

G.A. October 2009

Comité Permanent de Liaison des Orthophonistes-Logopèdes



Standing Liaison Committee of Speech and Language Therapists

**Newsletter
Torino**

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AGENDA

of the 22nd General Assembly of CPLOL

1. Opening of the GA
 - 1.a Count of delegates with voting rights
2. Approval of minutes of the G.A. in Riga 2007
3. Reports on activities of the E.C. (president's and vice presidents')
4. Accounts 2007-2008 and expected budgets 2009-2010
5. Auditors' report
6. Vote on Definition and Principles of CPD (Educ. Commission)
7. Vote on Position Statement on Practice Education (Educ. Commission)
8. Vote on Revised Code of Ethics (PP Commission)
9. Vote on Statement on resetting the Common Platform decision (Rec. Comm.)
10. EC Motion on extra delegates
11. Plan of projects 2009-2011
12. Congress 2012
13. National news
14. Host association for the ordinary GA, Spring of 2011
15. Elections
 - A. Members of the EC
 - B. Two auditors
16. Miscellaneous
17. Closure

Minutes of the G.A. 2007

1. The president Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson welcomed all delegates and declared the G.A. open. A special welcome was presented to the representatives of the applicant countries; in particular to the Norwegian delegates as Norway is now a full member of CPLOL as of January 2007.

The president announced, in accordance with the French delegates who find that all the elements of the French motion will be dealt with under other items, that there would be nothing to discuss under item no. 12.

Germany announced an item to be dealt with under no. 15 Miscellaneous: Number of delegates.

1a Count of votes

The Secretary General made a formal vote of delegates with voting right, calling all member countries including Norway. In total, 39 voting delegates were present, representing 21 countries.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the extraordinary General Assembly in Athens 2006 were approved unanimously.

3. Activity reports

The President introduced the activity reports and added that assuming all delegates had read the reports she would not read them aloud, but ask for questions and/or comments.

Pierre Dessailly asked about the "interesting discussions" in San Diego. The President answered that they mainly were about education and "common platform" (the quadrilateral Mutual Recognition agreement between ASHA, RCSLT, CASLPA and SPA [i.e. the associations in USA, UK, Canada, and Australia]). Further there was a meeting of presidents from all over the world, which had given her the opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas with a number of colleagues. Finally, she mentioned the opportunity to present CPLOL as an international organisation.

4. Accounts 2005-2006

The Treasurer Joe Reynolds informed about the

financial situation of CPLOL in general and about income and expenses, deficit and surplus in particular. He showed how the venues influence markedly on the costs, in particular the hotel costs. Also, the new members and a new EC will influence the costs.

Further, Joe Reynolds informed about an item that was not mentioned in the report in the newsletter: The CPLOL congress 2006 in Berlin meant a loss of 30,000 Euros. Partly because of extra costs that were not anticipated, partly because a number of participants did not pay the full fee (students). The total number of participants was just over 900, of these 775 paying full fee. The total budget was 250,000 Euros.

The treasurer then informed about what the EC has decided to do to reduce the costs of commission meetings. One option is to stay at a less expensive hotel. In October 2006 members of the EC visited an IBIS hotel in Paris to investigate the facilities. If it appears to be cheaper and still satisfactory, the EC has considered having even the next Spring meeting in Paris.

Joe Reynolds thanked all the people who had supported him in doing his job.

Bauke Leijenaar asked if the EC had discussed the deficit of the congress in Berlin with the DBL. Joe Reynolds answered that the situation had been thoroughly discussed and all elements of the accounts had been checked.

Jean-Marc Kremer commented on the budget and estimates concerning the congress.

He mentioned that maybe we should look for another concept for the CPLOL congresses than using the same one as is generally used for the national associations' congresses.

This point of view was supported by Raffaella Citro.

4 B. Auditors' report.

To begin with, Joe Reynolds told a story about a parcel and the UPS and the Reval hotel, thus explaining why the auditors had not had access to the documents of the accounts.

One of the auditors, Wiebke Scharff, reported about the audit and the result of it, thus compli-

menting the Treasurer for the exquisitely fine job he had carried out.

The accounts 2005 and 2006 were approved unanimously.

5. New members

Bulgaria: Rositsa Yakimova, representative of the National Association of Logopedists in Bulgaria, presented the profession of SLT in Bulgaria, the working and employment conditions, and the association. Today the number of members is 96. Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson stated that the application and various documents had been scrutinised by the EC, and she recommended that the Bulgarian association be admitted as a member association.

The G.A. applauded - thus expressing a unanimous approval of admission.

Iceland: Valdis Gudjonsdottir, representing the Icelandic association Félag Talkennare og Talmeinafræðinga, presented the Icelandic association and the general situation of SLT in Iceland. The association has 60 members. The education requirements are now no less than a Masters degree. The professional title "talmeinafræðinga" is protected by law. The profession is working with the Ministry of education on a project about screening for illiteracy, and on various research projects.

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson stated that the Icelandic application had been scrutinized, and the EC recommend that the Icelandic association be admitted as full member of CPLOL, according to the statutes' art. 7 A.

The G.A. applauded - thus expressing a unanimous approval of admission.

Malta: As no representative of ASLP was able to attend the G.A., the presentation was given by DVD. The association was founded 1985 and now has 34 members. The education level is BA/B.Sc. (4 years). A majority of the professionals work with children age 3 to 10. A small number is working in private practice.

The question was raised if it is possible to admit an association on the basis of a DVD presentation without any representative being present. The answer was yes, especially because the vote is based mainly on the application and on the scrutiny made by the E.C.

On this basis the G.A. expressed the admission of the ASLP of Malta by unanimous applause.

Poland: The president of the Polish Logopedist

Union, Michael Bitniok, presented the association. The association was founded in 1999 and now has about 1200 members. Only qualified speech therapists can be admitted as members. The association reviews educational programs. The PLU is recognised by the government of Poland as a trade union which must be consulted in all relevant cases.

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson stated that the EC has studied the application and documents of the PLU and found that they meet the criteria of CPLOL. The G.A. applauded - thus expressing a unanimous approval of admission.

Slovakia: The presentation of the Slovak Association of Logopedists (SAL) was given by the president, Zuzanna Oravkinova. The SAL was founded in 1992 and now has 152 members, appr. 2/3 of all SLPs in Slovakia. 75% of SLPs work in the health care sector, and 25% in the education sector (mainly special schools). The undergraduate education of SLPs is a 5 year university program. Postgraduate options are a PhD and a certificate of clinical competence based on a 3 years study.

According to the EC scrutiny, the statutes and the application of SAL meet the criteria for membership. The President Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson therefore recommended the GA to vote for admission. The G.A. applauded - thus expressing a unanimous approval of admission.

6. Elections

The President referred to the list of nominations presented in the newsletter and mentioned, in particular, the candidate for vice-president for Education, Pirkko Rautakoski, who briefly presented herself. Likewise, the candidate for vice-president for Professional Practice, Maria Christopoulou, was mentioned and briefly presented herself.

No one requested a secret ballot. The election of all members of the E.C. was confirmed by unanimous applause.

Auditors: As auditors for the next term, Wiebke Scharff and Raffaella Citro were proposed. They both were elected by applause.

