, Iceland, Malta, Poland, and Slovakia
6. Elections
 - A. Members of the E.C.
 - B. Two auditors

Sunday

7. Plan of projects 2007-2009
8. Congress 2009. Information
9. Minimum Standards. Adoption of a revised statement
10. European day of Speech and Language Therapy. Vote on the project.
11. Vote on a proposal to revise the subscription structure and levels.
12. Motions raised by member associations.
 - A. FNO
13. National issues
14. Host association for the ordinary GA, autumn of 2009
15. Miscellaneous
16. Closure

Minutes of the General Assembly of CPLOL May 7-8, 2005, Graz

1. Opening

The President Linda Schrey-Dern welcomed all delegates to the ordinary General Assembly 2005. A special welcome was expressed to the representatives from Slovenia, Katja Bucik and Mladen Jelacic, and to the interpreters Marcia Beer and Michèle Kaufmann-Meyer.

The President hereafter asked the Assembly to approve two amendments of the distributed agenda, namely items 3 A: Presentation and admittance of a new member, and 7 A : vote on the future functioning of CPLOL. The final agenda was approved unanimously.

The General Secretary then performed a count of voting delegates - which showed that 33 voting delegates were present.

2. Approval of minutes

There were no comments or remarks to the minutes as published in the Newsletter.

Both minutes - of the ordinary GA in Malmö 2003 and the extraordinary GA in Limassol 2004 - were approved unanimously by oral expression.

3. Activity report

The President introduced to the report, referring to the publication in the Newsletter.

The activity report was put to the vote - and adopted by a majority of 31 votes. There were 2 abstentions (FNO) and no votes against.

3 A. Presentation of the Slovenian Association of Logopedists (SAL)

The representatives of SAL were invited to present the association. Katja Bucik thanked the President for this opportunity - and then made a presentation of the Društvo Logopedov Slovenije.

The association was founded on May 20th 2004 and by September 2004 it was officially registered. In Slovenia there are 150 speech and language therapists - logopedists, and 124 of them are members of SAL. Most of the members work in primary schools, centres of hearing and speech, and community health centres.

Given that Slovenia has 2 mill. inhabitants, the

ratio is 16,129 inhabitants per SLT/logopedists.

The current education programme for logopedists is a four years undergraduate programme, at the University in Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, and Faculty of Medicine, and three post-graduate programmes.

Katja Bucik also told about the main goals and activities of the association, among these the continuing education.

Several questions were asked to fully understand the educational system.

Katja Bucik explained that for the moment the full programme consists of 4 years undergraduate university study + 2 years for the Master's degree + 3 years PhD.

A different branch of continued education is an optional supplementary specialization in clinical logopaedics for 3 years.

The President expressed a warm thank to Katja for the presentation and for the fine results achieved since Malmö.

LH, Vice-President for International relations, made a short comment on the course of negotiations with SAL - and recommended that SAL be admitted member of CPLOL.

Loud applause expressed the unanimous admittance and welcome to CPLOL.

Katja Bucik repaid the welcome on behalf of all Slovenian members.

Jean-Marc Kremer asked about subsequent amendments of the statutes. The President answered that given the unanimous vote on admittance it was considered an editorial amendment to include Slovenia in the list of members of CPLOL. - for the General Secretary to take care of.

4. Presentation of finished projects

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson (BRG), Vice-President for Prevention, informed about the leaflet project, the questionnaire project, and the dysphagia project. The dysphagia report will be ready for publication soon. It is based on a survey made by CPLOL among colleagues throughout Europe and describes the situation about dysphagia, i.e. who is the

responsible profession for the care of this group etc. These documents exist in several languages and are/will be presented on the CPLOL web site. Aileen Patterson (AP), Vice-President for Education and Professional Practice, informed about the CPD (Continuing Professional Development) survey that is very near to be finished - and will be available on the web site in a near future.

She also informed about a survey of numbers of students in the member countries, the result of which will also be published on the web site, in both languages, very soon.

Tina Faber informed about the lists of data bases and journals on the web site.

AP thanked Annu Korpjiaakko-Huuhka and Susanne Daniel for their great contributions to the work of the commission. And BRG gave special thanks to Jean-Marc Hild. All three of them have announced that they will have finalized their mandate in CPLOL by this meeting.

5. Accounts / Budget

The Treasurer presented the overall results of the accounts 2003-2004.

He pointed out that the 2004 result in fact showed a deficit of 15.000 Euros. However, the expenditures for the following two years are expected to be lower, thus balancing the budget over the period. JR thanked the delegates for claiming refund via their associations.

On behalf of the two auditors George Kalomiris made the following statement:

"The auditors found all the financial figures and data in a condition dreamt of even by the most demanding accountants. All books and files are meticulously kept and informed. Everything was found to be in the right order" – and recommended the accounts be approved by the General Assembly.

Before taking the vote, the General Secretary drew the attention to the fact that the Spanish delegation had arrived, and that the Slovenian delegates had obtained voting rights, thus bringing the total number of votes up to 37.

The accounts were unanimously adopted by 37 votes.

After the coffee break the Assembly was resumed by Linda Schrey-Dern presenting her last words as a President:

"Dear friends,

Leaving CPLOL today I would like to take the opportunity before starting the election procedure to express my personal feelings and to describe the ideas I have for CPLOL in the future.

First of all you should know that I really appreciated being your President! The European idea has become reality as we have been working together in CPLOL; in the General Assembly, in the commissions, and in the working groups. Mutual respect prevails in the discussions. It has been a pleasure for me to meet you during the 6, or rather the 17 years! We have exchanged professional experiences and I have profited from these meetings both personally and professionally! I would like to thank you for that!

CPLOL in the future means for me that it represents the only European professional platform for SLTs officially recognized by the European authorities.

CPLOL as a professional platform might have the power to influence more directly the decisions of EU that are of relevance for our profession.

Maybe CPLOL will have more possibilities to realize projects funded by the EU, so that the professional development will be more and more a European rather than a national issue.

Finally I would like to remind you that the success of CPLOL is due to the fact that a cplolian spirit prevails in all activities:

- The spirit to guaranty equality between countries and cultures
- The spirit of respect for small countries representing only a few professionals
- And last but not least the spirit of mutual respect towards everybody and her opinion.

I am convinced that this democratic spirit has led CPLOL to the kind of organisation that it represents today. I hope that CPLOL will continue to follow this road because I am convinced that it will promote the development of our profession. One of the principal aims for CPLOL would be to establish guidelines for assessment and treatment in order to safeguard a highly qualified service for our clients all over Europe!"

6. Election of members of the E.C.

The General Secretary informed about the procedure for the elections - and proposed that Ene Taurafeldt (Estonia) and Mladen Jelicic (Slovenia) be appointed counters of the votes. This proposal was approved by the General Assembly.

Due to the fact that five delegates had been nominated for the four Vice-President offices the

Executive Committee had decided to have a secret ballot - and therefore, in order to give time for the counting of votes, to start with the election of the Vice-Presidents.

Before taking the ballot, the nominees for Vice-President were asked to present themselves briefly. Thus presentations and statements were given by Aileen Patterson, Tina Faber, Hanneke Kalf, George Kalomiris, and Maria Christopoulou.

According to the result of the secret ballot the following nominees were elected:

Aileen Patterson, Tina Faber, Hanneke Kalf, and George Kalomiris.

