

### **CPLOL Covid-19 survey report**

The survey was carried out during the **first week of April**, therefore just a few weeks after the pandemic was declared. We had 30 responses from 27 European countries.

It was reported that government authorities did not recommend **telepractice** in 10 of these countries. Thirteen countries reported there is no mention of telepractice in legislation, while two reported that it is illegal to carry out telepractice.

Several countries reported that only emergency cases and hospital patients were being seen at the time. One country reported that the professional organisation begged the government for 4 weeks before services were finally stopped due to high risk factors. **Insurance companies** do not reimburse speech-language therapy sessions in at least 12 countries (nine reported they did not know, probably since respondents work mostly in the public sector). Three countries reported that they were allowed to carry out phone consultations, however, these would not be reimbursed by insurance companies.

All countries reported that they were granted special leave to stay at home, with the exception of one, where SLTs could stay at home but receive no pay. As at the first week of April six respondents reported that their government had not yet announced any economic measures to aid those professionals in self-employment who suffered significant losses to their income.

18 professional SLT organisations were pro-active and issued guidelines regarding measures to be taken by their members in the current situation. For those working in hospitals, six countries reported they were not given protective gear, four of which were not even given any training or advice on protective measures. Another three reported they were provided with PEPs but no training or advice on protective measures. When asked whether SLTs working with potentially Covid-19 positive patients were tested, only two countries reported they were.

This survey shows there are discrepancies amongst European countries with regard to allowances of service delivery and measures drawn up by authorities. We are seeking to alert authorities and European institutions, to ensure that all European countries have established regulations that allow the legitimate service delivery of therapy and that is covered by the insurance.