

## THE JOB

### BELGIUM



**Name** : Logopédie<sup>1</sup>

**Definition** : The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) is a practitioner of a paramedical profession providing:

- Prevention
- Analysis / diagnosis
- Treatment of disorders and impairments of language, speech, voice, hearing and primary functions of the mouth (sucking, swallowing and chewing).

#### **Statistics** :

9/10 SLTs are female.

The average age is 37.6 years old.

Studies :

- 82% of SLTs have a Bachelor
- 18% have a Master
- 1% have a doctorate

**Where do SLTs work ?** SLTs may either work :

- In a private practice (45%)
- As a salaried worker in a hospital, a care centre, a clinic... (30%)

Some SLTs do both (25%).

#### **National Associations of Professionals** :

- UPLF (*Union Professionnelle des Logopèdes Francophones*) : it is the association with the most members in Belgium.
- ASELF (*Association Scientifique et Ethique des Logopèdes Francophones*) : this association is reserved to SLTs who have a master's degree.
- VVL (*Vlaamse Vereniging voor Logopedisten*) : for Dutch SLTs.

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<sup>1</sup> In Belgium, there is a French-speaking population and a Dutch-speaking population. Here only the French-speaking part will be presented.



**Name :** Orthophonie

**Definition :** A Speech and Language Therapist is a paramedical profession. The missions of speech therapists are threefold : prevention, evaluation and rehabilitation.

### Prevention

By making information available for the public, schools, families, professionals who work with children...  
With precocious screening of disorders and therapeutic actions

### Evaluation

A prescription by a General Practitioner (GP) is compulsory. The clinical diagnosis includes an anamnesis and objective tests. It is the SLT who makes the diagnosis and decides if a rehabilitation is necessary.

### Rehabilitation

A prescription by a GP is compulsory.  
The SLT can set with the patient either 30 or 50 sessions renewable. The sessions last 30 or 45 mins (depending on the pathology). Once the sessions are over, the patient needs another prescription by the GP and another SLT evaluation. It is the SLT who decides when the rehabilitation is no longer needed.  
Most of the tools used are edited by special SLP editors.

### Pathologies :

- Oral language, speech and fluency disorders (stuttering)
- Autism
- Written language disorders
- Mathematical cognitive disorders
- Orality disorders
- Language disorders due to hearing impairment
- Swallowing disorders
- Phonation disorders
- Aphasia and alexia
- Dysarthria
- Neurodegenerative diseases and dementia
- Any language or communication disorders caused by severe disabilities (handicap)

**Where do SLTs work ?** SLTs may either work :

- In a private practice
- As a salaried worker in a hospital, a care centre, a clinic...

Some SLTs do both.

### Salary :

- In a private practice : the cost of a therapy session is relative to the type of pathology and the number of sessions which are provided.
- As a salaried worker : the salary is fixed (slight increase with the years of experience).

The French health insurance reimburses the patient 60% of the cost of an SLT session.

**National Associations of Professionals :** FNO (*Fédération Nationale des Orthophoniste*), FOF (*Fédération des Orthophonistes de France*).



**Name :** *Logopedia*

**Definition :** Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) is focused on a range of human communication and swallowing disorders affecting people of all ages.

Speech and Language Therapists are considered as healthcare operators : they can operate within the Italian National Health Service as employees or freelancers.

Speech Therapists perform therapeutic activities on their own or in multidisciplinary teams to rehabilitate individuals with communicative and cognitive disabilities, using therapies enabling and rehabilitating communication and language, both verbal and non-verbal.

The figure of speech therapist is many times allied with audiology, behaviour analysis, optometry, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, physical therapy, dentist, nurse, dietitian, and others.

**Missions :** The main missions of an SLT are to :

- Put forth help measures
- Train staff and assess their effectiveness
- Perform studies
- Offer education and professional advice
- Check if the implemented rehabilitation methods and functional recovery objectives match.

**Pathologies :**

- Speech Disorders
- Language Disorders
- Social Communication Disorders
- Cognitive-Communication Disorders
- Swallowing Disorders

**Where do SLTs work ?**

- In a private practice
- As a salaried worker in private credited hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centres, as well as in state educational facilities or local authorities.

Most SLTs do both.

**National Association of Professionals :** FLI (*Federazione Logopedisti Italiani*).



**Name :** *Logopedie*

**Pathologies :**

- Speech and language disorders in children
- Stuttering
- Reading and writing disabilities
- Voice disorders
- Congenital communication and swallowing disorders
- Acquired communication and swallowing disorders
- Cleft palate speech

**Tools :** The tools used for rehabilitation are traditional : worksheets, pencils, papers... Children's games can be used, or digital tools.

**Where do SLTs work ?** Most SLTs work as salaried workers, in clinics, hospitals, care centres, and schools. They can also have their own private practice.

**Salary :**

- Newly graduated : 2 800€
- 10 years after graduation : 3 100€
- 20 years after graduation : 3 350€

**National Association of Professionals :** SLF (*Svenska LogopedFörbundet*)