Proceeding to the election of President, general secretary and treasurer Jean-Marc Kremer requested a secret ballot on these offices, too. The result of the ballot was that the three nominees were elected:

For President: Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson

For General Secretary: Bent E. Kjaer

For Treasurer: Joe Reynolds.

BRG acknowledged the confidence shown her by the General Assembly.

Finally the General Secretary proposed that Lily Lalor (re-election) and Wiebke Scharff be elected auditors. A unanimous vote was expressed by applause.

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Sunday 8th May:

The new President, Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson, resumed the General Assembly - and asked for information of who would wish to present national issues under item 8.

Portugal and United Kingdom indicated they so wished.

7. Presentation of ongoing projects

Congress Berlin 2006:

Tina Faber informed about the progress of planning. The congress logo was presented. And it was announced that the call for papers would go out now.

Quality Guidelines

Tina Faber also presented the Quality guidelines project. The responses to the survey questionnaire had been set up in an overall grid. There were still some countries missing in this overview, but the

information would be gathered in the near future - and the final result published on the web site.

Hanne Kalf went on informing about the ongoing work on developing CPLOL criteria.

European Day of SLT

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson informed about the European Day project. The aim of the commission has been to have the European Day presented in a similar "frame" in all member countries. The commission will draft a letter to all member associations encouraging them to participate in the project. Also an introduction letter will be drafted for the national associations to use towards various authorities, potential sponsors etc.

Based on and thanks to (free) professional assistance press release material will be produced, including slogan and poster. A proposal will be sent to the E.C. and the commission before the end of May.

Michèle Kaufmann-Mayer informed about a 'day of SLT' in Switzerland this year. See www.dlv.ch .

7 A Future functioning of CPLOL

The President resumed that the future structure and functioning had been thoroughly discussed in the commission meetings Friday or Saturday.

The President of FNO made a statement (see Annexe) on the process of changing and adopting the future structure of CPLOL expressing the French delegation's displeasure at the insufficient possibilities to a thorough debate of the future structure and functioning. She proposed the setting up of a working group to further discuss this important issue.

Bent Kjaer recommended to proceed as proposed by the E.C. given that there are many tasks and projects to deal with; that all delegates are responsible for making CPLOL function in an optimum manner; and that, according to the statutes, it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to set up commissions as required.

Aileen Patterson suggested that sufficient time be set aside for discussion at the next general assembly in 2007 when we all have gathered experiences and that for now we focus on the work at hand. Nicole Denni-Krichel clarified that the French delegation had no objections as to the reduction of number of delegates and commissions, but merely that the process of changing structure had been too rapid.

Jean-Marc Kremer repeated that the FNO wanted a working group set up to discuss the future in view

of the increased number of members, the financial implications, and the French proposal for proportional representation.

The President concluded the debate by stating that the proposal had been recorded and would form part of the work of the E.C.

The proposal for the future functioning as presented in the Newsletter was put to the vote - and unanimously adopted by 37 votes.

8. National issues

Portugal: António Carvalhal informed about the congress "Speech and Language Therapy - Limits and Perspectives" - and drew attention to the fact that CPLOL members will attend at member fee (according to previous mutual agreement of the General Assembly).

United Kingdom: The Chair of the Royal College informed that the book "Clinical Guidelines" has now been published.

The General Secretary encouraged delegates to send information about national congresses to the webmaster for publication on the CPLOL web site.

9. Place and host association of the congress in 2009

Portugal and Spain declared their candidature to host the next congress in Madrid. The information was met by loud applause!

Cyprus also announced their bid to host the next congress. However, having heard the Iberian invitation, they withdrew their proposal immediately and changed it into an invitation to host the next ordinary general assembly in 2007.

The President thanked the three delegations for their proposals and promised the EC will take them into consideration and be in contact with the associations in question.

10. Place (and dates) of the ordinary G.A. in 2007

Dealt with under item 9.

11. Miscellaneous

♦ The webmaster informed that the short descriptions on the web site of "Speech and Language Therapy in the member countries" seem to have diminished the number of email queries about national conditions etc. He therefore encouraged the delegates of the countries still missing on the web site to please draft and deliver their description in order to complete this 'web project'.

♦ Likewise he asked for the last / missing updates of figures of number of speech and language therapists / logopedists in the member countries in order to complete this part of the presentation of the our profession.

♦ Finally, he announced that the E.C. will ask member associations to inform about the names of their two official delegates for the term 2005-07 - by 1st August.

In closing the General Assembly and on behalf of all the delegates the President expressed her warm thanks to the Austrian colleagues for an excellent arrangement.

She also thanked the interpreters for ameliorating the communication. And finally she expressed her thanks to the delegates that may not be present at the future meetings for their efforts laid down in CPLOL.

Keeper of the minutes: Bent Kjaer

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly May 6, 2006, Athens

1. Opening

The President Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson welcomed all the delegates to the Extraordinary General Assembly 2006. A special welcome was expressed to the representatives from Latvia, Baiba Trinite, and Croatia, Draženka Blažić, Darija Hercigonja Salamoni and Katarina Pavić-Dokoza.

The President hereafter asked the Assembly to approve two amendments of the distributed agenda, namely items 3: General information, and 9: Miscellaneous.

The definitive agenda was approved unanimously.

The General Secretary then performed a count of voting delegates: 33 voting delegates were present.

2. Approval of minutes

There were no objections or comments to the minutes of the G.A. in Graz 2005 as published by email to all delegates. The minutes were approved unanimously by verbal agreement.

3. General information

The President informed that the vice President for Scientific Committee, Tina Faber, has announced that for personal reasons she will have to step down. Because the Scientific Committee has finalized its work, and the congress is soon to be held, and not least because Hanneke Kalf has taken over the responsibility for any remaining tasks concerning the congress, the Executive Committee have decided not to ask for replacement.

The President encouraged all associations to think about candidates for the elections 2007.

The President then announced that CPLOL has acquired the rights to the domain cplol.eu. With some efforts of the Secretary General and good help from the dot-EU registrar Speednames, we succeeded in being included in the list of 'secondary pre-registrations' which are only for domain names that correspond with various "rights that are protected under the national law of the member state where they are held such as company names, business identifiers, distinctive titles of protected literary and artistic work, etc."

The new address will become effective as soon as technically possible.

Hanneke Kalf informed about the congress web site - www.cplol2006.de. All information about the venue, the program, registration, accommodation can be found on this site.

4. The French proposal - Setting up the working group

The President recapitulated the situation and presented the procedure decided upon in Graz 2005. The working group is to be constituted by five delegates from different associations and the President, the Secretary General, and the Treasurer.

The President asked for candidates. FNO announced their candidate, but no other proposals were brought forward.

Bauke Leijenaar (NVLFF) stated that he found it inappropriate to question the structure so soon after it was decided and initiated.

Jean-Marc Kremer (FNO) stated that the French proposal is about more than structure.

After some discussion it was decided to postpone the issue to the ordinary G.A. in 2007.

5. Vote on admittance of new members (Latvia and Croatia)

The President welcomed the representatives of the two applicant countries and asked Baiba Trinite to present the Latvian association.

Baiba Trinite addressed the G.A. saying:

" Dear President, Dear Members of the Executive Committee, Dear Colleagues!