7. Plan of projects 2007-2009

In addition to the list of projects published in the newsletter, Aileen Patterson informed about projects concerning the work of the Education Commission.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Cf Statutes</i>	<i>Acting unit</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
Improve communication through further clarifications of SLT Terminology/concepts	Art 5,B	Education Commission	VP Ed
Clinical education standards	Art 5, B	Education Commission	VP Ed
Continuing Professional Development	Art 5, B	Education Commission	VP Ed
<i>Project</i>	<i>Aim</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Method</i>
SLT Terminology/concepts	Improve communication between members through further clarifications of SLT terms/ concepts	Position statement Update CPLOL document re terminology	Liaise with IGOT(F) Attend session in Copenhagen Obtain and Review 1991 document Agree aims and work plan in Paris, Oct.2007
Clinical education standards	Comparison of systems and practice as they are now. To reach decision re best practice in clinical education	Position statement re standards and best practice	Gather data on existing models through survey Agree recommendations
Continuing Professional Development	Comparison of CPD in each country To reach decision re best practice in clinical education	Position statement with Recommendation	Update survey

8. Congress 2009. Information

Vice-president of the Scientific Committee, Hanneke Kalf, informed about the plans for the next CPLOL congress. It will be arranged in cooperation with the Slovenian Association of Logopedists as local organizer. The venue will be in the capital of Slovenia or in Portoroz on the seaside. Decision will be taken during the summer 2007.

Hanneke Kalf also informed about the theme of the congress and the main elements of the contents. A preliminary program will be available on the web site in June 2008.

There were no questions.

9. Minimum Standards. Adoption of a revised statement.

The vice-president for Education, Aileen Patterson, presented the revised version of the Minimum Standards, originally adopted in Naples 1998. All amendments / additions were shown, with the rationale for each explained one by one. The revised document was adopted unanimously by 45 votes.

Special attention was drawn to the brief preamble to the document indicating the academic "level of entry" to the profession. An alternative text with explicit reference to Resolution had been proposed by some members of the Commission since the published version. Other members felt that the existing text was sufficient and was what their associations had agreed. Therefore two options for the introductory preamble were presented to be voted upon.

Vote: 30 votes for the version (a) including reference to Resolution 9, and 14 votes for the version (b) which did not include the reference to Resolution 9. The approved statement therefore now reads:

"In order to achieve the requisite knowledge, skills and competencies as outlined below it is CPLOL's view that such studies must be undertaken at University or equivalent academic level, in accordance with the principles of the Bologna charter in realising the European Higher Education Area, taking account of CPLOL Resolution 9 (GA, Malmo, Oct. 2003)".

The document will be published on the CPLOL web site as soon as possible in both English and French languages.

10. European Day of SLT. Vote on the project

Hanneke Kalf explained that this item had been put on the agenda because there has never been a vote on the European Day as a recurrent CPLOL event / project.

Hanneke Kalf then presented the proposal for the European Day on SLT as published in the newsletter.

The vote was unanimous FOR the project.

11. Vote on a proposal to revise the subscription structure and levels

Joe Reynolds presented the motion to raise the level of subscriptions paid by member associations. The raise was needed because costs are rising, there have been budget deficits in some recent years, and CPLOL needs to rebuild and maintain a reasonable level of reserves. The proposal was notified to member associations in autumn 2006, and comments were invited; a small number were received. The proposal was based on separate rises in the fixed-fee charge, and in the per capita charge. The details of the changes were intended to avoid too high a burden falling on the countries with membership between 100 and 500, and to avoid too high a burden falling on the 4 largest member associations, which pay most of the budget.

Jean-Marc Kremer noted that the FNO had made proposals on this subject which were along the same lines as the motion. He felt that the fixed fee component of the subs should be raised more than was proposed, to reduce the burden on the largest associations. He also pointed out that the question of finances needed to be linked to the future structure and functioning of CPLOL, which would be reviewed during this mandate. He regretted that the two questions were being handled separately, when the FNO had raised both financial and structural aspects as needing to be reviewed together.

The subject of the new member countries was raised. They had agreed to apply for membership under the current financial arrangements, and were concerned that their members may have to bear an extra burden which they had not anticipated. Some comparisons were given about the very low levels of salaries and national association budgets in new member countries. The meeting agreed that new member countries admitted during this GA would have a two-year period of

transition, during which they would pay the level of subscription applying before the GA 2007 vote. Ana Mendes (APTF) said that the higher level of subscription would create difficulties for existing member associations from smaller countries, not just for new members. Joe Reynolds commented that no comments had been received on this point, though all members had been invited to comment.

The proposal including the clause for two year transition period for the newly admitted member countries was then put to the vote. It was passed by 39 votes for; 4 against.

12. Motions raised by member associations

At the beginning of the GA, the President Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson informed that the FNO found their proposals being dealt with under other items on the agenda, for which reason there was no contents left under this item.

13. National issues

DBL / Wiebke Scharff raised the question of number of delegates, arguing that more delegates than the two official ones influences the costs as well as the work in commissions and working groups. The president thanked WS for the comments, reminded the GA that it had been decided to set up a working group on the functioning of CPLOL, and suggested that the question be discussed in this group over the next year.

14. Host association for the ordinary GA, autumn of 2009

FLI, Italy offered to host the GA in October 2009. The offer was accepted with applause. The city and venue are to be decided later.

15. Miscellaneous

The President expressed her thanks and gratitude to the local representative Baiba Trin?te and her colleague Gunta Ozolina for the excellent arrangements in Riga. The G.A. showed its full agreement by a long-lasting applause.

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson thanked the delegates for their confidence in her by re-electing her - and then she closed the G.A. stating that it had been a historic one in that it was ended before the scheduled time.

Keepers of the minutes: Bent E. Kjær and Aileen Patterson

Activity Reports 2007-2009

President's report

The past mandate has mainly been focussed on organising the 7th CPLOL congress, on the funding application for the tuning project, NetQues, and on celebrating the 20th anniversary of CPLOL. In addition, there have been more regular contacts with associations in Europe and other parts of the world. During this mandate the EC has updated the internal regulations of CPLOL.

Meetings of the EC

The EC has had 11 meetings since May 2007 (Malmö, Paris, Antwerp, Utrecht, Strasbourg, Paris, London, Utrecht, Ljubljana, Linköping and Turin). Apart from these meetings the EC has had two Skype meetings involving all members, and several Skype meetings involving different groupings of EC members.

Meetings of the commissions

There have been 5 meetings; Paris, October 2007; Strasbourg, May 2008; Paris, October 2008; Ljubljana, May 2009 and Turin, October 2009.

New members

At the General Assembly in Riga 2007, five new associations became members of CPLOL: Slovakia, Iceland, Bulgaria, Poland and Malta. In October 2008 an extraordinary General Assembly voted for Switzerland to become a full member. Negotiations have started with Lithuania. And discussions about Spanish representation are continuing with ADUL (the current member from Spain) and Consejo General de Colegios de Logopedas, which is the main umbrella association of Spanish speech and language therapists.

CPLOL's 20th anniversary

In May 2008 the commission meetings were organized in Strasbourg, a very appropriate place to celebrate CPLOL's 20th anniversary. FNO accepted the responsibility for planning the session, which took place at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Speeches were given by all three past Presidents of CPLOL, as well as the current President and the General Secretary. A historical survey of the activities of CPLOL over the past 20 years was presented by FNO representatives. Around 80 persons participated in the session.

Contacts around the world

In June 2007 the President and the Vice-President for Recognition, were invited to the congress of Consejo General de Colegios de Logopedas in Barcelona. This association represents around 8000 speech and language therapists in Spain and it is applying for membership of CPLOL. The President gave a presentation about CPLOL at the congress. Also a formal meeting was arranged in order to discuss future membership.


