

8th CPLOL CONGRESS – THE HAGUE, 25-26 May 2012



The Congress: The 2012 CPLOL Congress was organized, together with NVLF, in The Hague (NL). It registered 380 participants, 53% from The Netherlands, 47% from other countries.

The programme included 3 plenary sessions with invited keynote speakers and 20 parallel sessions (83 oral presentations and workshops) in 4 rooms over 2 full days. 49 posters were displayed. The venue was the Congress Centre of the World Forum, the area of The Hague where many international organizations are housed.



The social programme included a Welcome Reception by The Hague Town Hall, to which presenters and CPLOL delegates were invited, and Madurodam Dinner Party, which all participants could enjoy by paying an additional fee.



The opening and closing ceremonies included an entertainment show with singers and actors giving performances created especially for the congress, offered to the congress by NVLF

A specific congress website www.cplolcongress2012.eu was designed and launched by NVLF in both English and French.

The Scientific Programme: The congress theme was: “New advances in SLT Practice and Education”. 147 abstracts were submitted through the dedicated online submission system. Following the selection process by the Review Committee, the programme was designed with 74 oral presentations, 9 workshops, 49 posters. All fields of SLT were covered with a strong emphasis given to Initial SLT Education that was presented and debated in three sessions.

The three excellent keynote speeches focused on Telerehabilitation (Prof. D. Theodoros, Australia), Evidence Based Practice (Dr. H. Roddam, UK and Dr. H. Kalf, NL) and Dyslexia (Prof. S. Heim, Germany).

All the abstracts and most of the presentations have been published on the congress website.

Participation: Participants from The Netherlands were 200, fewer than expected, in despite of the NVLF not holding a 2012 national congress, the possibility of obtaining CPD credits and the many actions taken by NVLF to promote the congress all over the country. Possible elements accounting for this could be: the cost of the registration fee (300 Euro early rate – 350 later) - however this was similar to the 2009 event but perhaps the impact of the financial constraints prevailing across Europe made the difference - or the kind of programme or the date of the congress which was in a festive week (Pentecost).



On the other hand, it must be noted that the numbers of participants from outside of the host country have been decreasing over the years (Berlin 300, Ljubljana 230, The Hague 180).

The evaluation survey: All congress participants received, by e-mail, an invitation to participate in an online evaluation survey using SurveyMonkey. The 15 questions used were as for previous CPOOL congresses evaluations, in order to make comparison possible. Participants could rate each item on a scale from 1 to 5.

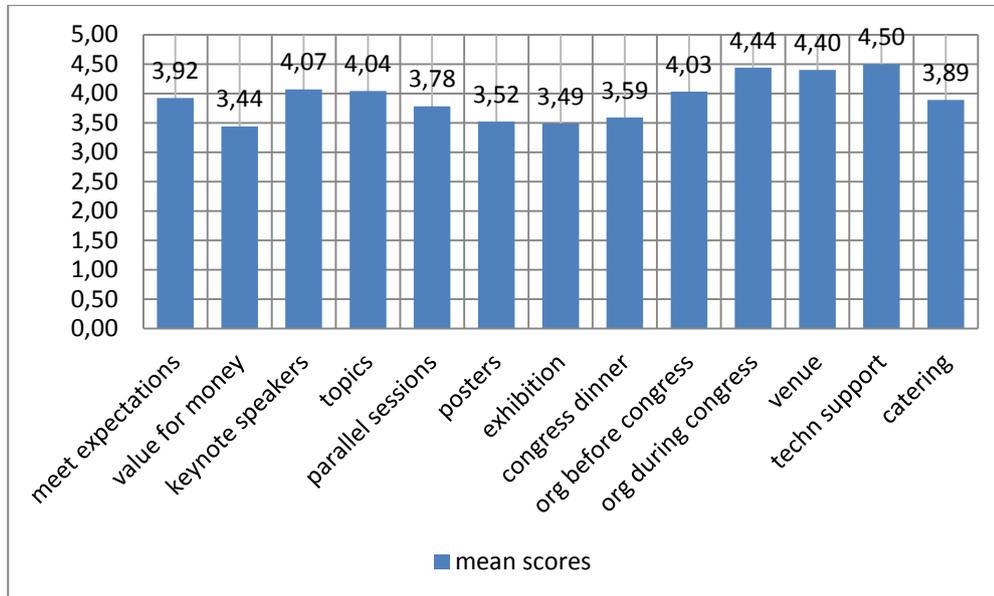
201 participants responded to the survey and 197 of them (52% of congress participants) completed it. The participation is higher than in Ljubljana, leading us to infer that the web survey is more convenient than the paper based one. Moreover, the high participation in the survey gives its data high reliability.

The congress evaluation is based on the 197 completed questionnaires.



Evaluation results: 105 respondents (53%) are from The Netherlands, matching the national participation percentage, 92 (47%) from another 30 countries, 7 of these being from outside Europe. 6% are students, 2% from other professions.

The mean value of the global rating is 3.93, that is between 'Above average' and 'Excellent'.



The mean rating is slightly higher than previous congresses.

The lowest rating (3.44) is for the value of the registration fee, as in previous evaluations despite participants appreciating the venue (4.40) and good technical support (4.50), which were the items that were given the highest ratings.

For the Scientific Programme, we see a higher appreciation for the keynote speeches and their topics (4.07 and 4.04) while parallel sessions and posters had lower ratings (3.78 and 3.52). Selected invited speakers are a guarantee of high quality, on the other hand it would be very expensive to have more than three invited speakers. Dutch responders rated all items slightly lower than other responders did, but the rating was significantly lower only on 'Expectations', 'Posters', 'Exhibition' and 'Technical support'.

Comparison with previous congresses:

Comparison CPLOL editions			
	Berlin 2006	Ljubljana 2009	The Hague 2012
Participants	900	320	380
National/ Non National	600/300	90/230	200/180
Oral presentations	42	66	83
Posters	42	105	49
Mean rating	3.78	3.60	3.93

All the analysed figures, together with the members' opinions and views, will be the basis in the organization of future CPLOL events.



Raffaella Citro
VP Congress 2011-2013