

# **‘Orthophonistes Voyageurs’**

**Establishing & promoting best inter-European  
clinical practice via SLT joint working partnerships**

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# Overview

- Project Background: How and Why?
- Project Expectations
- Practicalities
- Project Outcomes
- The CPD Mapping Process
- Future Directions and Implications
- Final Reflections



# Project Background: How and Why?

- To date, there are very few reports of joint working partnerships between SLT's of different European countries
- The project was organised in collaboration with the Fédération Nationale des Orthophonistes, Independent SLT's (Paris region) and the North Tees Teaching PCT SLT service (UK)



# Project Background: How and Why?

- The project aimed to explore issues related to professional and clinical practice in speech and language therapy within two EU countries
- The project aimed to consider any social, cultural or linguistic factors that affect SLT provision in different EU countries



# Project Expectations

- To promote effective joint working partnerships between European SLT's
- To raise the profile of inter-European clinical working for the SLT profession
- To establish the benefits for service users
- To promote the potential CPD and professional learning benefits for participants



# Practicalities (1)

- 1 week French – English SLT exchange scheme (Sept/Nov 2007)
- Self-funded by participants
- Permission and approval sought from all SLT's and service users involved in the project
- Mixture of observational and 'hands on' clinical experience



# Practicalities (2)

- Particular clinical focus on assessment and therapeutic management for dysfluency (individual & group)
- Experience of inter-disciplinary working within host country
- Time allocated for reflective practice, ideas and resource sharing



# Project Outcomes (1)

- Clinical speciality specific benefits: Sharing knowledge, skills and experience
- Reflection on best clinical practice with European counterparts
- Implementation of best inter European clinical practice within home and host countries



# Project Outcomes (2)

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) benefits for participating practitioners
- Sharing and promoting these CPD benefits within home and host SLT teams
- Considerable social and cultural benefits to such professional exchange schemes
- Increased awareness of country and culture specific attitudes to communication difficulties

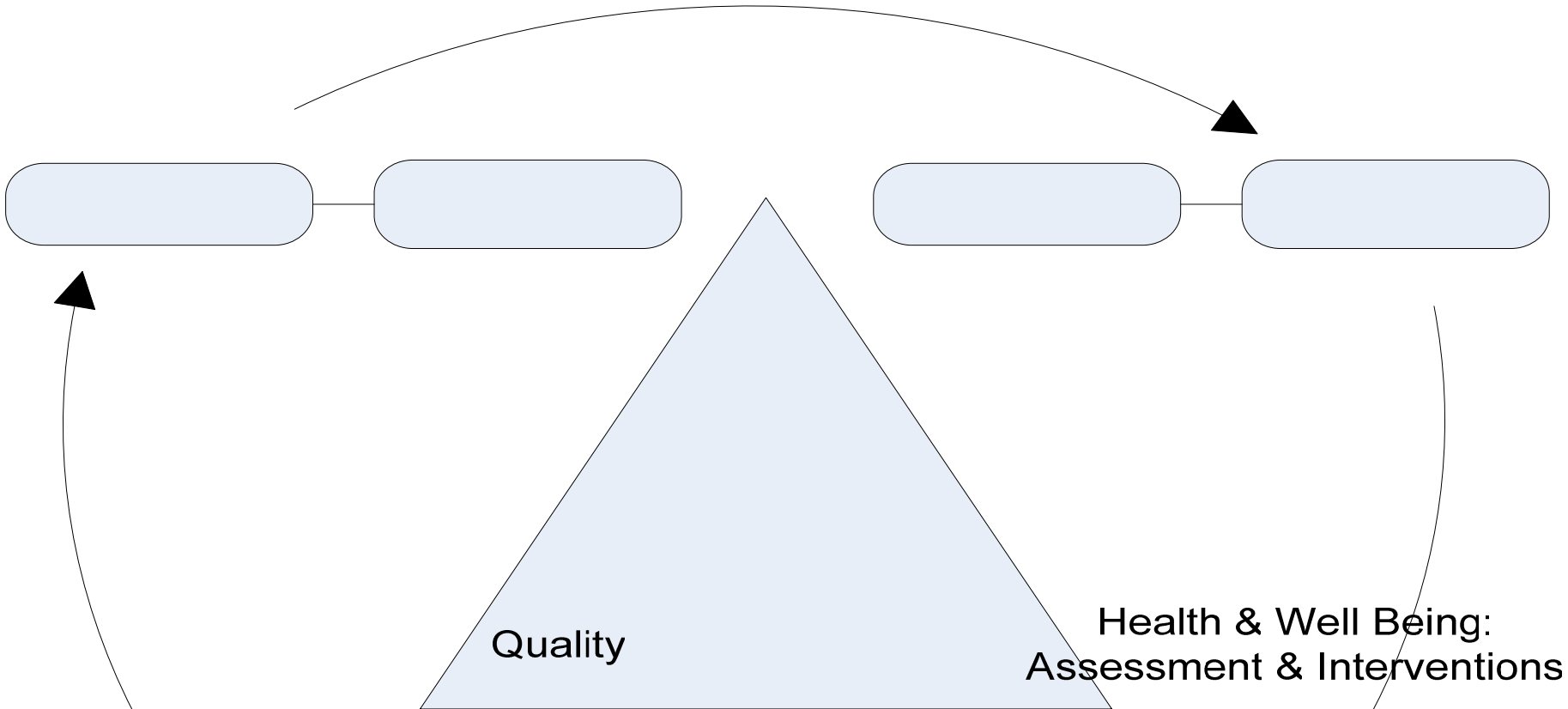


# Project Outcomes (3)

- Inter European clinical education benefits
- Greater awareness of professional similarities/differences between different CPLOL member countries
- Increased knowledge of national governmental drivers relevant to SLT practice within France and the UK



# CPD Mapping: Linking experiences from the project to the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (UK) 2004



## CLINICAL

- Speciality specific supervision e.g. stammering assessment approaches



- Implementing European evidence based



# Future Directions & Implications

- There is now a need for more inter-European professional exchange schemes for speech and language therapists to take place
- European SLT professional bodies to promote such innovative projects and consider funding



# Future Directions & Implications

- Inter-European best practice and clinical excellence to be promoted within SLT teams via regular joint working schemes
- A need for regular consultation of new research/EBP from within Europe to ensure consistent application of best inter European clinical practice at a local level



# Final Reflections (1)

- Simon Henderson (UK) comments:

*‘A most worthwhile experience!’*

*‘It has clearly highlighted some of the professional, cultural and social benefits of joint working practices between SLT’s from different countries.’*



# Final Reflections (2)

- Patricia Oksenberg (France) comments:

*‘Les échanges entre orthophonistes de divers pays sont d’une richesse incroyable.’*

*‘Je suis repartie avec plein d’idées dans la tête pour mes patients et de nouveaux amis de l’autre côté de la Manche.’*



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