This is a significant day for speech therapy of Latvia. With its roots in Western Europe, having enriched itself in the schools of Moscow and St.Petersburg speech therapy of Latvia has developed its own traditions and now is on the threshold of Europe. I hope that the doors of CPLOL will be open for us so that we could strengthen the prestige of a speech therapist's profession and our positions among other professions. "

The Latvijas Logopēdu Asociācija was founded in 1994. The population in Latvia is approximately 2.3 million and the number of SLTs is 350.

Aileen Patterson mentioned that it had been a pleasure having the Latvian delegate in the commission for the day's meeting, where she already had taken an active part.

The vote for admission of the Latvian association as a full member of CPLOL was unanimously expressed - by a loud applause.

The vice President of the Croatian Logopedic Association (Hrvatsko Logopedsko Društvo) Darija Hercigonja Salamoni then presented the association and the education of SLTs in Croatia.

In Croatia there are about 700 SLTs out of which 380 are members of HLD. The education of SLTs in Croatia is remarkable in the way that it is already running in full accordance with the Bologna agreement - and that the graduates only are allowed to practice in the full range of the profession after 5 years of study, i.e. the MA.

The President recommended admittance of the Croatian association as an observer member of CPLOL. And another loud applause expressed the unanimous decision of the General Assembly.

6. Vote on establishing a 'common platform' for the profession of SLT in Europe

Aileen Patterson informed about the idea of 'common platforms' and the procedure for achieving the recognition of the EU Commission. After a short discussion and some clarifications in plain words as to what the implications will be for the members of CPLOL, a vote was taken on this statement:

The General Assembly of CPLOL, gathered in Athens on 6th May 2006, wants to establish a 'common platform' for the profession of speech and language therapy / orthophonie / logopaedics, as defined in paragraph 1 of art. 15 in the Directive 2005/36/EF of 7th September 2005.

The result of the vote was a unanimous adoption.

7. Congress 2009

The President explained about the actual situation: At the moment the Executive Committee had received no concrete information from Spain and Portugal as to venue, budget, etc.

Ana Mendes (APTF) stated that Portugal is willing

to assist in planning and organizing as originally offered and decided.

As an answer to the President's request for alternative host associations, in case the Iberian attempts would fail, Slovenia offered to host. And Croatia declared that they would be willing to assist.

The General Assembly expressed its appreciation of the alternative offer.

8. G.A. 2007

As the previously given offer to host the 2007 G.A. has been withdrawn, the President asked for proposals. Baiba Trinite announced that, provided the board of her association would approve, the Latvian association would be willing to host and pleased to invite CPLOL to come to Riga.

The President and the delegates applauded the offer.

9. Miscellaneous

A. On behalf of the DBL, Karin Mueller-Romheld proposed a revision of the Prevention Report and asked for this revision to be included in the plan of projects for the next mandate.

B. Croatia informed about and invited to the 7th International Conference on Research in Education and Rehabilitation Sciences in Zagreb in June 2007.

C. The President reminded about the 'call for poster' sent to the member associations in February, encouraging them to present their association at the congress in Berlin. The call will be re-sent to all delegates.

D. Irene Vernerio (FLI) inquired for the result of the questionnaire on continuing education. The Italian association needs this paper for their national discussion with various authorities.

Finally, she suggested having fewer coffee breaks during the day.

10. Closure of the G.A.

Thanking all delegates for a good meeting in an orderly manner, the President closed the Extraordinary General Assembly at 6.28 PM.

Keeper of the minutes: Bent E. Kjaer

Report on Activities of the Executive Committee 2005-2007

The President's Report

The last mandate has been the first period with the new structure of CPLOL. The number of delegates have been diminished from three to two per country, although the number of member associations have been growing. For the new EC, elected at the GA in Graz in May 2005, the main task has been to organize the 6th scientific congress in Berlin. Unfortunately the vice President responsible of the congress planning had to step down right at the beginning of the mandate, which meant that most of the EC members had to take over the organisation. The main responsibility for the congress, though, came on Hanneke Kalf, vice President of the Professional Practice committee.

Meetings of the EC

The EC has had 11 meetings since May 2005 (Odense, Lisbon, Paris, Aachen, Athens, Odense, Berlin, Paris, Utrecht, Stockholm and Riga). The meeting in Lisbon was an ad hoc meeting, as all of the EC members didn't have the opportunity to attend the meeting. It took place in connection to the APTF congress, to which the EC was invited to present CPLOL's work. Before the meeting in Aachen, we had an opportunity to visit the office of DBL in order to plan the congress. In Berlin the EC had a meeting before the start of the congress. Unfortunately two of the elected vice Presidents, Tina Faber (congress) and Georgios Kalomoiris (recognition) were, due to personal reasons, forced to step down, one already in autumn 2005 and one in autumn 2006.

Meetings of the commissions

There have been 4 meetings; Paris, October 2005; Athens, May 2006; Paris, October 2006 and Riga, May 2007.

Ad hoc meetings / General Assemblies

In May 2006 an extraordinary General Assembly took place in Athens. The main items on the agenda were the voting for two new member associations, information about the congress, setting up a working group for the structure of CPLOL (proposal of FNO) and voting for the Professional Platform.

At the General Assembly in Athens "Latvijas Logopedu Asociacija", Latvia became a member and "Hrvatsko Logopedsko Društvo", Croatia, became an observer member as Croatia not yet is a member of the European Union.

The intention of the EC, at the General Assembly in Athens, was to follow the proposal of FNO to set up a working group for evaluating the new structure of CPLOL. However, it turned out during the meeting, that no other member associations were interested to work with this issue so soon after the change, which made it necessary to postpone that item to the General Assembly in Riga 2007.

One important issue on the agenda in Athens was also the voting on a professional platform for speech and language therapists in the European Union. The proposal was unanimously adopted. The EC has during the mandate started to work with this process.

During this mandate Norway, who during a long time has been an observer member, has got the status of ordinary member of CPLOL. At the General Assembly in Riga, there will be a voting for five more member associations: Slovakia, Iceland, Bulgaria, Poland and Malta.

Contacts around the world

The contacts with ASHA, the American Speech and Hearing Association, have continued. In November 2005 the President, General Secretary and the Vice President of Education visited the ASHA convention in San Diego, USA. At a "President's luncheon" interesting discussions took place between presidents of many SLT associations around the world.

During the CPLOL congress the EC had a meeting with the President, the Executive Director and the Chief Staff Officer of ASHA to discuss common professional issues.

The President of CPLOL has written an article

about CPLOL and the congress to be published in the ASHA bulletin "Perspectives on Communication Disorders and Sciences in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations" to inform the American colleagues about CPLOL's work.

In October 2005 the EC was invited to present CPLOL at the APTF congress in Lisbon.

At the same time the General Secretary was invited to Croatia for the same purpose.

In November 2006 the President was invited to Bratislava, Slovakia, to visit their SLT congress and present CPLOL for the Slovakian members.

This has been a busy and active mandate period, and we look forward to positive developments over the next two years. We hope to welcome more new members to CPLOL. Work will continue on the development of a common platform, professional practice initiatives, and broader international links. We will work to develop our profession across Europe, so that all speech and language therapists and logopedists can practise effectively, and all our patients can have the best possible care and treatment.

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson

Report of the Commission Professional Practice

The GA decided in May 2005 (Graz) to have two instead of three commission, combining the Prevention Commission and the Research/Databases/Congress Commission into the Commission Professional Practice (CPP), chaired by Hanneke Kalf and the Congress Committee (CC), chaired by Tina Faber.

