Introduction

In speech and language therapy modern IT technologies are used since quite a long time. In their daily speech and language therapy practice, SLTs use APPs, websites, software, AAC etc. Both for the diagnostic and therapeutic processes. The working group “IT in SLT” was created as part of the CPLOL - PP Commission and has developed a specific questionnaire. The WG worked between October 2013 -October 2014. The aim of this working group was to develop a survey and collect data from all over Europe concerning the usage of IT’s during SLTs session.

Objective

We aim to know:
- which IT source are used by SLTs all over Europe
- how much experience do SLTs have in using IT sources
- in which clinical pictures IT sources are used by SLTs

Methodology

In order to obtain data about use of informatics technologies in SLT we developed a questionnaire. Using Survey Lime open sources software we design an online format for the survey. The survey was translated in 5 languages – English, French, German, Italian and Romanian. The link to the survey was sent to the CPLOL delegates, both to PP and Education Commissions. We asked the delegate to distribute the link to all members of the SLT’s association from their country. The survey was active for 4 months period.

Two reinforcements for fulfilling were sent and additional explanations were provided. Once the data were collected we close the survey. Data were exported in an Excel format and process with the Analysis Tool Pak. Function such as Count IF, Pivot Table, Sum, Average were used. We choose different types of graph to represent data. But also reports and tables.

Results

The survey was filled by 364 participants, coming from 21 countries. There were -350 complete answers. The most answers came from Austria and Switzerland with a total of 78 answers for each country. Romania has 44 and Portugal 37. Most of the respondents were between 25-35 and 46-55 years between 20-35. Based on gender criteria 59% were female and 78% male. Concerning the IT use 250 people said they use IT in SLT, 77 people gave no answer and 63 chose nothing. But 65 of 71 people that gave a NO answer express interest for future. 193 person consider is important to use IT in SLT and 71 dont’ find it important. Apps (229), Software (223) and WebPages (213) are the most used resources. Others include Voice AAC and Communication devices, School (166), Kindergarten and Nursery (216) are the most frequent setting for IT in SLT. But Professional Practice (115) and Clinics (165) are also considered good locations.

The therapist use IT for: Therapy/Treatment, acquire and improved skills in different Disorders (autism spectrum disorder, stuttering, hearing disorders, cochlear implants, auditory and perception disorders, aphasia, special needs etc.), Anamneses (Screening), Diagnosis, Encouraging, Observation PP.

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