# Perceptions of Speech and Language Therapy students about motivations, current practices, challenges and the future of the profession

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## Aims and objetives

► To characterize Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) student's:
- **motivations** for enrolling in SLT programes;
- **perceptions** regarding current practices such as **telepractice and the use of new technologies**;
- **perspectives for the future** of the profession;
- **suggestions for community actions** to promote knowledge about SLT;

## Background

SLT has less representation in terms of the number of health professionals (when compared to, e.g., nurses or phisiotherapists), the number of training programmes as well as the candidates to enroll in these programmes.
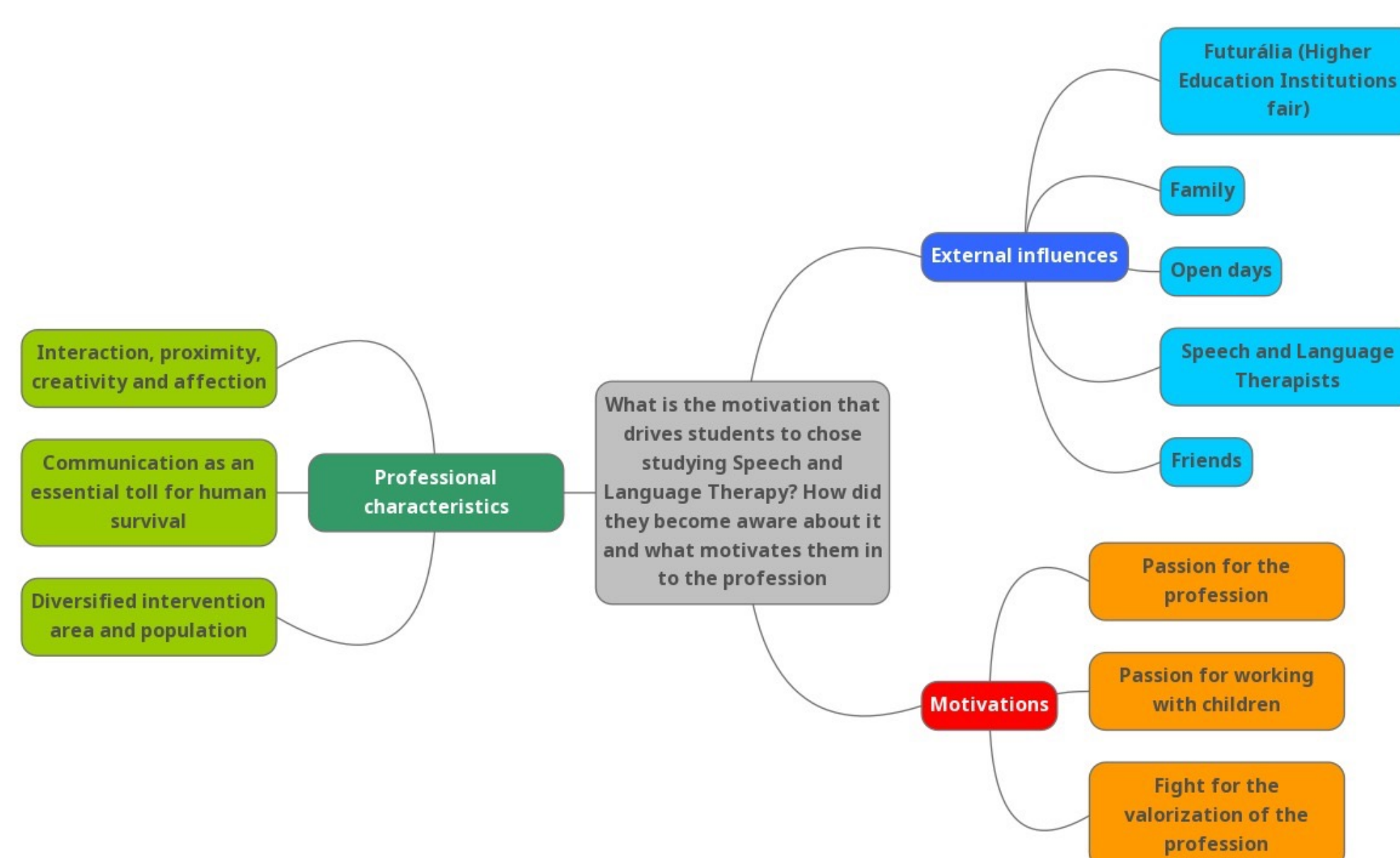
## Methods