The CPP has had three meetings after the GA in the new structure: October 2005 in Paris, May 2006 in Athens and October 2006 in Paris.

Commission Professional Practice

The main activities of the CPP were prevention projects, the European Day, lists of journals and databases and quality guidelines.

Prevention projects

Some of the work of the former Prevention Commission needed continuation, especially the published documents on the internet. These are the poster describing the acquisition of receptive and expressive language skills, the leaflets describing the facilitation of language development in different stages and the questionnaires to help find possible language delay. All three documents are available in several languages and new translations have been added. The poster was available in 14 languages, now in 16, the leaflets in 8 languages, now in 17 and the questionnaires in 6 languages, now in 10.

The overview and comparison of the involvement

of speech-language therapists in Europe in oropharyngeal dysphagia was finished and the final report was translated into French.

European Day of speech-language therapy

March 6th 2006 was the second time, after several years, that the European Day of speech-language therapy was celebrated; this time on CPLOL's 18th birthday. This event was an initiative of the former Prevention Commission and the theme was the result of the work done by the commission earlier: development of language, from 0 to 3 years. The main slogan was 'Learning to communicate - is part of growing up'.

The general goals were to make speech-language therapists in Europe familiar with the poster, leaflets and questionnaires on CPLOL's website and to make the general public and professionals who are in a relation with small children (parents, carers, paediatricians, nursery and pre-school teachers) aware of the normal language development and the signs and consequences of language delay.

During the commission's meeting in October 2005 the theme was decided and project plans and ideas were exchanged between the delegates. The evaluation in May 2006 revealed that most countries had been involved with the European Day, depending on the national policy, budget and locally active professionals. For some countries the EU-day was the inspiration for a big project, for other countries it was a thematic day that partially fitted in there own program.

Lists of journals and databases

The former commission Research/ Databases/ Congress had published three lists of journals in the field of speech-language therapy and a list of scientific databases on the website, including their URL's. At every commission meeting the lists are checked for new journals, but only a few adaptations had to be made, until October 2006.

Quality guidelines

The commission Professional Practice is concerned with aspects that are important for qualified speech language therapists. The discussion about Quality Guidelines and exchange of national standards and developments continued during the meetings in October 2005 and May 2006. The main difficulty is the significant difference in development of quality documents and guidelines between the countries in Europe. That makes it hard to find general minimal criteria or standards. In October 2006 the commission decided to first update current documents on the website that describe quality aspect of the profession. The following documents (some are more than 10 years old) are currently being discussed and updated in working groups:

- ◆ the Professional Profile
- ◆ the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
- ◆ Guidelines for prevention in speech and language therapy
- ◆ Report of the profession

Congress Committee

The Congress Committee is responsible for the organisation of the congresses of CPLOL, in cooperation with a host country, every three years. The 6th congress took place from 15 to 17 September 2006 in the Berlin Congress Centre in Berlin, in cooperation with the Deutsches Bundesverband für Logopädie (DBL). The congress theme was 'Multilingual and multicultural in Europe. A challenge for Speech and Language Therapists'. The program was decided in October 2005 by the members of the scientific committee: Antonio Carvahal, Pierre Dessailly, Tina Faber, Kaisa Launonen Joe Reynolds and Wiebke Scharff. The chair of the committee Tina Faber, unfortunately had to step down during the following winter and Hanneke Kalf took over with the help of all other members of the executive committee.

The congress was visited by more than 900 participants. Nearly two-thirds of the participants were German and more than 300 others came from 25 different countries. The congress languages were English, French and German and three keynote speakers had been invited: Dr. Paradis from Canada, Dr. Tracy from Germany and Dr. Salameh from Sweden. During the congress a press meeting and other meetings with decision takers in Germany took place, in order to inform them about our patient groups and our profession. The closing session was done by mr. Özdemir, a Turkish-German politician, who emphasized the importance of adequate communication skills in a modern society.

On a scale of 1 to 5 the average rating of the congress by the participants was 3.78. The highest ratings were given to the theme (4.5) and to the presentations of the keynote speakers (4.3), confirming that the congress was a success.

Hanneke Kalf



Report of the Commission Education

The GA decided in May 2005 in Graz to form the Education Commission (EdC), chaired by Aileen Patterson to work alongside the Recognition Committee (RC) chaired by George Kalomoiris. This committee was set up specifically to address the issues related to recognition of professional qualifications across Europe thereby to allow CPLOL to play a lead role in maintaining standards for the profession in Europe.

The EdC has since had three meetings: October 2005 in Paris, May 2006 in Athens and October 2006 in Paris.

The main activities of the EdC has been to review and revise the Minimum Standards for Education of the profession, to liaise with and contribute to the International Terminology Frameworks project and to support the work of the Recognition Committee.

Revision of Minimum Standards

On 7 September 2005, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a new Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJ L255 of 30.9.2005).

Article 15 of this Directive aims to facilitate the recognition of professional qualifications on the basis of common platforms. The EdC in conjunction with the Recognition Committee therefore has worked towards determining the features and levels of education that should comprise the common platform for the education of speech and language therapists across Europe.

Further information has been gathered regarding the levels of education that is provided or compulsory in each member state.

The Minimum Standards sub group has updated the standards (Naples 1 May 1998/2) in such a way as to permit the compilation of an inventory of both content and competencies required for professional practice. This will provide information needed to meet the requirements of the Directive: Article 15(4) of the Directive states that the purpose of the platform is to "predefine" the qualification criteria able to overcome the differences between the various national training courses so as to obviate the need for any compensatory measure.

This revision of standards thus will facilitate comparisons of similarities and differences in professional education across countries and also facilitate the establishment of a common platform.

While the standards have been agreed within the Commission as to the content and competencies that are required for professional competence there are differing views as to the number of years and patterns of study post Bac/A level required. The EdC has also looked closely at the levels of education that exist and the European aspiration towards Masters level entry to the profession. Progress towards comparisons of all programmes using European Credit System has been slow as to date not all countries are describing their courses in terms of ECTS.

Some updating of the database of information regarding education systems and student numbers across different countries was also carried out and sharing of information regarding systems of education especially with regard to our newer member countries joining since the enlargement of Europe.

Terminology Project

A small working group has collaborated with speech and language therapy participants from other Countries across the world under the leadership of Regina Walsh from Speech Pathology Australia in a long term project to establish a framework for terminology of the profession. This group, the International Group on Terminology Frameworks - Communication Sciences and Disorders (IGOTF-CSD) seeks to improve appropriateness, accessibility and consistency of terminology in the field of communication sciences and disorders. As a result one outcome has been a review of the history of terminology which can be downloaded (in English) at

http://www.cplol.eu/eng/A_History_of_Terminology_of_CSD.pdf

A seminar and presentation of the project's progress to date will take place at the IALP congress in Copenhagen in August.

Aileen Patterson

Recognition Committee

The work of the recognition committee has focused on common platforms which, in turn, are related to mutual recognition and freedom of movement. The work of the committee is closely related to min standards / competencies / ECTS.

Common platforms were presented at the GA in

Athens 2006. The GA voted in favour of taking the necessary steps that will enable CPLOL to achieve common platform status. The necessary steps are : 1/ inventory of national regulations; 2/ establishing the platform; 3/ adopting the platform.

