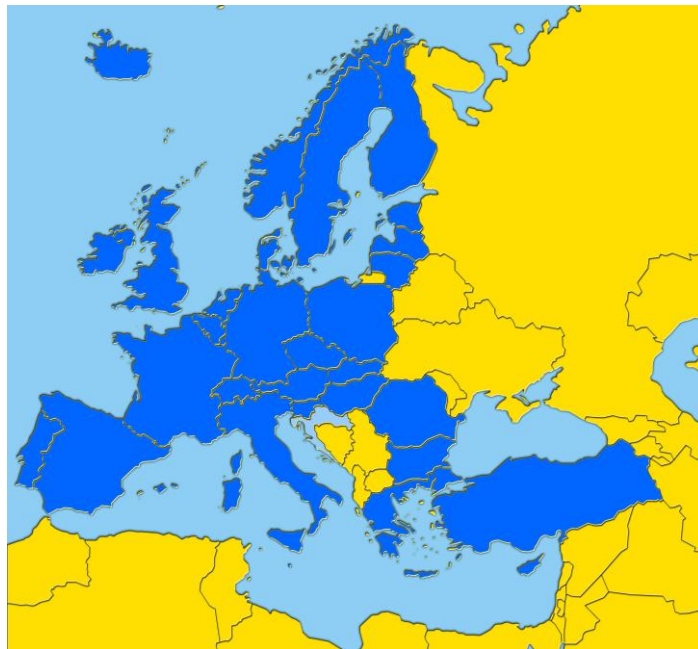




NetQues



*Network for Tuning Standards and Quality of Education programmes
in Speech and Language Therapy / Logopaedics across Europe*



Newsletter 3, January 2013

Take away action points from this Newsletter:

1. Please send any materials you've used to explain or promote NetQues project into our DropBox or send them to Pirkko Rautakoski (pirkko.rautakoski@abo.fi).
2. If you have changes or new addresses to the list of WP6 "NetQues addresses" in the Intranet please send them to Evelijn Raven-Takken (evelijn.raven@hu.nl).
3. Please send links to information on examples of good practice in SLT-education to Evelijn Raven-Takken (evelijn.raven@hu.nl).
4. **The Final meeting of the NetQues project** is going to be arranged on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September 2013 in Artevelde University College Ghent, Belgium. One representative from every partner institution invited.
5. Do you know key influential people such as European politicians, policy makers in education and health whom we should invite to our Final meeting? Please send their contact details by email to sec.gen@cplol.eu

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Report from coordinator

Happy New Year everyone!

It is hard to believe this is our final year for the NetQues project. It will probably be the most challenging one for us, although hopefully the most satisfying. It is particularly challenging for those who are trying to collate the work of the groups, formulate conclusions and make sure that we synthesise all the wonderful information we have gathered concisely, and in a way that is meaningful to all our colleagues, regardless of their own language and background.

The friendship of colleagues and contacts made through NetQues have been some of the most positive, if less tangible, outcomes but these have led already to some research collaborations and new ways of looking at our work, so not only are they enjoyable but also productive.

One of the most difficult aspects of the project work has been for the leaders of work packages always to be able to coordinate their group's work. Much of this is due to changes in personnel in some institutions and some partners who have periods of inactivity for a range of reasons – but also some whom it is sadly necessary to try to spur into action every so often, whose reasons for silence are not known! As SLTs/Logopedists across the globe are only too often willing to take on lots of work, it means that we are constantly having to prioritise and sometimes NetQues slips down the list of priorities – or in a few cases we suspect completely “disappear off their radar.” When you have students knocking at your door and University management wanting reports/new courses written or taught “yesterday” this is understandable but we also have to meet our deadlines so can I please make a plea for everyone to really factor their NQ duties into their busy schedules, so that the WP leaders are not left having to work alone or produce work that has not been truly a group pan European effort.

On a very positive note we have seen so many examples of commitment to the profession and its education and so many of you contributing hugely from your vast experience and knowledge - so thank you to all who have worked so hard. Thank you to those lead partners and others who came to Riga and really contributed lots of ideas and expressed willingness to take on even more work. I hope all partners have read the minutes of the meeting (Intranet, WP1) to see just what was agreed and appreciate the amount of work being done. All should also look carefully at the action plans and note the key points

1. We had a very fruitful discussion on the EACEA feedback on the midway report, being delighted at the many positive aspects they enumerated as well as taking on board their few criticisms and set out action plans to address these.
2. We have had to ask to vire some small amounts of monies between a few partners who have not been able to take on tasks allocated, to pay those who have taken on more than originally planned for in budget estimates. Our EACEA project coordinator has now approved these proposals.
3. We need to make sure we follow the formats we agreed for Minutes of meetings –**It is very important that all members of WP teams keep their WP lead informed of their availability**

for meetings and send apologies with comments on the agenda when they cannot attend in person or by Skype. NB all Minutes are carefully examined and it is noted who is in attendance - which must match up with claims for staff time and where appropriate travel/subsistence. All are sent to EACEA for their dossier on the project.