At the IALP congress in Copenhagen, August 2007, the President represented CPLOL - and other EC members were also present including the General Secretary and VPs Congress, Education and Recognition. At this occasion a meeting with ASHA representatives also took place and also informal meetings with IALP board members.

In August 2007 the President, VP Congress and the Treasurer went to Ljubljana, Slovenia, to meet the congress organisers and discuss the arrangement for the coming congress.

In November 2007 the President was invited to the Netherlands to give a speech at the celebration of the 80th anniversary of NVLF.

In the beginning of 2008 the first meeting with Mrs Hilde Chantrain took place in order to start the discussions about the funding application to the European Authorities for a tuning project (see the report from the Education commission). These contacts have continued during the last 18 months, culminating in the submission of the funding application in March 2009. In particular the General Secretary and the VP Education, together with Hilde Chantrain, have spent a lot of time on this application.

The contacts with ASHA, the American Speech and Hearing Association, have continued. In November 2008 the President attended the ASHA convention in Chicago, USA. At a "President's luncheon" interesting discussions took place between presidents of many SLT associations around the world.



In January 2009 the EC met in London, so that it would also be able to meet the EC representatives of COTEC (Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Community) and ER-WCPT (European Region-World Confederation for Physical Therapy). A very interesting discussion took place and the meeting was productive, enabling EC members to learn about the other two associations' tuning projects and their contacts with the European Union. It was decided to regularly exchange information and to meet once a year in the future.

Also in January 2009, a meeting took place with representatives of RCSLT for discussions about the tuning project application and RCSLT's possible role in the project.

During the CPLOL congress in Ljubljana the EC had a meeting with the President and the Chief Staff Officer of ASHA to discuss common professional issues and future possibilities for collaboration. Among other things issues about exchange programs and evidence based research were discussed.

A meeting with the board of IALP also took place in Ljubljana. It was a historic first meeting between both the Executive Committees of the two organisations. Education, practice and the Bologna process were discussed together with future possibilities of collaboration.

In Ljubljana a lunch for the Presidents of the speech and language therapists' associations represented at the congress was organized by CPLOL. Also the representatives from ASHA were invited. All together 21 persons from 18 countries visited the lunch, where many informal discussions took place about the professional situation in the different countries.

Contacts have also been established with the DIETS (Dietitians Improving Education Training Standards across Europe) as well as the European Clinical specialists in Fluency Disorders Consortium.

The EC firmly believes that it is important for CPLOL to develop links with other international bodies. Time has been spent in building a better understanding of the roles of the various organisations, especially ASHA and IALP. The EC similarly aims to make sure that other bodies understand that CPLOL is a network of associations rather than individuals, and that it exists in part to respond to the political development of the EU. The EC has already started to identify opportunities to share information and resources, and to avoid duplication. It is anticipated that there will be increasing benefits particularly on evidence-based practice and sharing of standards and good practice. Many of the challenges faced by the profession are similar around the world, and it is useful to understand the different ways people are dealing with the financial and workforce pressures affecting most health systems.

Conclusion

This has been a busy and active mandate period, and we look forward to further positive developments over the next two years, led by the new Executive Committee. More than half of the current EC members have chosen to step down, after many years in CPLOL. It is a very positive sign that we have had more nominations for the EC elections from member countries than we have posts; this is very encouraging for the future well-being of CPLOL and of our profession. We hope to welcome more new members to CPLOL, as some countries in the European Union are not yet members. We also hope that the tuning project can become reality after a renewed application in 2010. We will continue the 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 Education Commission

The primary aim of the Education Commission (EdC) is to promote and maintain quality standards in the education of SLTs at both prequalification, and post qualification levels in Europe. Other aims are to disseminate and share information on best practice and innovation in the education of the profession and to facilitate academic and professional recognition of speech and language therapists across Europe.

The GA in May 2007 in Riga elected Pirkko Rautakoski to chair the EdC and Bent Kjær to chair the Recognition Committee. The EdC has since had four meetings: October 2007 in Paris, May 2008 in Strasbourg, October 2008 in Paris and May 2009 in Ljubljana. The main activities of the EdC during this term have been to write the Definition and Principles of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), to write a Position statement on practice education during initial SLT education programmes, to gather annual information about the SLT education in EU countries and to send an application for the EU project.

During this term the survey on Continuing Professional Development has been re-conducted because of the many new member countries; and the data has been analysed. The results have been presented as a poster at the Ljubljana Congress in 2009 and are now on the CPLOL website. According to the results CPD is recognized in 65% of the countries, in 60% it is compulsory, but only in 25% does it lead to accreditation. These results were the basis for the Definition and Principles of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Also a survey on practice education during initial SLT education was conducted, and the results were analysed. According to the results the length of the clinical education in different countries varies a lot. These results were the basis for the position statement on practice education. The annual survey on SLT education systems, length and levels of training, number of training institutes and student numbers in different EU countries has also been conducted. An especial focus has been on following up the implementation of the Bologna process, use of ECTS etc. Results of the survey have been published on the website. Also a questionnaire about areas of skill of SLTs in Europe was conducted on the initiative of FNO. The results show that most areas of skill are common for all countries; however there are some differences especially in the areas of written language and the domain of

neurology/neuropsychology. Although the duration of the education programme varies very much in different countries, almost the same areas of speech, language and communication disorders are covered. Hence there probably are differences in how far the disorders are handled in depth within the education programmes.

To reach pan European standards and quality criteria for the education of SLTs as well as for speech and language therapy practice, CPLOL planned a project and sent an application in March 2009 to get EU financing for this project. Hilde Chantrain from Lessius University has been assisting CPLOL in coordinating the application for the project. The planned project is a network project in the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. The name of the project is **Network for Tuning Standards & Quality of Education programmes for SLT in Europe (NetQues)**. Tuning seeks to describe programmes in terms of the levels of studies and outcomes; competencies / learning outcomes. The project seeks to develop a common language to which all partners can relate and which they can use in describing educational processes and outcomes. The purpose is also to develop quality assurance approaches. The application has in total 61 partners including professional associations of CPLOL and Higher Education institutes from 28 European countries.

Pirkko Rautakoski



Report of the Professional Practice Commission

The main activities of the PPC have been the European Day of SLT, Prevention, NGO application and participatory status for our organization, and the updates of the professional profile, professional practice position paper, and the completion of the new Code of Ethics.

European Day of Speech and Language Therapy

The GA in Riga decided to make the celebration of the European Day on March 6th a yearly event. The PPC chooses the theme every year with a slogan. The content and activities are the responsibility of the national associations. The last two years the theme was on "Neurological Disorders both in children and adults" and associations decided if they wanted to use this only for children or only for adults or both. The theme for the coming year is "Voice". A comprehensive report with activities taking place in all countries is prepared every year for the commission and the website. Last year a special report was prepared by the working group regarding the history and activities of the European day in all European countries to be submitted to the European Commission. It noted a great increase in the number of countries promoting the EU Day and the activities organized have been more and more successful reaching out more to the public, but also to the governments and authorities. The final evaluations reveal that most countries are now actively involved with the European Day and function depending on their local budget, national policy and professional development.

Prevention projects: All have been completed by the previous committee so that this committee only finalized things and moved on to other issues.

The Code of Ethics has been completed and finalized this year by the working group and now will be submitted to the GA for approval. This work was more complicated than was anticipated, but thanks to persistent efforts from the group and the participants it will be complete in time. Hopefully it will be used as a good tool for all European associations.