A comparison of the educational systems of small number of countries was also undertaken (France, Greece, Austria).

George Kalomoiris

Accounts Report on years 2005 and 2006

During these two years, CPLOL changed from three delegates per member country, to two delegates. This has reduced the costs of meetings. However, the budget did not break even in 2005, because of the cost of the General Assembly, where three delegates were required, to complete the work of the commissions. The deficit in 2005 was about 10000 euros, and the gap was covered from our reserves. In 2006, the budget made a surplus of about 16000 euros, mainly because hotel and travel costs were lower, and there was no General Assembly. The final report from the Berlin congress had not arrived by the end of the year. Any surplus or deficit from the congress will appear in the accounts for 2007.

The costs for 2007 are expected to be higher, since the General Assembly is a longer meeting, with three nights' accommodation provided. CPLOL also continues to expand. It is difficult to evaluate the financial effect of new members joining CPLOL, since this depends on the size of the associations in those countries. A small deficit of 6500 euros is expected, on current information.

The costs for travel and hotels continue to be unpredictable. We continue to look for cheap accommodation for meetings, but we are limited in

the type of hotels we can use, since we need quite large meeting rooms for our commissions and for the General Assembly. We also expect to spend money on projects in broader international liaison and collaboration, and there may be significant travel costs associated with this.

The Executive Committee has discussed the financial position, and has decided that a motion should be put to the General Assembly in 2007, proposing to raise the level of subscriptions. This information has been circulated to member associations (in October 2006), so that they can consider their own positions, and make any comments to the EC before the motion is drafted for the agenda.

If we look at the broader assets of CPLOL, we continue to benefit enormously from the time and efforts of all delegates, on which we cannot put a financial valuation. The treasurer also thanks delegates and EC colleagues for support in dealing with the financial management of our work; particular thanks also to the delegates who have taken on the responsibility of finding suitable venues for meetings in their countries.

Joe Reynolds

CPLOL Accounts 2005 and 2006					
Income					
	Main account (euros)			Account 847044	
	Total				
	2005		2006		
Subscription fees 1		82041,21		83020,66	
Subscription fees 2		1731,66		1942,41	
Interest received		1163,76		1654,07	
Other (inc congress funds returned)		9515,37		2511,8	
Total		94452		89128,94	
Expenditure					
	Main account (euros)				
	Subtotal	Total (euros)		(DKK)	(DKK)
		2005	2006	2005	2006
General Assembly +commissions					
travelling expenses	34469,9	22109,72			
accommodation expenses	43595,5	29478,44			
miscellaneous	0	0			
		78065,39	51588,16	7611,13	4982
				€ 1.021,59	€ 668,70
Executive committee					
travelling expenses	9854,68	13958,67			
accommodation expenses	3964,01	2473,01			
miscellaneous	0	0			
		13818,69	16431,68	53835,13	4274,42
				€ 7.225,90	€ 573,72
Projects					
international relations					
congress		0	0		
Administration					
secretariat	0	0			
translation	2023,02	2271,00			
account charges	0	0			
bank fees	107,56	180			
treasury and cash	269,49	0,00			
internet site	0	0			
		2400,07	2451	7240,81	13672,86
				€ 971,88	€ 1.835,21
Total		94284,15	70470,84	68687,07	22929,28
				€ 9.219,37	€ 3.077,63
				1 euro = 7,45 dkk	

New members of CPLOL

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce that -

- **Norsk Logopedlag (Norway)** has applied for full membership - according to Art. 7 A of the Statutes - and that the Executive Committee has considered the Norsk Logopedlag a full member as of 1 January 2007. Norsk Logopedlag has been observer member of CPLOL since 1993.

- Five associations have applied for membership (in alphabetic order):

- ❖ Bulgaria: *l'Association nationale des logopèdes en Bulgarie*
- ❖ Iceland: *Félag talkennara og talmeinafræðinga*
- ❖ Malta: *Association of Speech Language Pathologists Malta*
- ❖ Poland: *Polski Związek Logopedów*
- ❖ Slovakia: *Slovak Association of Logopaedists*

The associations will present themselves - and the General Assembly will vote on admission.

← Notes to the accounts

The main costs for the CPLOL website were met from the Denmark account; the payments are included under Administration. The website costs also included the transition costs for the setting up of the cplol.eu site address.

The costs for 2005 included the purchase of two video projectors (Beamers), shown under the heading of Executive Committee costs (DKK account)

Travelling expenses for EC for 2005 and 2006 are misleading, since part of the money spent in 2006 related to travel in the two previous years. Payments are always allocated to the year in

which they are paid, not to the year in which the activity happened, so that the bank account can be clearly reconciled at the end of December, and checked by the auditors.

EC travel costs were lower in 2006, because of the resignation during the mandate of two EC members.

The income shown under 'Other' in the accounts mainly covers refunds from delegates for extra nights or extra delegates in the hotel, or for guests at meals during the commissions weekends.

No payment was made during this period to any delegate or any EC member, apart from their expenses as shown above. JR

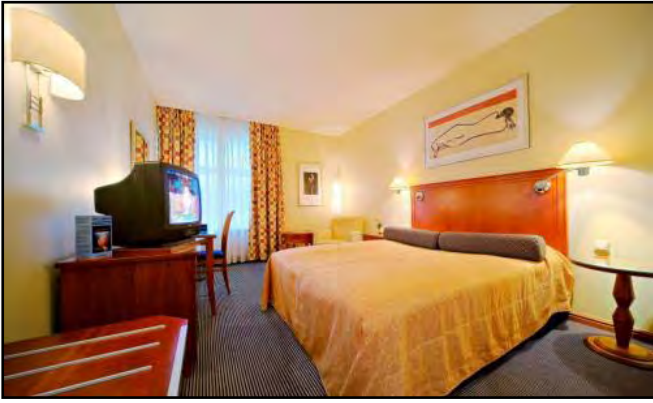
Election of the E.C.

The following candidates have been nominated by their respective associations for the specific posts of the Executive Committee for the term 2007-2009:

Post	Name	Country	First elected for this post in
President	Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson	Sweden	2005
General Secretary	Aileen Patterson	United Kingdom	
Treasurer	Joe Reynolds	United Kingdom	2003
Vice-President Education	Pirkko Rautakoski	Finland	
Vice-President Prof. Practice	Maria Christopoulou	Cyprus	
Vice President Sc.Comm./ Congr.	Hanneke Kalf	The Netherlands	
Vice-President Recognition	Bent E. Kjær	Denmark	

No further nominations received by the deadline 12 February 2007, nor after.





