



REPORT

10th CPLoL congress, Cascais, May 2018

Organization

The 10th CPLoL scientific congress “Effectiveness in Speech and Language Therapy: Science and Practice” was held at the Estoril Congress Center in Cascais, Portugal, from 10 to 12 May 2018. The CPLoL Executive Committee (EC), Associação Portuguesa de Terapeutas da Fala (APTF), and Leading Congress & Association Management cooperated in the organization of the event. The congress website www.cplolcongress2018.eu was set up for the event and will continue to be accessible until July 31, 2021.

Participants

621 participants representing 44 countries. 138 (22%) participants were from Portugal. The Netherlands (N = 44) and Italy (N = 38) had the largest delegations after the Portugal one. 293 (47%) of registered participants were authors or co-authors of presentations. The congress was particularly well attended, and the number of participants was higher than in previous congresses in The Hague (380) and in Ljubljana (320) but did not reach the attendance of Congresses in Florence (659) and Berlin (900).

APTF provided three student bursaries which covered congress registration fee and travel expenses.

Scientific programme

450 abstracts (340 Florence Congress) were submitted to the Scientific Committee for blinded reviewing. In total, 174 abstracts were submitted in the Child Language section (reviewers: K. Hansson, M. Vlassopoulos), 108 in the Child Non-language section (reviewers: T. Masdottir, H. Münch), 52 in the Adult Language section (reviewers: JL Nespoulous, F. Constantinidou), 64 in the Adult Non language section (reviewers: Y. Maryn, I. Guimaraes), and 52 in the Initial Education section (reviewers: H. Roddam, S. Topbaş). 15 (3%) abstracts were not accepted due to their insufficient scientific basis. 42 accepted poster presentations and 2 oral presentations were withdrawn by the authors before the event. The role of the Scientific committee was particularly significant because they were involved not only in the abstract review before the Congress but also took part in the evaluation of the presentations nominated for the awards.

A total number of submissions increased by 30% compared with the previous Congress in Florence. We observed twice as many abstracts’ submissions in the Child Non-language section and a slight increase of abstracts in the Child Language and Initial Education sections. The number of abstracts submitted in other sections was approximately the same.

Four keynote speeches were held during the congress (Prof. C. Code, Prof. J. Law, Prof. A. Castro Caldas, Prof. M. Walshe).



The final programme included 22 parallel sessions (121 presentations), 12 workshops, and 221 (146) poster presentations. Five congress rooms were used to carry out the programme. Due to the considerable number of accepted oral presentations, each parallel session included five 15 minute presentations and discussion at the end. Eight oral and five poster presentations were given in French without translation.

The most attended oral communication sessions during the congress were Child Language Disorders and Child Language Intervention. Relatively high number of congress participants attended the prize awarded movie “When I stutter” (director John Gomez).

The abstracts guidelines were revised and improved to provide more precise and structured information for the authors. The main criteria for the acceptance of abstracts in the programme were the importance of the topic, originality, overall quality, and completeness of the study.

The critical analysis of the Congress in Florence showed that posters’ presentations sessions could be improved, and new solutions were sought out for 2018. For the first time in the CPLoL congress history, e-poster presentations were made available to the authors. Forty-one e-posters sessions covering all SLT topics were included in the programme. Five to eight presentations were scheduled for each session in which the authors had 5 minutes to present their research project.

The feedback after the congress showed a dual reaction to the electronic viewing of posters. There was not prevailing opinion by survey respondents. The electronic viewing of posters was rated as poor (1) by 20.4%, 2 – 17.6%, 3 – 21.2%, 4 – 22.9%, excellent (5) – 18.0%. Probably the idea of e-posters is viable, and it is worthwhile to consider it in the organization of the next Congress. However, the practical organization of e-poster presentations should be improved.

The award for the best oral and best poster presentation was set up by the APTF.

All abstracts were published in the Book of Abstracts (ISBN 978-2-9552505-1-8, Ed. B. Trinite). Abstracts included in the book were edited in both English and French (M. Vlassopoulos, M. Kaufmann-Meyer).

Overall evaluation

The congress was formally evaluated with the same questionnaire scales as the previous congresses to be able to make a comparison. Two new questions were included in the questionnaire 2018 about the evaluation of e-posters. The request to give feedback was sent to all congress participants. 245 (40%) responded. 85% of them were professional SLTs, 3% students, 12% others.

Concerning the first information about the Congress, 43% (106) of the participants reported that they received it from their national SLT associations, 28% (69) from the CPLoL website, and 29% (70) from other sources, such as COST Action, Universities, colleagues, professors, previous CPLoL congress, presentations of the CPLoL president.

As the most important reason for attending the Congress, 25% of respondents mentioned the overall congress programme, 40% to present their research, 14% keynote speakers, 20% attractive



destination, 15% reasonable registration fee and 11% workshops. 47% of all registrations were related to own papers presented at the Congress.

The mean value of the overall congress rating was 3,75. In general, the Congress met the expectations of participants (mean 3,83).

The following mean ratings were obtained:

registration fee	3,14
choice of keynote speakers	3,78
topics of keynote speeches	3,66
oral communication sessions in general	3,96
e-posters sessions in general	3,54
electronic viewing of e-posters	3,00
exhibition	3,19
dinner	4,06
organization prior Congress	3,92
website	3,88
online registration	3,96
communication by e-mails and newsletters	3,94
organization during the Congress	4,14
Congress venue	4,27
technical support	4,26
catering	3,25

Conclusions

The 10th Congress of European Speech and Language Therapists in 2018 was one of the most successful ones. Compared to the last 5 congresses, and except for the 9th edition, it registered more attendance than ever. The overall feedbacks from attendants were very positive and many presenters and attendant saluted the high quality and diversity of the programme. The innovations with the showing of a movie and the presentations of poster in electronic form, were met with mostly positive resonance. Like in the years before, the interest of the location and the attractive surroundings added to the success and to the satisfaction of attendees. For the organizing committee, the intensity and the amount of involvement for the 10th international European SLT congress was worthwhile and permitted to reach results beyond all expectations. The positive financial outcome adds to the overall success and allows to conclude on a feeling of real satisfaction. Seeing the happy faces during the congress at oral presentations, workshops, e-poster presentations or during the meet-and-greet-breaks was a sign showing that we had reached the set goal: to propose a unique and attractive congress to the SLT community.

Baiba Trinite

Vice President Congress



July 28, 2018