

Abstract

The NETQUES project: European speech and language therapy education - united in diversity

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Background

Speech and language therapy education in Europe has many differing forms, languages and levels. CPLOL has been successful in being awarded a major 3 year EU grant to apply the EU Bologna agreement 'tuning' process to SLT courses in a project named NETQUES (Network for Tuning Standards and Quality of Education programmes in Speech and Language Therapy across Europe). The aims of the project are to share knowledge and experience between countries, higher education institutions and staff; to facilitate the Bologna process for SLT; to encourage transparency in educational structures; and to enable innovation in SLT education.

Method

A total of 65 Partners were recruited from all 27 EU countries, plus Liechtenstein, Norway and the EU-candidate countries of Iceland and Turkey. Partners have been allocated to one of 6 work package groups, each taking responsibility for one or more elements of the work. Work package 1 comprises the steering group, responsible for oversight and financial management. Other work packages are: designing and circulating a survey on competencies; analysing the outcomes of this survey; ensuring quality assurance; dissemination of best practice in EU SLT education; and exploitation of the resulting product.

Results

To date, the project has its own web site, complete with web master (www.netques.eu). An information leaflet for HEIs, and other colleagues has been produced and will be available at the Congress. The competency survey has been designed, piloted and translated. This survey will be circulated to member countries in January and initial results will be presented in this paper.

Conclusion

The NETQUES project is a highly ambitious approach to European collaboration in Speech and Language Therapy. It is due to be completed in 2013. It has the potential to enhance student education and ultimately to improve the service we offer to our clients.

Dear Monika

Just to keep you informed as our QA WPT4 lead person. The Analysis of the survey has taken longer to prepare than envisaged (and lots of extra work!) due to some errors in the survey collection which have had to be adjusted by hand - these were caused by such “unplanned electronic malfunctions” such as auto reordering into alphabetic order of the given language of some responses so that the numbering of the possible responses has had to be checked for a few questions across all countries. This has delayed progress of the actual analysis somewhat but is a necessary readjustment to ensure the integrity of the survey data. We are very grateful to Anne Ghysseleinckx for her meticulous checking of this all and Hilde as ever assisting in data input/amending.

Wp3 team lead (Wiebke) has also been very busy with the cross checks related to the qualifications to avoid any possible misinterpretations of data. I, along with WP2 and WP3 team leads, wish to reassure you as lead of WP4 that the work is in hand and progressing but the timeline has necessarily been shifted and agreed by the PMSG. Precise details of the extension to the timescale will be available after Easter when the personnel working on it are able to resume the work.

I have also been very busy with the compilation of the additional surveys related to departmental information and statistics of the programmes across partners and countries so we will have lots of activity over the next few months!

I also attach recent PMSG minutes to accompany our report to you and hopefully save you having to search on the website for them.

Have a Happy Easter and I hope you get a little break from work to spend time with family over the holiday period.

Aileen