4. We agreed that Country lead partners, who have been doing excellent work maintaining contacts with their fellow country partners will try to monitor the workloads and engagement of their colleagues, and that they will also inform the coordinator of any difficulties within their group of partners should they arise.
5. Work Package team leads will also continue to monitor the activity of their group and let the PMSG know how it is progressing at regular intervals.
6. Each partner needs to report regularly to the coordinator on their involvement and keep the Coordinator informed of any changes to their situation should they arise.

If any partner feels they are being “underused” and still have time within their allocation and have specific expertise to help by reading/editing documents - or can assist in other ways then we are very open to offers of help as the PMSG and WP leads write up the main findings of the project. All reports will go to all partners for feedback in due course but please be aware that there will be a limited period for sending back comments/corrections so the more you have looked at in advance the easier that will be.

I would also ask that any of you who give a presentation that involves sharing about NetQues please inform us and put the references/articles/copies of powerpoints in the Dropbox provided for this for WP5, managed by Pirkko Rautakoski. The team will in due course make appropriate ones available on our website.

Finally, as many partners know, we have found Dropbox to be a useful tool for depositing working documents within working groups, and of course there is also the NetQues intranet. We have a particular plea to which **you all can respond** – that is **to let us have examples of innovative /good practice in education (learning/teaching/assessment) of SLTs in your own countries** e.g. use of actors /clinical scenarios/team teaching/ways of using new technologies/student centred learning approaches etc. Please provide the links to such materials or places where they can be located by sending them to WP6 (Exploitation) lead Evelijn Raven-Takken, as per her request. We know lots of really good practices are happening in SLT education **so please share and inform others about your work/ideas for improvement of SLT education.**

So in conclusion - this is going to be an exciting year – let’s make sure it is the best yet for SLT education in Europe. As we journey to fulfil our expectations I am reminded of the Scots song by Harry Lauder:

“Keep right on to the end of the road; Keep right on to the end. Though the way be long, let your heart be strong, Keep right on to the end. Though you’re tired and weary still journey on, till you come to your happy abode; where all you love, you’ve been dreaming of will be there at the end of the road”.



Aileen Patterson

Project Coordinator, (P01 CPLOL, France)

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The Annual Meeting in Riga, September 2012

Report from the PMSG

During 2012 the PMSG group had three face-to-face meetings and a number of skype meetings in between. During this time we have developed into a team, and enjoy working together. The main tasks this year have included supporting WP2 in the distribution of the surveys and then WP3 in the discussion around how to work with the analysis of the data collected. Other important tasks were to present the NetQues project at the CPLOL conference in Haag (Jois Stansfield, P30, did most of that work) and to plan and carry out the Annual meeting in Riga in September. The Riga meeting took us to the final phase of the project – thinking about the results from the surveys and how we can disseminate and exploit them. We are now diving into this challenging task, which will be demanding, but will also bring everybody involved in the project closer together.

Save the Date! The PMSG and Work Package 5 are now busy planning the **final meeting** and are delighted that one of our partner institutions has agreed to host the event. It will be held in **Artevelde University College Ghent in Belgium** on **Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September**. Ghent is a short train journey from Brussels airport and easily accessible also from many other European cities by train or even ferry via Ostend. It is an attractive medieval canal city so would be ideal for those who wish to stay on for the weekend.



Artevelde University College Ghent

Info on Artevelde University College Ghent:

<http://www.artevelddehs.be/emc.asp?pageId=1857>

Info on Ghent: <http://www.visitgent.be/en/home>

www.netques.eu

We know that September is a very busy time in academic life but please would all partners mark the dates into your diaries **now** and plan to have at least one of your members there. You can claim reimbursement within the constraints of the rules for ONE representative from your partner institution. We will also be seeking names and contact details of any stakeholders whom you feel should be invited to come along to hear about the final work of the project and hope to have a session for that specific purpose. Number of places will be limited but we would like to invite some key influential people such as European politicians, policy makers in education and health so if you know of someone whom we should invite please let us have the contact details by email to sec.gen@cplol.eu.