Plan of projects – CPLOL – 2005-2007

Paris 21 October 2005



Status May 2007

Project	cf. statutes	Acting unit	Responsible person/office	
To establish CPLOL as a professional platform in Europe thus promoting the profession and CPLOL	Art., 5, A and C	Executive Comm. + Recogn. Comm.	P + GS	⇒
Financing of CPLOL-activities Funding of CPLOL-projects by the E.U.	Art. 22	Executive Comm.	Tres.	⇒
Proactive efforts to have all EU member countries' SLT associations as members of CPLOL	Art. 5, K	Executive Comm.	GS	✓ ⇒
Recognition as NGO	Art. 5, A	Executive Comm.	P + GS	⇒
Planning of the 7th Scientific CPLOL Congress	Art. 5, F	Executive Comm.	EC	✓
Participation in IGOT (International Group of Terminology)	Art. 5, H	Executive Comm. + Educ. Comm.	VP-Ed (+ BK)	✓
Revision / Update of Minimum Standards – in accordance with Res. no. 9	Art. 5, B	Educ. Comm.	VP-Ed	✓
Compile and work out a basis for recognition of diplomas	Art. 5, B	Recogn. Comm.	VP-Re	⇒
Establishing the European Day of Speech and Language Therapy as a regular event	Art. 3 and 5	Prof. Pract. Comm.	VP-PP	✓
Quality guidelines	Art. 5, B	Prof. Pract. Comm.	VP-PP	•
Carry through the 6th Scientific CPLOL Congress	Art. 5, F	Scient. Comm. (+ Exec. Comm.)	VP-Sc Tres.	✓

⇒ : ongoing; ✓ : done; • : finished / stopped



Plan of projects – 2007–2009

Project	Cf. statutes	Acting unit	Responsible person(s)
To establish CPLoL as a professional platform in Europe thus promoting the profession and CPLoL	Art., 5, A and C	Executive Committee + Recognition Committee	P + GS + VP Rec.
Financing of CPLoL-activities Funding of CPLoL-projects by the E.U.	Art. 22	Executive Comm.	Tres.
Proactive efforts to have all EU member countries' SLT associations as members of CPLoL	Art. 5, K	Executive Comm.	GS
Recognition as NGO	Art. 5, A	Executive Comm.	P + GS
Evaluation of structure and functioning of CPLoL		Executive Committee	
Compile and work out a basis for recognition of diplomas	Art. 5, B	Recognition Committee	VP Rec
Organizing European Day yearly	Art 3 and 5	Commission Professional Practice	VP Com PP
Revision or update of Documents : Code of Ethics, Professional Profile, Prevention document, Report of the Profession	Art. 5, B	Commission Professional Practice	VP Com PP
Data on Epidemiology of SLT disorders in Europe	Art. 5, G	Commission Professional Practice	VP Com PP
Organizing 7th Congress 2009	Art. 5, F	Executive Committee, Congres Committee	VP Congress, EC
Planning 8th Congress 2012	Art. 5, F	Executive Committee	EC

Revisions to Minimum Standards for Education

The revision of the Minimum Standards for Education has been completed by the Education Commission.

To be voted upon by the General Assembly in May 2007

Members are asked

1. to adopt the document below
2. to adopt the final statement regarding level of entry to the profession, in accordance with Resolution 9

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INITIAL EDUCATION

Naples, 1 May 1998

Revised Riga, 13 May 2007

1. Introduction

Following the comprehensive description of the professional education of Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) as it is currently organised in the different member countries, CPLOL considered it important that minimum standards should be set concerning initial education. The aim of this work is:

- to establish European minimum standards for the professional education of speech and language therapists or logopedists, which would enable CPLOL to assess and analyse education programmes across countries and assist when considering an application for membership of CPLOL;
- to provide guidelines for countries wishing to set up an educational programme in speech and language therapy;
- to provide guidelines for countries wishing to reorganise initial professional education.

In light of developments in education and the profession these standards have been updated to reflect changes in approaches to education and the description of the professional competence of the speech and language therapist.

2. Principles

1. It is recommended that all objectives, content of curricula and methods used for teaching speech and language therapy should always be in accordance with CPLOL's Code of Ethics.
2. The programme should lead to the graduate being the professional expert on the complexity of human communication and its disorders.
3. The programme should lead to a scientific approach, to problem solving and reflection in and on practice.
4. The study of therapeutic intervention for communication and swallowing disorders should be based on a scientific or evidence based approach.
5. The programme should integrate the teaching of theory, as well as teaching of scientific methodological skills with the teaching of the practical applications of theory, and include a substantial element of clinical practicum.
6. The programme should lead to and inculcate an awareness of social and cultural differences both within and across countries, and a respect for differences both among individuals and among societies.
7. The programme should enable students to acquire and be able to demonstrate general knowledge in all fields which enable them to work

with all types of clients and clients of all ages with communication and /or swallowing disorders and also in the prevention of these conditions.

8. The programme should make the student aware of the legal and ethical responsibilities in the context of his professional practice and the requirement to practise safely and ethically.

10. The programme should make the student capable of evaluating evidence and research and be able to conduct basic research.

11. The programme should lead the student to be able to apply problem solving skills and abilities in new or unfamiliar environments.

12. The programme should provide students with the opportunity to learn and study in a manner that may be largely self-directive or autonomous.

3. Main points

A student orientated programme means that the students should develop and be able to demonstrate competencies.

A professional competency can be described as: an integration of knowledge, understanding, subject specific skills and abilities that are used by a person to function according to the demands that are put upon him/her in the specific speech and language therapy context (such as health and education contexts). At the end of the education process the student should have acquired and be able to demonstrate all the competencies for the speech and language therapist. During the programme of study students learn and demonstrate different levels of the competencies.

The professional competencies for the students have been categorised into three competence areas:

1. Competence area A: Clinical practice: Prevention, care, training and advice: working with and for clients and their community.
2. Competence area B: Organisation: working in and for an organisation.
3. Competence area C: Professional: development of the profession and the discipline.

Competence area A:

Clinical practice: Prevention, care, training and advice: working with and for clients

Competency 1: Designing and delivering prevention activities

The speech and language therapist offers the client(s) primary, secondary and tertiary prevention activities in order to reduce the risk of disorders and / or limitations in activities occurring.

Competency 2a: Providing care

The speech and language therapist offers the client(s) speech and language therapy in a professional and sensitive manner in order to ease and / or remove the burden of disorders and / or limitations.

Competency 2b: Training, counselling and advising

The speech and language therapist offers the client, his carers/ family and his community/ environment, training and advice in a professionally responsible manner in order to make the client function at a higher level and facilitate the client's participation and activities in daily life.

Competency 3: Co-ordinating activities concerning the client(s)

The speech and language therapist co-ordinates the agreed activities concerning the client(s) and target groups in order to let the prevention activities, care, therapy, training and advice run as a continual and integrated process.

Competence area B:

Organisation: working in and for an organisation.

Competency 4: Working effectively within an organisational framework or service

The speech and language therapist contributes actively to policy developments and actions to safeguard the continuity of practice or service delivery and the integrity of the agencies within which speech and language therapy is delivered.

Competency 5: Managing the practice, business, department or service

The speech and language therapist manages his role in the practice, business, department or service in a professionally responsible manner in order to ensure a good organisation of the services given.

Competency 6: Coaching and guiding colleagues, team members and trainees

The speech and language therapist coaches and guides colleagues, team members and trainees so that profession relevant tasks within the organisation are executed in the proper way.

Competence area C:

Profession: development of the profession and the discipline.

Competency 7: Developing profession and professionalism competencies

The speech and language therapist fulfils an active role in the promoting of awareness of the profession, in further developing the profession and in upholding the standards for maintaining and improving the quality of the profession.

Competency 8: Developing methods, techniques, scientific approaches and guidelines

The speech and language therapist plays an active part in developing methods, initiating new programmes, techniques and guidelines in order to keep the prevention, care, training and advice up to date with current social queries.