Professional Profile: For some time the working group has been struggling to finalize this questionnaire in order to be able to give us a better image of what is happening around us and specifically in the different European countries. It has been a very difficult matter as we did not have the full collabo-

ration of all EU country members which had a negative effect on the time of the completion of this questionnaire thus the results might not be exactly up to date. The final results will be presented for approval at the GA in Turin 2009.

NGO-Participatory Status

Background information: It was proposed that CPLOL should apply for "participatory status" with the Council of Europe (CoE) as an NGO. It was understood that this would not generate any direct funding, but it was anticipated that it would increase the perceived status of CPLOL and hence improve the potential for successful outcomes for future bids for external funding. Organizations that hold participatory status are invited to be observers at CoE sessions and may contribute to consultations. The application process is open on an annual basis, but with a short window of time from the notification of an updated application form, to a deadline date. Two earlier applications by CPLOL to the CoE had been unsuccessful. A member of the CPLOL EC undertook to prepare a submission for 2008 but learned that there was a requirement to demonstrate that the applicant organization was already working in an active partnership with other INGO organizations that already have participatory status.

In May 2008 a working group was formed from colleagues in the CPP committee to identify relevant NGOs and to work towards finalizing a submission for 2009. Various attempts and efforts failed to produce the desired outcomes. The working group suggested revisiting the way this WG would work and focus on aiming to meet the application criteria for INGO and explore ways to work in partnership with them. They also proposed that we work to identify a wider range of potential sources for EU funding for project work which could be conducted by CPLOL (ie. EU Social Fund) and develop a range of project proposals which would be exclusive and entirely relevant to CPLOL's aims and purposes but which still meet the stated aims of the CoE. This would take more time so the application should be left aside for the time being until we are able to fulfill the necessary requirements.

Maria Christopoulou

Report of the Recognition Committee

In May 2006, the General Assembly of CPLOL unanimously adopted a statement expressing that CPLOL "wants to establish a 'common platform' for the profession of speech and language therapy / orthophonie / logopaedics" (cf. paragraph 1 of art. 15 in the Directive 2005/36/EF of 7th September 2005).

According to the plan of projects adopted by the General Assembly in May 2007 the task of the committee was to "compile and work out a basis for recognition of diplomas".

In its meeting 27 and 28 October 2007 in Paris, the Recognition Committee realized that we had an insufficient knowledge of the situation in the member countries as to the number of recognition applications, the national situation as to involvement of the professional association in the recognition process etc.

The committee therefore decided, as its first task, to ask all member associations / countries to assist in making a survey of the current situation as to recognition of diplomas. The questionnaire that was worked out included questions about -

- ♦ state regulation of the profession
- ♦ regulation of the education of speech and language therapists
- ♦ responsibility for the implementation of the Directive 2005/36
- ♦ involvement of the professional organisation in the recognition of diplomas / professional qualifications obtained in other countries
- ♦ compilation of a "set of criteria of professional qualifications"
- ♦ the number of cases of SLTs requesting the recognition of their diplomas over the years 2003-2006
- ♦ assessment of linguistic qualifications / skills in the language of the country of immigration

The preliminary results of the survey were presented in May 2008 and the nearly final results in October 2008 - and the final results on a poster at the CPLOL Congress in May 2009.

The current situation in Europe, according to the results of the survey, is - in brief:

- ♦ 27 CPLOL member associations in 26 countries replied to the questionnaire.
- ♦ The profession is regulated by the state in 20 countries.
- ♦ The education is recognized / regulated by law in 21 countries.
- ♦ The professional organisation is involved in the recognition of diplomas in 11 countries, and

NOT involved in 15 countries.

- ♦ A "set of criteria of professional qualifications" has been established in 9 countries.
- ♦ In 8 of these countries, the professional organisation has been involved in setting up the criteria
- ♦ The number of cases of SLTs requesting recognition varies from < 10 in 9 of the reporting countries, 10-100 in 4 countries and > 100 in 3 countries, with a maximum of 1005 in France - in total over the years 2003 - 2006.

In the committee meeting in October 2008, the committee discussed the results and drafted a preliminary statement taking into account partly the results, partly the fact that CPLOL, at that time, was about to apply for funding for the NetQues project. In its meeting in May 2009, the committee continued the discussion about the future focus of the committee and what to present to the General Assembly in October 2009 - the fact being that the General Assembly has charged the committee to work on the platform project, but the committee has reached the conclusion that this may not be the right project to further at the moment.

At the May meeting, agreement was reached about a statement / motion to the General Assembly 2009 saying the following:

Given the demand of CPLOL for a minimum standard harmonizing the initial education in the European Union,

- given the extreme variety of current education levels and contents in Europe,

- given the real progress in the recognition of diplomas for our profession brought about by the "2005 directive", which acknowledges linguistic skills as a parameter,

It seems not an opportune time to further develop a Platform project, as it would not allow automatic recognition.

Rather, we have to -

- put our efforts into the NetQues project on which CPLOL will rely in order to obtain harmonisation of initial education at a Master's level,

- consider, case by case, possible difficulties of the application of the directive (arising) in a country.

Although the Recognition Committee, with this statement, recommend to the General Assembly to momentarily reset the platform decision, there will still be tasks and issues to work on, for example the situation in Greece and the possibilities and challenges arising from the monolingual relation between Spain and the Latin-American countries.

Bent E. Kjær

Report of the congress

7th CPLOL congress - "Speech-language therapy in Europe: sharing good clinical practice" - was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 14 to 16 May 2009.

Organization

The organization of the congress was a co-operation between the Executive Committee of CPLOL, the Slovenian Association of Logopedics and the Cankarjev Dom Congress Centre (CD-CC).

The webmaster prepared a helpful and attractive congress website where all information was published (www.cplol.eu/congress2009).

Programme

For the congress some improvements were realized to make the CPLOL part of the organization more efficient. For the first time in the history of CPLOL, potential presenters had to submit abstracts of free papers and posters online, in a custom-made system. In addition, there was no scientific committee to review the abstracts and decide on the programme, but 10 delegates to review online designated abstracts independently. The vice-president for congress constructed the programme based on the approved abstracts. In total, 182 abstracts were submitted of which 166 (91%) were in English. Eleven proposals were rejected or withdrawn. The final programme, except for the three invited speakers and two CPLOL workshops on education, included 6 workshops, 60 oral presentations and 105 posters. The English-French ratio was 10 : 1. The first version of the programme was available online just before the end of 2008.

All abstracts were made available online one month prior to the congress.

Proceedings

All presentations and posters that were sent by presenters are made available online (http://www.cplol.eu/congress2009_proceed/proceedings.htm).

Overall evaluation

Informal comments made perfectly clear that all participants enjoyed the congress, the international networking and the warm atmosphere in Ljubljana. The congress was formally evaluated with the same items on 5-point semantic scales as the previous congress to be able to make a comparison. A total of 320 participants visited the congress, of which 91 were from Slovenia (28%) and 31 were francophone (10%).

Ninety-one evaluation forms (28%) were returned.

Overall the congress met the expectations similar to 2006 (mean 3.6). When a mean rate larger than 3.0 is considered acceptable, the fee (2.9), the exhibition (2.6) and the catering (2.8) were below satisfaction. The fee was indeed 50% higher than in 2006 to cover the costs and the catering was kept to a minimum for the same reason. Despite intense work by CD-CC only a few companies were prepared to come to Slovenia, probably also due to the economic crisis.

Although lower than in 2006, the keynote speakers (3.5) and the theme (4.2) had good rates. Moreover, the parallel sessions (3.6), the posters (3.8) and the venue (4.1) were rated significantly better than in 2006, so the efforts to improve the programme have paid off.