Kristina Hansson

PMSG member (P60, Lunds Universitet, Sweden)

Reports of the Workpackages

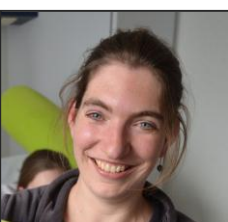
WP 2: Tuning SLT educational programmes

The results of first survey were presented on the meeting in Riga in September 2012. Some highlights from the first survey about 'The general and subject specific competences of newly qualified Speech Language Therapists in Europe'. For this survey the SLT departments were asked to send the survey out to their graduates from the last 5 years, the employers of their graduates and their academic staff. We received 4383 responses from 31 countries ($\pm 40\%$ of total send out). From these responses 2864 were completed surveys and available for analysis (other surveys were only partially completed).

At the end of June also the second survey was collected. The aim of this survey is to obtain a snapshot of the range of different **SLT departments in Europe**. This survey about 'SLT departments in Europe' was only distributed to the head of departments. We received almost 100 surveys from the SLT departments (90 surveys fully completed).

We are looking forward to the results of the analyses on both surveys.

The results of both surveys are sent out to the group of Work Package 3. During summer time WP3 started with the analyses of the results. WP3 will contribute to the benchmarking and other outcomes.



Lien Martens

WP2 lead partner (P07 Lessius Hogeschool, Belgium)

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WP 3: Tuning stage 2 - analysis and evaluation of survey results

The key tasks of WP3, lead by the Project Coordinator CPLOL, relate to agreeing survey methodology, analysis and preparing the benchmark document and related other documents for internal and external validation.

At the outset it was important to establish how to best describe the education of SLTs. Hence, the Biennial Statistics of the 2011 CPLOL survey data, which was adapted in collaboration with the NetQues project, provided more comprehensive information alongside the departmental survey. One of the greatest challenges facing mapping and describing the education of SLTs in Europe is in determining not just the content, but the levels of programmes of study – and there is a great diversity in the titles of programmes and awards that SLTs achieve in order to be able to practise in each country. Therefore, WP3 seeks to map a current picture of this range. Since it is clear that a description of SLT education based on title of award, length of programme, ECTS etc. would not suffice, one of the main targets is to link the essentials of relevant Bologna descriptors such as EQF (Bologna Working Group on Qualifications Framework, 2005) and Dublin Descriptors (2004) to the competences. These were identified by the analysis of the questionnaire on the SLT competences, which are key to newly qualified/graduated SLTs, and differentiated in subject specific competences and generic academic competences. The results allow us firstly to identify the competences considered core for new graduates and those considered desirable for SLT practice across the EU and secondly let us identify the level to which competences in these three domains are inter-related. This allows consideration of the roles of relating theory to practice and also theorising about practice and relating this experience back to theory, in the development of a competent graduate, as viewed by the various stakeholders. Currently, WP3 is working on establishing benchmark statements, which will be of interest for diverse institutions offering SLT educational degree programs throughout Europe.



Wiebke Scharff Rethfeldt

WP3 lead partner (P01 CPLOL, France)

WP 4: Quality assurance of the management and outcomes of the project

Only less than a year left in the NetQues Project! Now it is more important than ever to be on time with all the small and large steps in the different work packages. To keep the project on track, it is the task of the Quality Assurance group in such a huge project to systematically support the work of the project management steering group (PMSG) in monitoring of the project. To do this there are two main tasks of the Quality Assurance: the WP4 has to review the overall management process of the entire project (subgroup 1) and also the Tuning process itself (subgroup 2).

Twice a year, in 2012 in January and in June, the subgroup 1 sent out the self assessment checklist to the WP lead partners to ask them about working processes, time management, communication, documentation, difficulties, and solutions. The answers were used to compile the second annual audit report which was ready at the second annual meeting in Riga in September 2012. The approved version is now available on the website for all partners (Intranet, WP1).

In preparation for the annual meeting in September 2012 a risk analysis was carried out in the self assessments to identify quality items that could threaten the next steps of the project. Recommendations were made when the risk was average or high. The Quality indicators with high and average risks and the recommendations to overcome the risks were subject to discussion at the meeting in Riga. The participants of the meeting, (i.e. all country lead partners, all work package leaders and the PMSG) agreed 1) to enhance the quality of the documentation by a standardised form of the minutes and by collecting emails to be able to demonstrate the involvement of partners. (The template for the minutes and a short instruction are available on the website.) 2) To enhance the quality of the working processes the participants agreed to revise the time-lines carefully and to clarify the actions and objectives so that every WP knows what is expected and when and that this should be reported in the next rounds of self assessments in January and June 2013. 3) The communication processes should be enhanced by a short self assessment for all partners in addition to the usual self assessments of the WP lead partners and by a quarterly reminder of the country lead partners directed to the partners in their own country to give a short feed back of their involvement and progress. 4) Finally, it was agreed to include the quality enhancement in the self assessment run to show how recommendations in the audit reports are used to overcome risks and improve the work.