4. Content of the curriculum for Speech and language therapy

4.i Theoretical subjects

In order to work safely, effectively and efficiently, speech and language therapists need a good knowledge of the functions of the human being in relation to communication, feeding and swallowing; of normal development (biomedical sciences, language sciences) as well as of all disorders which may alter these functions (speech and language pathology) and the different ways of identifying, investigating, measuring and managing these disorders.

They must also be able to analyse the behaviour of the patient and the way in which the disorder affects the patient's life (behavioural sciences, including psychology).

In addition, the profession should contribute to the advancement of knowledge about communication, feeding and swallowing disorders, methods of assessment and remediation and treatment planning. Consequently students need to be helped during their professional education to develop into 'practitioner-researchers', who will continually seek out and use the latest information concerning the various branches of their profession.

"The programme should include coverage of the supporting disciplines. Such coverage should provide the students with an overview of the main contexts of each discipline, and detailed study of such theories and approaches as are directly relevant to the understanding of human communication and its disorders. The relevance of each discipline to the study of logopaedics should be made clear to the students. The study of each of these disciplines should include a practical component."

(IALP Guidelines 1995, p. 297)

Biomedical sciences

Study in this area must include theoretical knowledge of:

biological bases of language and speech; anatomy and physiology; physics of speech and acoustics; clinical medical sciences such as neurology, ENT, paediatrics, geriatrics, psychiatry, orthodontics, audiology, foniatrics, genetics and investigation techniques.

Language sciences

Study in this area must include linguistics (phonetics/phonology, semantics, lexicon, morphology/syntax and pragmatics), psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics and multilingualism.

Behavioural sciences

The study of behavioural sciences must include the following disciplines: psychology (developmental, clinical, cognitive, and social), neuropsychology, education and sociology.

Speech and language pathology

The study of speech and language pathology must include the following: developmental and acquired speech and language disorders including, aphasia, motor speech disorders, voice disorders, fluency disorders, feeding-swallowing disorders, disorders of reading and writing, craniofacial malformations, learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders, emotional behavioural communication disorders, neurodegenerative disorders, augmentative and alternative communication and hearing impairment.

Research skills

Scientific research methodology should be present throughout the programme of study.

These skills must include the following theoretical aspects: research methodology and the applica-

tion of quantitative and qualitative methodology; practical work in observation, data collection, transcription, measurement, analysis and application of new information and reporting. The students must have knowledge of the availability and use of treatment efficacy and effectiveness research and evidence based practices in communication sciences and disorders.

The students should be able to access information from international scientific publications.

Public Health

The study of public health must include knowledge of prevention, communicative interactions, (inter) national health system and organisation

4.ii Clinical practice and practical elements of the programme

Methodology must cover the main aspects of clinical work: prevention, assessment, diagnosis, intervention and evaluation and onward referral. In order to achieve competence in the different fields of methodology, the student has to acquire different clinical skills which must cover the following competencies:

- a) To adapt the way s/he communicates with the client and his community in order to be able to:
 1. identify the reason for which the client presented for therapy
 2. identify, describe and evaluate the client's communication and communicative competence
 3. draw appropriate conclusions and make a diagnosis
 4. develop therapeutic programmes and apply them
 5. evaluate the effect of the intervention/therapy
- b) To have thorough knowledge of appropriate assessment methods and intervention methods for different communication, feeding and swallowing disorders, and of available techniques and methods of rehabilitation and therapy, including counselling and early intervention.
- c) To understand how to collaborate with other members of transdisciplinary teams.

Professional practice placement

The study of speech and language therapy must include sufficient clinical professional practice placements carried out under the responsibility of competent and qualified speech and language the-

rapists or logopedists. The clinical placement should be organised so as to enable the student to acquire generalisable skills and to work out detailed therapy plans adapted to the clients' needs.

a) Practice placements

During initial education, students have to acquire practical experience to fulfil the different roles and functions which will be required in the exercise of their profession: prevention, assessment, diagnosis and treatment of speech and language disorders.

Students must obtain practical experience :

- by working with both children and adults having developmental and acquired, functional and organic speech and language disorders,
- in assessing and managing feeding and swallowing disorders.

It is of utmost importance to take into account the potential variety of disorders as mentioned under "theoretical subjects".

b) Application of theory to practice

It is important that the student learns through theory and practice that every speech and language therapist should be both a clinician and practical researcher. At the outset of therapy he/she should consider relevant theoretical models and assess the client's communication skills and disorders in order to plan a suitable programme for therapy. During the course of therapy, the speech and language therapist should evaluate the effects of the therapy in order to assess therapy outcomes and make adjustments if necessary to the therapy programme to match the progress of the client. At each stage (of intervention) he/she should be able to integrate theoretical knowledge with practice and to recognise that practice enriches scientific knowledge by offering examples, facilitating adjustments and also by showing its limits.

5. Assessment of outcomes and student learning

It is important to monitor regularly the progress of the students towards becoming a speech and language therapist in relation to their theoretical knowledge and their practical skills and attitudes. The competencies of the students have to be assessed during the programme related to the growth of their knowledge, responsibility and ability to transfer these into more complex and specific professional situations.

The students should be assessed on their taught courses and clinical placements. Skills in applied

scientific research must be assessed by the writing of a dissertation/thesis at the end of their studies.

6. Qualifications of lecturers and supervisors

Lecturers giving courses to future speech and language therapists or logopedists must have comprehensive knowledge of the profession, its scope of activity and the role and functions required of speech and language therapists or logopedists in their daily professional practice. Speech and language pathology courses should primarily be taught by speech and language therapists.

The clinical placements should be supervised by

speech and language therapists who have the necessary clinical expertise, and where applicable registered with the appropriate regulatory and/or professional body in the relevant country.

Level of entry to the profession

In order to achieve the knowledge, skills and competencies as outlined above it is CPLOL's view that such studies must be undertaken at University or equivalent academic level, in accordance with principles of Bologna in realising the European Higher Education Area.

Project European Day

According to the Commission Professional Practice it is worthwhile to celebrate the 'European Day of speech and language therapy' annually. Every year another theme can be chosen, based on the main topics in SLT in a cyclic order, so that every main theme re-occurs every six years.

From the European Day 2006 it became clear that national and local activities depend on whether the theme fits in the national policy.

Ideas for themes, as proposed in Paris 2006:

2008: Neurogenic disorders (adults & children): dysphagia, aphasia, dysarthria, dyspraxia, cognitive/linguistic deficits

2009: Voice disorders (adults & children)

2010: Hearing deficits: prevention/intervention

2011: Fluency disorders

2012: Language: SLI, development, reading/writing

2013: Multilingualism or other special theme

2014: Neurogenic disorders etc.

The actual celebration of the European Day is a national affair and CPLOL offers the network to help prepare, learn from each others experiences, exchange information through the website etc.

Proposals:

1. To celebrate the 'European Day of speech and language therapy' at March 6th every year.
2. The commission of Professional Practice will decide on the theme (and specifications) for the next year, in every spring meeting.
3. The associations are free to adopt the theme, depending on their current national policy.

Motion on Subscriptions

The General Assembly resolves that the subscription formula for CPLOL members should be changed, to take account of the increases in costs for CPLOL activities. From January 2008, the subscription should be calculated as follows.

Fixed charge;

- For member associations with less than 500 members: 150 euros
- For member associations with 500 or more members: 300 euros

Per capita charge

- For each member up to 3000 members: 3.00 euros
- For each member from 3001-6000: 2.00 euros
- For each member from 6001-9000: 1.00 euros
- For each member from 9001-10000: 0.50 euros

Observer members

- Per capita charge of 0.50 euros per member.