Both the organization prior to the congress and during the congress had good rates (4.2). The technical support (4.4) and translations (4.0) were similarly appreciated as previously, but the social evening (4.1) was rated higher than last congress.

Financial evaluation

The congress was visited by fewer than the 400 paying participants who were anticipated in the budget. Because of serious economizing measures by the EC and CD-CC, the deficit could be limited to 6000 euros (see the treasurer's report). A quarter of the total costs was needed for translations. The website and programme were in two languages and presentations were allowed also in both English and French. Simultaneous translation was possible in English, French and Slovene. One conclusion must be that translation into three languages is too expensive and that this regrettably cannot be sustained in the following congress in 2012. Another aspect is that this kind of international meetings cannot be realized without huge amounts of unpaid work. The congress in Ljubljana was an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues from parts of Europe where speech-language therapists are a relatively small group of professionals. Nevertheless, maybe only large scale congresses in large capital cities are potentially cost-effective.

Hanneke Kalf



Report of the Working Group on structure, functioning and finances of CPLOL

Members of Working Group:

Georges (GR) - Rositsa (BUL) - Jean-Marc (FR) - Valdis (ICE) - Joe (GBR) - Marie-Claire (BE) - Michèle (CH)

Mandate:

To produce an analysis of the current situation, and to develop proposals on how CPLOL could work better and more effectively.

Expected result:

Concrete proposals on the structure, working and financing of the organisation, and on the mission of CPLOL.

Analysis:

4 themes were extracted from the discussion among the members of CPLOL and the Working Group:

1. Day to day management

Problems have been reported related to delegates, to communication, to decision-making and to the planning of projects.

Possible actions are proposed in order to develop a job description summarising the duties of the delegate, to reconsider the job description of the EC, to update the internal regulations, to establish systems of project planning and monitoring as well as evaluation of working groups in conjunction with their number and mandates ;

These actions are also closely linked to the urgent need to clarify and redefine the missions of CPLOL.

This work was partly taken up by the EC, which undertook to update the internal regulations while taking account of the reflections of the WG, in order to resolve some contradictions with the Statutes, and other problematic ambiguities.

2. Representativity

All members should have the possibility of having their views heard, and should be capable of influencing debates and decisions.

The equal weighting between countries is now being put into question because of the number of member countries (arguments put forward by FNO / UNADREO - 2004/2005). The FNO has proposed that we should introduce proportional voting, and

votes by qualified majorities. This could be based on the populations of member countries, or on the number of speech and language therapists in each country. A sub-group has begun the analysis of this question, but the results have not yet been discussed by the WG.

3. Finances

The subscription to CPLOL was modified by the 2007 GA. The FNO had proposed some alternatives, and possible ways to reduce costs. The WG has not yet discussed these proposals.

4. Political vision

The objectives CPLOL pursues for our profession in Europe must be ambitious. We must therefore go beyond personal and national interests, in order to raise the profile of all aspects of our profession as soon as possible.

In this spirit, the resolutions, decisions and proposals of CPLOL should represent the highest levels, following the example of those countries which have succeeded in some areas; for instance in initial training and continuing professional development, the professional status of the speech and language therapy workforce, and professional standards.

Conclusions:

- ❖ To define a clear mandate for the working group, stating how the group will be chaired, and how it will link in to the EC.
- ❖ Clearer definitions of the tasks and responsibilities of delegates and of the EC.
- ❖ To set up a working group for the revision and/or the creation of internal documents laying down working practices.
- ❖ To analyse the financial repercussions of the French proposal, and to present clear figures for member associations.
- ❖ To make a concrete proposal on representation.
- ❖ To assess the need to revise and modify the Statutes.

Documents for adoption

Definition and Principles of Continuing Professional Development

Definition

Continuing professional development (CPD) is defined as a range of learning activities whereby speech and language therapists (logopedists) maintain and enhance their professional competences throughout their professional careers to ensure good practice.

Principles of CPD

1. There is an ethical obligation of SLTs to regularly enhance their professional competence by CPD as stated in the CPLOL code of ethics.
2. CPD should complement and update knowledge and skills but not replace initial education in SLT.
3. CPD should eventually be part of the professional accreditation process and career development.
4. In order to ensure accessibility a wide range of professionally relevant learning activities should be recognized as CPD.
5. The content of the CPD courses and other activities should be based on
 - the current needs of the professionals,
 - evidence based practice,
 - up to date scientific knowledge,
 - professional standards of SLTs,
 - and clearly state the learning outcomes.
6. If there is an accrediting body in a country that body should regulate CPD activities in collaboration with professional SLT associations.

Statement on resetting the Common Platform decision

Given the demand of CPLOL for a minimum standard harmonizing the initial education in the European Union,

- Given the extreme variety of current education levels and contents in Europe,
- Given the real progress in the recognition of diplomas for our profession brought about by the "2005 directive", which acknowledges linguistic skills as a parameter,

It seems not an opportune time for the moment to elaborate on the Platform project which would not allow an automation of recognition.

Consequently, we have to -

- focus on the NetQues* project on which CPLOL will lean upon in order to obtain harmonisation of initial education at a Master's level,
- consider, case by case, possible difficulties of the application of the directive (arising) in a country.

* Network for Tuning Standards & Quality of Education programs for SLT in Europe

Position statement on practice education during initial Speech and Language therapy education programmes

Introduction

The CPLOL Minimum Standards for Education provides guidelines on the content and organization of initial speech and language therapy (SLT) education (see Revision of Minimum standards for Education Completed by the Education Commission Adopted at the General Assembly, Riga 12 May 2007),

This position statement relates to the practice components of the education of future SLTs and includes SLT clinical work in health, and educational settings and other SLT work contexts (hereinafter 'clinical practice'). It aims to further underline the importance of the quality, quantity and position of clinical practice during initial SLT education.

Clinical practice is the element of education where students, under professional supervision, learn to develop and refine the unique skills of the SLT, to integrate and apply the knowledge in the practical aspects of their future occupation and develop essential reflection and clinical decision-making skills of the SLT practitioner. The skills and occupational tools that clinical practice provides for the student cannot under any circumstance be replaced with purely theoretical studies.

Principles

The revised Minimum Standards for Education (Adopted in Riga, 12 May 2007) states the following principles on clinical practice:

"5. The programme should integrate the teaching of theory, as well as the teaching of methodological skills with the teaching of the practical applications of theory, and include a substantial element of clinical practicum."

"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 with 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 practice safely and ethically."

Main Points

To ensure the quality of the initial speech and language therapy education it is imperative that clinical practice -

- a) is an obligatory part of initial education.
- b) is a substantial part of the educational programme
- c) takes place under the supervision of competent and experienced supervisors.
- d) is integrated with theoretical knowledge and should take place throughout the curriculum.
- e) is varied enough to prepare the student to be competent for all kinds of different professional settings and encounters and be able to deal competently with new situations within the SLT scope of practice.

3a) It is imperative that clinical practice is an obligatory part of initial education.

To be a skilled practitioner it is of equal importance to master the methodological and practical skills, as well as the theory, of speech and language therapy.

3b) In order for the student to acquire and incorporate the core practical skills necessary for practising as an SLT these skills have to be trained and executed frequently, and in different situations for the student to generalise and master them fully. The amount of clinical practice offered to the student must be substantial and varied enough for this process of mastery to take place. Clinical practice activities should amount to a minimum of one quarter of the educational programme.

