

November, 12th, 2020

Re. Period of transferring Speech and Therapist education into a fully academically education with a Bachelor degree nationally extended until 2026

Since 2016, the BSV and other federations of Speech and Language Therapists students demonstrate a close and continued collaboration through meetings and exchange at congresses between students from Switzerland, Australia, Austria, France and Germany. We strongly affirm how inspiring international perspectives and connections can be for Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) in education.

During the exchange with other countries it appears that Germany is the only country still teaching in technical vocational schools even though the level of education is highly regarded. Due to the outdated educational structure, Germany does not meet the same academic standard as compared to international standards. Especially since there is a scientific proof that there is a huge difference in the expertise of therapists only holding a state certificate and therapists with a full academic bachelor's degree. Furthermore, there is a big disadvantage for those who are not holding an academic degree considering the chances of gaining valued international working experience. German SLT's which completed 3 years of education and are holding a state certificate are not able to work in other countries. In addition, german SLT students are not encouraged to do cross-country internships, since the law of the SLT profession doesn't acknowledge these

There is also a huge drift from the professionals holding an academic degree to other countries, since the appreciation for SLT's in Germany lays behind in comparison to other European nations.

The German legislation is completely reconditioned and needs to adapt to international standards. The verification of evidence-based practice patient care and patient safety is only feasible with an adequate law which is focused on the education. Speech and Language Therapists need to be able to connect easier to provide best knowledge and expertise for clients and patients. This is not possible if the law prevents german SLT students to profit and develop their skills through international exchange about evidence-based practice and science.

Therefore, we are demand the immediate holistic academic qualification for Speech and Language Therapists in Germany.

Yours sincerely,



Madeline Gausepohl (BSV, Germany)
gausepohl@dbi-ev.de



Mathilde Grousset (FNEO, France)
vp.international.fneo@gmail.com

and the team "Internationality"
Lena Jacobs (BSV, Australia/Germany)
Jana Seidel (BSV, Germany)