

Code of Ethics for the EU Day

Translated from the Greek version that was made in Mars 2013

EU Day Group of PAL (Greece)

The EU day has been established by CPLOL since 2004 aiming at enhancing public awareness of the profession of Speech and Language Therapy all over Europe. The main objective of the EU day is to highlight the social impact in health prevention, which is accomplished by sharing information, as well as exchanging knowledge and experience.

Aim of activities: sensitization and information provision to the public, as well as to service providers, on a) communication disorders, b) their effect on human health and well-being, c) human rights of people with communication disorders and d) ways of getting support. On EU day speech and language therapists throughout Europe participate in common activities.

The theme of the activities: Based on the philosophy of the EU day, as described above, the associations which are members of CPLOL suggest and decide upon a theme relevant to the various sectors of the science of speech and language therapy. Each association – member of CPLOL organizes activities in their home country based on the theme chosen by CPLOL.

The activities are intended for:

- People, as well as their relatives/carers, with speech, language and communication disorders, who need information on their disorder and their options for intervention.
- Doctors, teachers, other mental health specialists, as well as students, aiming at a multidisciplinary approach.
- Politicians, local authorities, communities, in order to turn their attention to the needs of the group of people who are not able to express themselves adequately and may, thus, be marginalized.
- Journalists and the Mass Media who disseminate information to the public.
- Speech and language therapists who find a practical way to contribute to health issues.
- The public in general.

Methodology

The activities are organized by the official country-member of CPLOL i.e. the association of each country-member of CPLOL. They are carried out by the members of the association on a voluntary basis. PAL is responsible for the preservation and the ethical practice of the activities by informing its members that:

- EU day concerns team work. The main objective is providing information about the profession of speech and language therapy and not advertising individual professionals. Colleagues are expected to collaborate as a team. In cases of colleagues that practice the profession alone in an area and wish to participate, they are obliged to contact the nearest team.
- Advertising (written or oral) is by no means permitted, neither is the announcement (or oral exchange during the activities) of personal contact details (address, telephone number etc) the name of private centers or any other information that distinguishes the participant as a private practitioner, as opposed to a scientist SLT who is part of a team.
- The planning and organization of the EU day is conducted according to the time plan proposed by the organizing committee. Colleagues all over the country meet and decide on the activities that they will undertake. A representative keeps the minutes and informs the organizing committee and then the EC electronically.
- The representatives are obliged to familiarize all the members of their area with the principles of solidarity. They are also responsible for the observance of the code of ethics.

The activities that take place in each area are supervised by the organizing committee, with which the representatives are expected to be in contact regularly during the preparation phase.

The organizing committee and its participant members may utilize their personal contacts with various public sectors and/or journalists for the promotion and support of the project. Furthermore, PAL in co-operation with its representatives sends out official requests for collaboration to various public sectors and to sponsors.

The requests are sent out in a headed letter and they are registered by the secretary.

The publicity of EU day activities is regarded as important as their organization. Ways of projecting them could be through the Education Sector, Local Authorities, Scientific Associations, Professional Associations, social institutions, the Mass Media (radio, TV, local press), and the internet (Blogs, Facebook, Twitter) etc.

EU day activities are supported financially by donations and the support of local authorities. The public is offered these services free of charge at all times.

PAL has the responsibility to support all activities with appropriate materials - published or electronic- where and when this is possible (i.e. leaflets, certificates of attendance etc). This material has the copyright of PAL and cannot be altered in any way without the authorization of the organization committee.

Moreover, any other kind of alternative material produced by colleagues must be approved by the organizing committee, before use.

- In the case of screening carried out by colleagues who work privately, they are obliged to refer clients to public institutions for further assessment.
- All activities concerning service provision may only take place in public buildings or areas and only by a team of SLTs. This means that the use of private offices or centers is by no means permitted. Also, activities cannot be organized by individual colleagues without informing the representative of the area and thus the rest of the local colleagues, as this will be considered as competitive and not in keeping with the principles of prevention.

PAL encourages the participation of other specialities according to the theme of the EU day and gives approval after contacting the representative of the area. The multidisciplinary approach of communication difficulties is one of the aims of the EU day.

PAL's EC has the right to refer to the ethics committee whichever of its members does not follow this Code of Ethics.

The EU Day Group of PAL