3c) To ensure the quality of clinical practice it is of utmost importance that it is carried out under the supervision of competent, qualified speech and language therapists (who themselves have that unique blend of SLT skills, understanding and knowledge to prepare the student for their future occupation/work/responsibilities).

To achieve this -

- ◆ Clinical supervisors/practice educators should always be approved by the university (at which the initial education is given).

- ◆ Clinical supervisors should be given recognition for the important role they perform.
- ◆ Clinical supervisors should have (a minimum of) 2 years of full time professional practice experience, in the field they will be supervising in, before being eligible to supervise students.
- ◆ Clinical supervisors should receive training from the university to develop and enhance skills required in coaching and clinical supervision and should become familiar with relevant course content and format.
- ◆ Clinical supervisors should undertake CPD and be regularly evaluated

3d) In order for the student to fully link and integrate theoretical and practical knowledge and skills, it is preferable that theory and practice is delivered concurrently in such a way that enables the student's acquisition of appropriately evidence-based clinical reasoning and clinical/technical skills and provides the opportunity to develop these in the practice setting. .

3e) The clinical practice should enable the student to gain experience with a range of communication and swallowing disorders. It is therefore recommended that the student -

- ◆ gains experience in SLT with clients with a range of disorders of communication and/or swallowing and also in the prevention of these conditions

- ◆ has experience in managing clients of all ages
- ◆ is given the opportunity to observe the work of a range of practising speech language therapists
- ◆ works directly with clients, carers/family and other professionals and/or as part of a multi disciplinary team
- ◆ is familiarised with the administration of an appropriate range of up to date tools of assessment, both qualitative and quantitative, standardised and non standardised, formal and informal
- ◆ is trained in how to plan, execute, evaluate and adapt therapy according to the outcomes of assessment, the needs of the client and progress in therapy
- ◆ is educated in giving advice and information about the client's SLT diagnosis and management and how to ease the impact of the disorder on the client.

Internship

After the completion of initial education it is advisable that newly qualified SLTs are given the opportunity to start their professional life in a controlled situation and with the support of other SLT professionals. Newly qualified SLTs should therefore be offered the possibility of doing an internship or period of supported practice. This internship should be mentored by an experienced SLT.



Best Western Hotel Genio - Torino

Intriguing to see if this is the general standard at Hotel Genio...

A framework for ethical practice in Speech and Language Therapy

Introduction

CPLOL considers that the objective of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) practice in Europe is to contribute to the wellbeing of all individuals who access these services, in accordance with the European Convention of Human Rights. Various terms are used in different countries in Europe, but here we have used the term "patients" to include all those individuals with communication disorders, to whom the SLT is providing professional services. The ethical framework described below is intended to provide a basis for the development and updating of detailed national ethical codes and guidance.

Ethical codes for Speech and Language Therapists across Europe will contain variations which reflect the specific conditions of practice within each country. However, we consider that there are basic principles which will be valid in any setting, and which will be relevant to the production of more detailed local guidance. Within each country the ethical code will take account of the national law, the regulations applying to health services and health professionals, and the way clinical practice is organised. Codes will also differ in whether they are stated as commands, as prohibitions, as general principles or a combination of these. Here we are stating the basic ethical principles we should refer to, the main ethical duties arising out of them, and the main areas where there are specific difficulties to consider within Speech and Language Therapy practice.

Ethical principles and duties

The bio-ethical approach to healthcare ethics can be described through a set of ethical principles, which can form the basis of decision-making, and which can be developed into more detailed codes reflecting the specific concerns of speech and language therapy practice. These principles are:

- ♦ To have respect for the autonomy and dignity of individuals
- ♦ To act in such a way as to bring benefits to individuals and to improve their quality of life
- ♦ To avoid doing anything which will do harm to individuals
- ♦ To act in an equitable and just way towards individuals and society.

These principles are the basis of the **common ethical duties towards patients**, relating to

- obtaining informed consent from the patient
- maintaining confidentiality
- communicating effectively
- giving well-founded and honest professional opinion and advice,
- acting within the limits of one's knowledge and skills
- acting in the best interests of patients
- respecting the social, cultural and moral norms of the local communities
- maintaining good records which are accurate, objective and comprehensive
- acting on the basis of scientific evidence and the professional consensus
- maintaining and developing one's skills throughout one's career
- effectively supervising therapy tasks that have been delegated to others
- working within a multidisciplinary framework and collaborating with other professionals.

These principles are also the basis for a **duty to the profession**, since our behaviour and conduct affect the ability of the profession as a whole to carry out its work for the benefit of the patient.

This is reflected in requirements about

- personal behaviour in clinical practice and outside it
- maintaining the reputation of the profession
- avoiding any action which might undermine the profession as a whole or any member of it.

CPLOL recognises that these **principles may be in conflict** in some situations, and that Speech and Language Therapists have to consider the interaction of different duties relating to an individual patient in deciding how to act.

This may be manifested in

- the clash between confidentiality and the possible need to act to protect a child or vulnerable adult;
- a case where a patient and their parents/carers have differing views about whether therapy is needed - and the nature of that therapy;
- situations where the clinical judgment of an SLT about the needs of an individual patient is in conflict with the overall policy of a service in allocating resources.

No set of rules will resolve such problems, and the individual Speech and Language Therapist must decide which principle is the over-riding

one in the situation. Individuals need to recognise the ethical considerations that are implicit in all clinical decision-making and should aim to make explicit reference to these common values that are shared and practised by SLTs throughout Europe.

Specific challenges for the SLT profession

The "duty of care" of each Speech and Language Therapist towards their patients is to be 'accountable' for their clinical decision-making, but they cannot be held 'responsible' for the ultimate outcome of any healthcare intervention, as that may be beyond the control of the professional for many reasons. *)

CPLOL considers that there are particular ethical problems in **working in partnership** with patients who have communication disabilities, and with their families and other carers.

This will affect

- explaining the results of the assessment
- decision-making concerning therapy and intervention
- obtaining informed consent from the patient.

Ethical principles must be applied with extra care, and with due account taken of the effect of communication difficulties on patients. Clinical decisions and interventions must be based on an understanding of the cognitive and psychological factors which may go along with a communication disorder. Since communication disorders affect the patient in their whole environment, decisions about a patient's care must be based on all the factors which affect the patient in that environment. It is recognised that there are specific ethical problems and challenges in providing SLT services to patients and to populations where there are diverse mother tongues and heritage languages, by therapists who have different language backgrounds. *) In addition, SLTs must consider the mental capacity of the individuals with whom they are working and their ability to give informed consent. This issue may be addressed by legislation in some member Countries.

Although this has a legal context, the starting point of assuming capacity unless otherwise demonstrated has its roots in ethical principles and is fundamental to ensuring that these individuals are treated in an ethical manner. The principle responsibility for the SLT may be to ensure that others are aware of the differences between cognition deficits, language and communication difficulties and mental capacity. It should also be noted that a judgement of mental capacity may only be made in relation to a specified circumstance and is not fixed. Any decision made on

behalf on someone who is deemed to lack capacity to decide for themselves must be defensible in line with the principle of 'best interests' for that individual.

It should additionally be noted that to a significant extent, SLTs are required to contribute towards ethical decision-making within the context of a multi-disciplinary team rather than as an autonomous practitioner. As such, the SLT needs to acknowledge the ethical standards of other professionals and the subsequent decisions should expressly account for the potential harms and benefits of the impact of the holistic case management.