Background and rationale

The subscription formula has not changed since 1998, apart from a conversion to the euro from the previous system. The costs are increasing, and CPLOL needs to maintain a reasonable level of reserve to deal with unexpected demands and fluctuations from year to year.

The proposed formula shows a major adjustment of the fixed charge, and a corresponding change to the threshold where the higher level of 300 euros starts to apply. This has been proposed as a way to put more emphasis on the fixed fee, without making the increase too difficult for the smaller associations with more than 100 members.

The proposal also includes a revision of the thresholds for the lower levels of per capita charge, and a revised model for those lower levels. This is intended to prevent the burden of CPLOL's income shifting more towards the largest associations, who already fund the majority of the CPLOL budget.

Motions raised by member associations

Propositions from the FNO

- ◆ Setting up of a special commission to reflect on the functioning of CPLOL, with a mandate to propose reforms of the methods of working, because of the enlargement of the EU (27 countries); how countries are represented, a weighting system for the size of member countries, the principle of qualified majority voting depending on the subject of the vote.....
- ◆ Adoption of a definite resolution of CPLOL on the minimum requirements for the contents of high quality initial education of SLTs-orthophonistes-logopedists
- ◆ Modification of the subscription package of member organisations, with the creation of a basic subscription with a common base level for all organisation, however many members they have, and with a set of bandings for subscriptions based on the number of members
- ◆ Discussion and possible adoption of the principle of free admission to scientific congresses for people who present papers

JR translated

**Which association
will host
the General Assembly
of CPLOL in 2009 ?**

National News

News from dbI, Germany

From 1st of April on a new law comes into force that will lead to many changes in German health-care system (law on strengthening competitiveness in statutory health insurance). Speech and language therapy stays within the range of benefits, meaning it has to be funded by health insurances once the doctor has prescribed it. Nevertheless dramatic changes within the health insurance system will heavily influence the funding of speech and language intervention. In future a fixed amount for the financing of every insured person will have to cover all the costs. In case the health insurance company needs more than that, she will have to charge all insured persons with a higher tax. On the other hand, as changing health insurance company has been simplified, the risk is to loose members by raising taxes. The political authorities force thus the health insurance companies to budget carefully. The pressure leads to growing difficulties for SLTs in financial negotiations.

Concerning the reimbursement of medical services, the new law will result in amelioration for the physicians. This is the reason why the costs will increase up to 30% as health insurances have calculated. Of course the amount has to be saved on other health care providers, among them SLTs. To allow the health insurances to fund the expenditures, the legal framework for contracts is going to be liberalised. It will get more and more easy for the health insurances to sign their own contracts with the different healthcare providers (hospitals, medical and nursing staff, therapists) in order to achieve better health care provision at lower costs.

It is not yet known how all this will work; the only thing we know is that all SLTs, free-lancers or employees, will get under growing economic pressure.

A lot of changes have operated in German school system too. The changes do not always concern all schools, reminding that the Länder are in charge for their own school system. Many of the Länder though are planning a compulsory screening of language skills in 4years old children, especially those with migration background, to find

out whether their language skills will enable them to attend school successfully and help children at risk two years before school begins. The problem hereby is that children with language disorders are not concerned. The dbI therefore is afraid that the situation will decrease as they can not benefit from purely pedagogic measures. Additionally to screening in kindergarten (preschool) the parents will have to bring their children to a doctor for language assessment and therapy. The dbI fears that the parents are not aware of the differences between a language disorder and reduced German language skills, the less than even the pedagogues and politicians responsible for school regulations do not realize these either. This is the reason why dbI is eager to inform about the characteristics of language disorders and the possibilities of remediation as well as to sensitize the politicians about the problems linked to the new regulations.

Translated from German by Karin Müller-Römheld

News from FLI, Italy

In Italy, on January 24th 2006, the law about National Registers for the Health Professionals has been approved. FLI, together with the other associations of the Health Professionals, struggled for years to obtain this regulation. The law 43/06 sets up a system of "Ordini e Albi", with compulsory registration of every professional of the 4 fields of Nursing, Rehabilitation, Technical Professions, Prevention. FLI held a leading role in the organization of the new Registers, wishing they could be structures that guarantee citizens and the quality of services more than "lobbies".

FLI was going to transform itself in a College, an exclusive and strong institution, but now all this could be made fruitless by the General Reform of the Liberal Professions set up by the new Government, a liberalistic reform that prevent the institution of new Registers while recognizing the Professional Associations. So, FLI would be an acknowledged association and this would bring only a minimal difference from the current situation.

As the "Educazione Continua in Medicina" pro-

gramme (Continuing Professional Development) went on, the Ministry asked to the professional associations to separate the formative and scientific activity from the representative one. So FLI delegated part of its activities to a purposely created association, the "Società Scientifica dei Logopedisti Italiani". FLI will not organize scientific congresses anymore, but only conventions on more general professional themes, as it happened in 2005 with the convention "Evidence in Speech and Language Therapy".

On the subject of Evidence Based Medicine, FLI started 4 multidisciplinary working groups to settle Guidelines for Aphasia, Dysphagia, Specific Language Disorder versus Specific Learning Disorder, Laryngectomies. The working group on Dysphagia organized a Consensus Conference which settled the Guide Lines and is now working at the implementation of the recommendations and at the impact assessment. The working group on Specific Language Disorders participated to the Consensus Conference organized by the Italian Association on Dyslexia.

Even though FLI has a very good partnership with the other associations of the Health Professionals, sometimes it has to struggle against some of them, to defend the rights of SLTs. Recently it sued the Register of Psychologists, as psychologists are more and more occupying the fields of rehabilitation, while their professional profile doesn't include it. The spur was the institution of a branch of the Course of Psychology about "Rehabilitation of Language Disorders".

In 2006 a first group of SLTs got the 2nd level degree "Laurea Specialistica in Scienze delle Professioni Sanitarie della Riabilitazione" that completes the 3+2 years iter. SLTs criticised that its contents are mainly about Management and the available posts are very few.

The profession began to take benefit from the institution of Master, a 1 year long/60 credits course of specialization after the 1st or the 2nd level degree. There have been several Master courses on different subjects, such as Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, Deglutition, Language Disorders in Developmental Age.

Last year FLI launched its new web-site, a portal that respects the criteria of easy accessibility. Regional associations' web-sites are linked to it, giving a complete view on Italian SLT.

As in 2006 also in 2007, on March 6th we celebrated the "Giornata Europea della Logopedia" with quite a satisfying outcome. There has been a fair number of TV and Radio programmes, articles on magazines and newspapers and pages on the Web; a free telephone number all over Italy during the Day; several Congresses and Conventions in joint with other Health Professionals; the edition and printing of posters and booklets.

See you in Paris

October

27th and 28th

2007

- at

Jbis Paris Berthier Porte de Clichy



Périphérique : sortie Porte de Clichy, entrer dans Paris, prendre l'av. de Clichy sur 300 m, entrée de l'hôtel 1^{ère} rue à droite.
Métro : Brochant (L 13). **RER** : Porte de Clichy (ligne C) à 300 m. **Bus** : 31, 66, 54.
Piscine et fitness. Centre de convention 1600 m² de salons.