To review the Tuning process itself subgroup 2 prepared questions to ask all partners regarding feedback on the benchmark document. The benchmark document will soon be sent out to all partners. Only a short period will be allowed to collate and summarize the answers and to redraft the benchmark document since the redrafted benchmark document should be sent out shortly to external experts for feedback. The subgroup 2 have contacted other WPs to find a small group of experts representing different perspectives such as clients' or education's perspectives. This important part in the project requires good collaboration between WP4, WP3, the PMSG and also all partners in the network.

There is a lot of work done - thank you to all of you who support this part of the work in the NetQues Project in 2012. WP4 will continue to do the very best to manage our contributions for the success of the whole project.



Monika Rausch

WP4 lead partner (P17, Deutscher Bundesverband für Logopädie (DBL), Germany)

WP 5: Dissemination

Our working group is preparing to disseminate the results of the surveys and the benchmark statements WP3 is establishing. The working group is writing press releases and other material to be sent to all of the participants. You can use this material in your national dissemination, at your own institutions and other quarters in your countries. The material is going to be in English but you are welcome to translate it in to your own languages if needed. When you receive this information, please upload it also on your own web pages.

Much of the information is going to be in an electronic format on our web page. So please go and look for more information on our web page: <http://www.netques.eu>

As our Coordinator Aileen Patterson writes in this newsletter, we ask that you inform us about the dissemination you already do in your countries. We are sure many of you have been telling your colleagues and other audiences about the NetQues project through different seminars, conferences, journals, meetings or for your publication. Please send us any materials you've used to explain or promote this work (powerpoint presentations, articles etc.) into our DropBox filesharing folder or by emailing Pirkko (pirkko.rautakoski@abo.fi). Thank you.



Pirkko Rautakoski

pirkko.rautakoski@abo.fi

WP5 lead partner (P24 Åbo Akademi University, Finland)

WP 6: Tuning stage 3 Exploiting project outcomes

Now, in the final year of the NetQues-project, WP6 is increasingly busy with our part!

Since we are responsible for exploitation and life long learning, we set ourselves two tasks: the first one was collecting addresses (especially email-addresses) from all stakeholders for NetQues. In the end of the NetQues-project it is of great importance to inform as many people as possible about the results. A list of addresses is at the NetQues-intranet. If you have new addresses or changes in the current list, please inform me! (Evelijn.raven@hu.nl). Together with WP5 we will use this list to spread the results throughout Europe and will give ideas for further exploitation.

The second task is finding examples of good practice of SLT education, and making them available for others. This is a challenging part!

WP 6 is doing a pilot now: we are looking for examples of good practice of SLT education in our own organizations, and try to make them available for everyone. We are looking for examples of innovative and good practice in clinical education or other education (not good practice in SLT work, because that is too much for this project).

Some of the questions WP6 has to answer are: how to deal with all the different languages in Europe, how to make information available (since a lot of material is not free on the internet, in

protected environments), how to create a platform where people can find examples where they are looking for, etc.

Our plan is to make a template where people can describe their examples of good practice. Right now we are evaluating a first version of this template. The next step will be to organize these examples in a kind of taxonomy. This information must be accessible for everyone after the NetQues-project, and hopefully, will be expanded in the future.

So, please, if you have an example of good practice in SLT-education, just let me know!

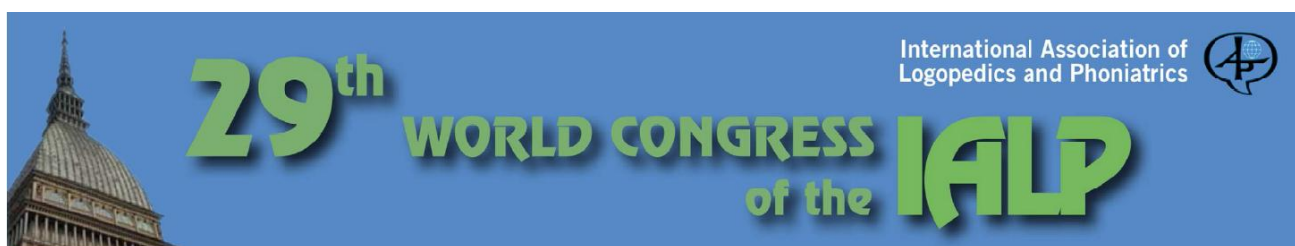


I am sure that there must be loads of examples in your institute you are proud of! Since creating a platform with good examples cannot be done without you, please let me know if you have an example!

Evelijn Raven-Takken

evelijn.raven@hu.nl

WP6 lead partner (P48 Hogeschool Utrecht, Netherlands)



WHERE PRACTICE MEETS SCIENCE

August 25-29, 2013, Lingotto Conference Center, Turin, Italy

<http://www.ialpturin2013.it>

Abstract submission deadline: February 15, 2013

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