Some speech and language therapists are involved in **procedures where there is a specific risk** of harm to the patient, either from invasive physical procedures, or from the use of less well-known therapeutic or psychological techniques. These will require

- specific consent
- specific extra training and competencies (if not covered within initial education),
- appropriate partnerships with other professions to ensure that risks are minimised and harm to the patient is avoided.

These situations will be covered by specific practice standards and procedures, relevant to the clinical setting.

Conclusion

Ethical practice is an essential and very challenging aspect of our professional role and SLTs should recognise the ethical dimensions of all their clinical decision-making. It is intended that this framework will provide guidance on how to approach ethical practice for individual SLTs and for SLT organisations. This guidance also embodies CPLOL's joint commitment to ethical practice across Europe.

(Theodora Bontsiou, Trine-Lise Dahl, Ingrid Kongslov, Karin Müller-Römheld, Joe Reynolds, Linda Schrey-Dern, Hazel Roddam. October 2008.)

*) This sentence has been added after the WG finalised its work. Further comments at the GA.

ACCOUNTS

Report on years 2007 and 2008

The 2007 finance report showed a deficit of over 34000 euros, mainly due to the deficit on the Berlin Congress held in 2006. However, the 2007 budget nearly broke even on normal running expenses, if this exceptional item is left out of account. This was the case, even though the year included a General Assembly, which is a longer meeting with higher hotel costs.

The 2008 accounts show the result of the first year when the new level of subscriptions was in force. This has raised our income significantly. Expenditure during the year was lower than expected, particularly on the commissions meetings. We made a surplus of over 23000 euros, and have therefore been able to replenish our reserves in some measure.

The Executive Committee has discussed the financial position, and has decided that it will not propose a change in the level of subscriptions at the GA in 2009. The EC is satisfied that with careful management of the budget, CPLOL should remain financially stable over the next two years.

In spite of careful planning and cost-control, we made a loss of 6100 euros on the Seventh CPLOL congress. The Congress report gives more details

on the event itself. This loss will reduce the projected surplus on the year, but we still hope to break even.

The budgets proposed for 2009 and 2010 continue to reflect the new level of subscriptions, and assume that there will not be major changes in the cost of travel and accommodation over the period. For 2010, we have built in the one-off cost to upgrade our website software, which is urgently needed. Plans for this are still being made, and we intend to produce a final plan by the end of 2009.

When we look at the broader assets of CPLOL, we can see that we continue to benefit enormously from the time and efforts of delegates and member organisations, on which we cannot put a financial valuation. No delegate or member of the EC receives any payment for their work within CPLOL.

The treasurer thanks delegates and EC colleagues for support in dealing with the financial management of our work; particular thanks to the delegates who have taken responsibility for finding suitable venues for meetings in their countries.

Joe Reynolds



CPLOL Accounts Summary 2007 and 2008				
Income				
	All amounts in euros			
	2007		2008	
Subscription fees 1		89.545,00		108.868,50
Subscription fees 2		1.526,66		217,50
Interest received		2.456,75		3.063,94
Other		2.458,00		1.577,00
Total income		95.986,41		113.726,94
Expenditure				
	2007		2008	
	Subtotal	Total	Subtotal	Total
Gen Assembly +commissions				
travelling expenses	26.003,47		30.333,95	
accommodation expenses	49.463,55		31.145,16	
miscellaneous	0,00			
		75.467,02		61.479,11
Executive committee				
travelling expenses	12.143,60		12.311,82	
accommodation expenses	6.727,62		3.228,42	
miscellaneous				
		18.871,22		15.540,24
Projects				
international relations	1.698,28		2.537,20	
congress	30.000,00		5.000,00	
		31.698,28		7.537,20
Administration				
secretariat	0,00		0,00	
translation	4.168,83		5.191,60	
account charges	161,02		102,87	
bank fees	0,00		0,00	
treasury and cash	173,60		0,00	
internet site	0,00		231,20	
		4.503,45		5.525,67
Totals		130.539,97		90.082,22
Surplus+/-deficit- on year		-34.553,56		23.644,72

CPLOL expected budgets /budgets previsionnels			
All figures in euros			
		2009	2010
Income/Recettes	Subscriptions/Cotisations	105.000	105.000
	Interest/Intérêts	2.000	1.000
	Other/Divers	1.000	1.000
Total/En tout		108.000	107.000
Expenditure/Dépenses	GA/AG Commissions	70.000	65.000
	CE/EC	15.000	15.000
	Projects/Projets	10.000	10.000
	Administration	8.000	18.000*
Total/En tout		103.000	108.000
Surplus ou/ or deficit		Surplus 5.000	Deficit -1.000

*The 2010 figures include a one-off cost to upgrade our website software.

*Les chiffres 2010 contiennent une dépense exceptionnelle pour renouveler le logiciel pour notre site web.

EC Motion on extra delegates

Introduction

When the CPLOL Statutes were changed, to move from three delegates per country to two delegates, it was agreed that it would be open to member countries to send extra delegates at their own expense. Some member countries have chosen to send an extra delegate or delegates, and have paid the travel and overnight accommodation costs involved. However, it has not been our practice to recover from those members the other expenses incurred. Extra costs can arise in catering, and the presence of extra people can at times lead to overcrowding in meeting rooms. The detail of these costs varies a good deal, mainly because of the different types of contract we have with hotels.

It is proposed that member countries should have the right to send, at their own expense, a maximum of two extra delegates to the CPLOL commissions meetings, for which they will contribute 100 euros per delegate per meeting to defray additional costs.

Projects 2009 - 2011

Due to the fact that CPLOL will have a quite new Executive Committee after the GA 2009, the outgoing EC has decided not to set up a full plan of projects for the term 2009-2011 - prior to the GA.

The projects listed below are the ones we

know of at the time of circulating the Newsletter.

Further projects may be presented at the GA - after the commissions' meetings on October 23rd.

Project	Acting unit	Responsible person(s)
The NetQues project - Network for Tuning Standards & Quality of Education programmes for SLT in Europe	Executive Committee + Education Commission	P + GS + VP Ed.
Evaluation of structure, functioning and finances of CPLOL	Working Group + Executive Committee	(For the new EC to decide)
Specialisation of SLTs - definition and principles	Education Commission	VP Ed.
Further education of SLTs to get PhD qualification - to get our own teachers and researchers	Education Commission	VP Ed.
Recommendations for the training of the people providing training to SLT students	Education Commission	VP Ed.
European Day of SLT	Professional Practice Commission	VP PP

Nominations

Nominations received

POST	NOMINEE	ASSOCIATION
President	Hanneke Kalf	Nederlandse Vereniging voor Logopedie en Foniatria, Netherlands
General Secretary	Aileen Patterson	Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, UK
Hon. Treasurer	Gro Hartveit	Norsk Logopedlag, Norway
V-P Education	Anja Lowit	Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, UK
	Rositsa Iossifova	Bulgarian National Association of Logopedists, Bulgaria
V-P Professional Practice	Maria Christopoulou	Association of Registered Speech-Language Pathologists, Cyprus
	Michèle Kaufmann-Meyer	Association Romande des Logopédistes Diplômés, Switzerland
V-P Congress		
V-P Recognition	Philippe Betrancourt	Federation Nationale des Orthophonistes, France
	Raffaella Citro	Federazione Logopedisti Italiani, Italy

Candidates' CVs

Hanneke Kalf (1961) works as a senior speech-language therapist, clinical epidemiologist and PhD student at the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

She is committed to the development of the profession by doing research and by giving courses on oropharyngeal dysphagia in adults and speech-language therapy in Parkinson's disease, in the Netherlands and abroad. Her research is currently focused on the pathophysiology and treatment of dysphagia and drooling in Parkinson's disease. She has been active in the Dutch Association for Logopedics and Phoniatics (NVLF) for many years and a delegate in CPLOL since 2003. Since 2005 Hanneke has been vice-president of the commission Professional Practice and became in 2006 also responsible for the 6th CPLOL congress

in Berlin. From 2007 she was as vice-president for congress in charge of the 7th CPLOL congress in Ljubljana.



Aileen Patterson

I am a qualified speech therapist and also a teacher. Additionally I hold a Bachelors in Education/Psychology and Masters in Applied Social Research. I have worked clinically with a wide range of patients, and have been course director of the SLT programme at University of Ulster for 20 years.

I held the portfolio for Education/Research of RCSLT Council and am Visitor/Partner for the Health Professions Council which validates programmes across the UK. I also serve on the HPC

Investigating committee for assessing fitness for practice. I have been external examiner for many other SLT programmes and guest lecturer in several other European Universities. Since becoming a UK delegate to CPLOL I have been Vice President for Education and currently have served one term of office as General Secretary and am committed to furthering the role of CPLOL in the development of speech and language therapy in Europe and world wide.



Gro Hartveit

Speech & Language Therapist since 2001.

Working place: Statped Vest, a Resource Centre in Bergen, Norway, and a part of The National Support System for Special Needs Education

Field of work: Dysfluency problems. I work with both children, youth and grown ups.

I am the vice president of the Norwegian organization for SLT's: "Norsk Logopedlag (NLL)", and have been a representative in the main board since 2004.

From 2002 to 2004, I was first the secretary and then the leader of the regional Western department of NLL.

I have been one of Norway's delegates since 2007, and before that, I was a substitute for one of our regular delegates.

I have also got experience from work as a teacher in ordinary schools and for children with special needs, and I have been working with information and marketing for several years.



Anja Lowit

After completing my school education in Germany, I came to Britain to study Speech and Language Pathology, qualifying with a Bachelor with Honours at Reading University in 1991, and a PhD at Newcastle University in 1997. I worked clinically with a range of patients during my PhD. Since 1996 I have been employed as a lecturer in the Speech and Language Therapy Division at Strathclyde University. This involves teaching undergraduate students in clinical practice as well as theory and supervising postgraduate research students. I have held a number of administrative posts and am currently joint course director. I am also actively involved in research into motor speech disorders. My work outside the university includes being a visiting lecturer for other European institutions, external examiner for other

SLT courses, and course reviewer for accreditation of new SLT courses. I became the British representative to the CPLOL Education Commission in 2008.



Rositsa Asenova Iossifova

Education: 1987-1992 Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - master degree in Logopedia 2008 - PhD in Social Psychology; subject: "Non Verbal communication: representations and attitudes of Bulgarians"

Main CPD education: 1992-1993 Pedopsychiatric clinic "Lanval" and school of Logopedia in Medicine Academy - Nice, France; specialisation: "Diagnostics, therapy and teaching of reading and writing pathology" - 420 hours.

1999-2007 Orthophonistes du Monde, Bulgaria; subjects: Prevention, diagnostics, team work; dysphasia; dyscalculia and stuttering - 240 hours

Professional activities: 1992-1997 working as logopedist at government SLT Center in Sofia.

1997-present - director and Logopedist, Logopedic Center "Romel", Sofia.

1997-present part-time professor in New Bulgarian University, faculties of Psychology, Logopedia; Semiotics and New Bulgarian Language. Main subjects: therapy of dyslexia; non verbal communication; ontogenesis of communication's abilities.

1998 - present CPD trainer Bulgaria and Latvia. Main subjects of trainings: Prevention of SLI.

Other activities: General Secretary of Bulgarian National Association of Logopedists since 1996 Member of CPLOL since 2007.



Maria Christopoulou

B.A. in Communicative Disorders (MA), USA. Ed.D. in Education and Youth (Managements of Programs and Leadership in Early Childhood Education), USA.

Was the first speech and language pathologist in Cyprus in 1982 and worked in the General Hospital for 5 years setting up the speech and language department. Initiated a private school for children ages 2 to 12 years of age offering special education and inclusion classes to children with special needs and communication disorders. Founder of the Association of Friends of People with Communication Disorders and then one of the founders of the Association of Speech and

Language Pathologists of Cyprus serving twice as president. Organized numerous congresses, seminars and workshops for young professionals in the field of language, communication disorders and education.

Committed to the professional acknowledgement of the profession worked hard to earn the full government professional recognition, become a member of CPLOL since the early years as a representative of an Observer Country for 10 years working actively towards the completion of the aims of CPLOL and the general profession and with the entrance of Cyprus into the EU she continued her activities as a delegate by representing her country. In the last elections she has become a delegate in the EC of CPLOL undertaking the Commission of Professional Practice.



Raffaella Citro

Born on June 7th 1963 in Battipaglia (Salerno - Italy), Raffaella Citro got the Degree in Speech and Language Therapy at the University of Naples in 1985. Since then she works in her private practice in Battipaglia (Salerno).

In the meantime she also had working experiences as employed in the Neurology Unit of the Campolongo Hospital and in an Orthodontic Centre and as volunteer in the Otorhinolaryngology Department of the University of Naples. She participated in the national programme of Continuous Professional Development, both as pupil and as lecturer. In 2004 she restarted formal education and got a Master Diploma in "Tutoring"; currently she's preparing her final thesis to get the Master Degree in "Rehabilitation Sciences".

Citro published scientific articles about vocal rehabilitation of laryngectomized patients and about SLTs education. She holds seminars on Secondary Prevention for teachers and physiotherapists.

She is a member of FLI Executive Committee and is the FLI representative in the Ministerial Committee for Recognition of Foreigner Titles. She has been FLI delegate to CPLOL from 1996 to 2000 and from 2005 till now.



Philippe Bétrancourt

- ◆ Speech and Language Therapist since 1974,
- ◆ Free lance practitioner,
- ◆ Lecturer, Paul Sabatier University , Toulouse

- ◆ 1979 - Member, Executive committee French National Federation of Speech-Language Therapists (FNO)
- ◆ 1992 - General secretary, FNO, in charge of the legal department
- ◆ Member, Europe section of National Union for Health Professions, representing FNO within various authorities
- ◆ 2006 - CPLOL involvement particularly in working group revising SLT Professional Profile .

FNO objectives supporting this candidature:

- ◆ Pursuing/enhancing ongoing work, particularly:
 - o Harmonisation of initial training
 - o Continuing Professional Development
 - o Harmonisation of professional legislation/statutes
 - o Facilitating mobility of professionals throughout Europe via mutual recognition of diplomas.
- ◆ Adaptation of structure/functioning of CPLOL re enlargement of EU:
 - o Reinforcing representation of CPLOL within European authorities
 - o Making available a platform to support each member association, to provide help when needed with logistics, national "policies", or arbitration...



Michèle Kaufmann-Meyer, Suisse

Speech therapist since 1985, I have represented Switzerland within the CPLOL. since 2004 and have been involved in promoting it's acceptance as a full member.

I have been involved in the Professional Practice Commission and participated in several working groups like "quality guidelines", "report on professional practice" and "CPLOL structures and functioning". I have also taken the responsibility of the work and mandates within the groups. Thanks to my language knowledge I can fully understand and participate actively in executing the tasks of the commission and the working groups. I have also been responsible for the translations in the commission and the General Assembly for some years.

I wish to put my experience of a professional association, my interest in European matters and my knowledge in professional politics to the benefit of the CPLOL.