**World Café** in an online event (*Vem beber um café... Vamos falar de Terapia da Fala*) held on the European Day of SLT in 2021 (6th of March of 2021)

**Participants**    **21 SLT students** from all the 6 SLT 1st cycle training programmes in Portugal
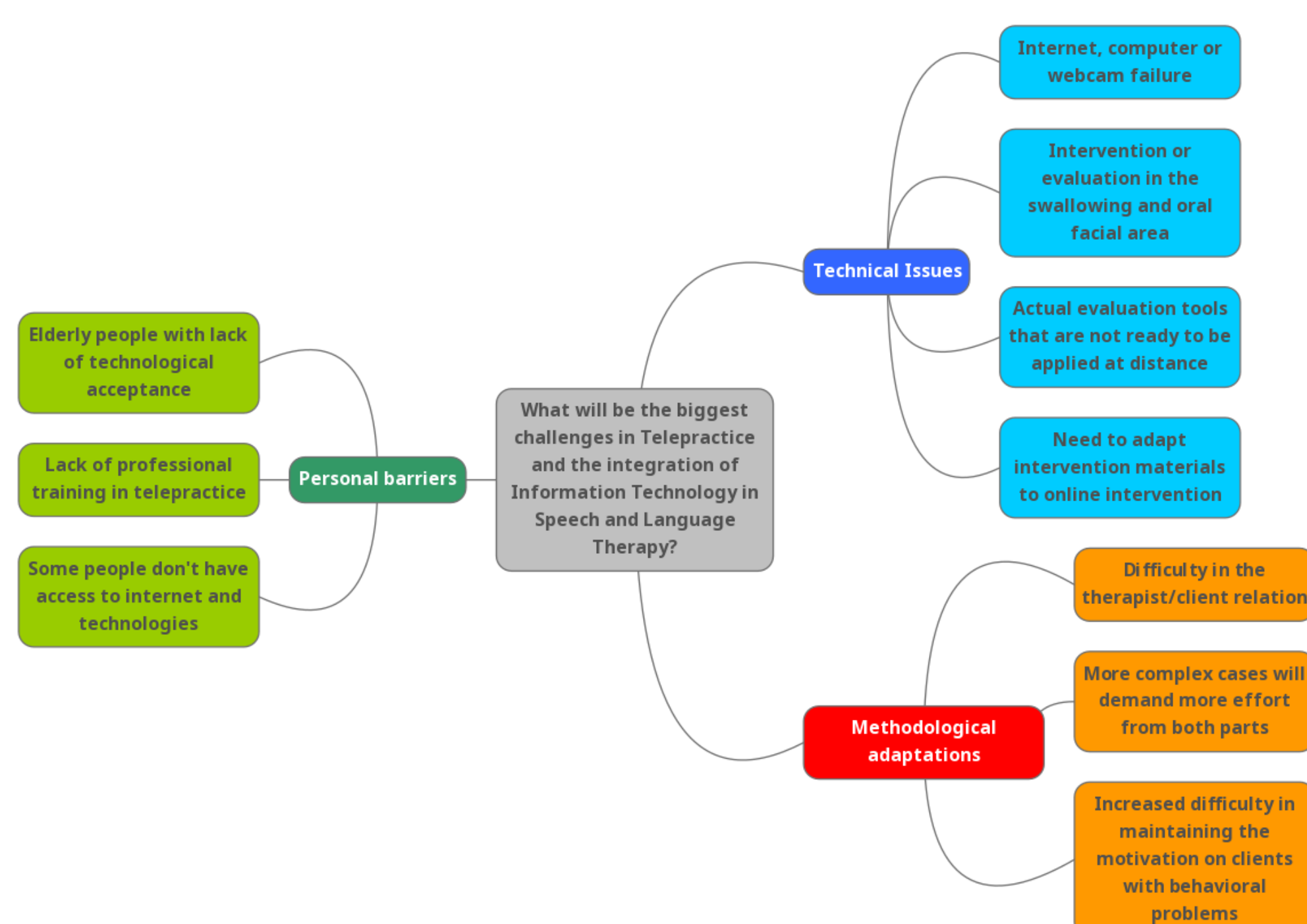
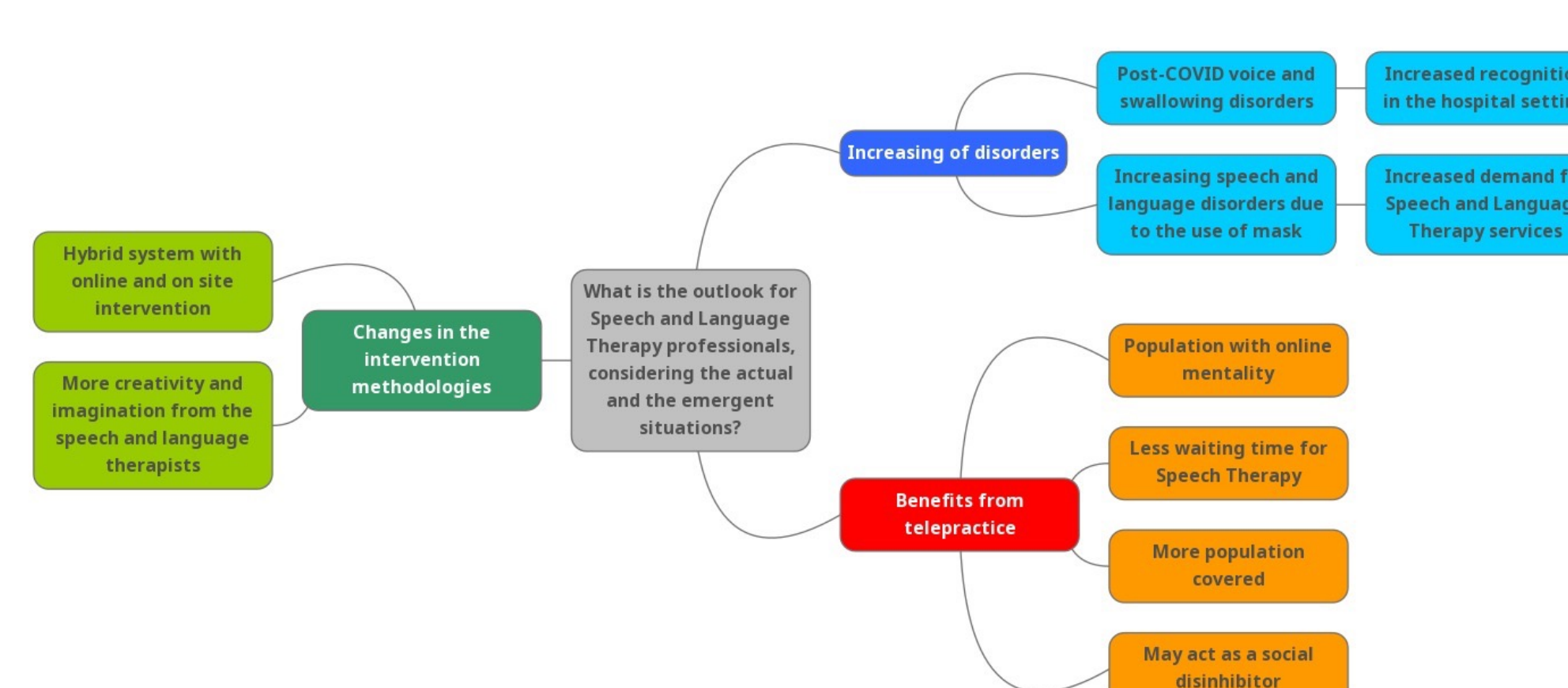| HEI | region | GENDER | | YEAR OF PROGRAMME | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | feminine | masculine | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
| **ESS/IPS** | Setúbal | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **ESSA** | Lisboa | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | |
| **ESSLei** | Leiria | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **ESSUA** | Aveiro | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **UFP** | Porto | 3 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| **ESS-IPP** | Porto | 3 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 |

## Results

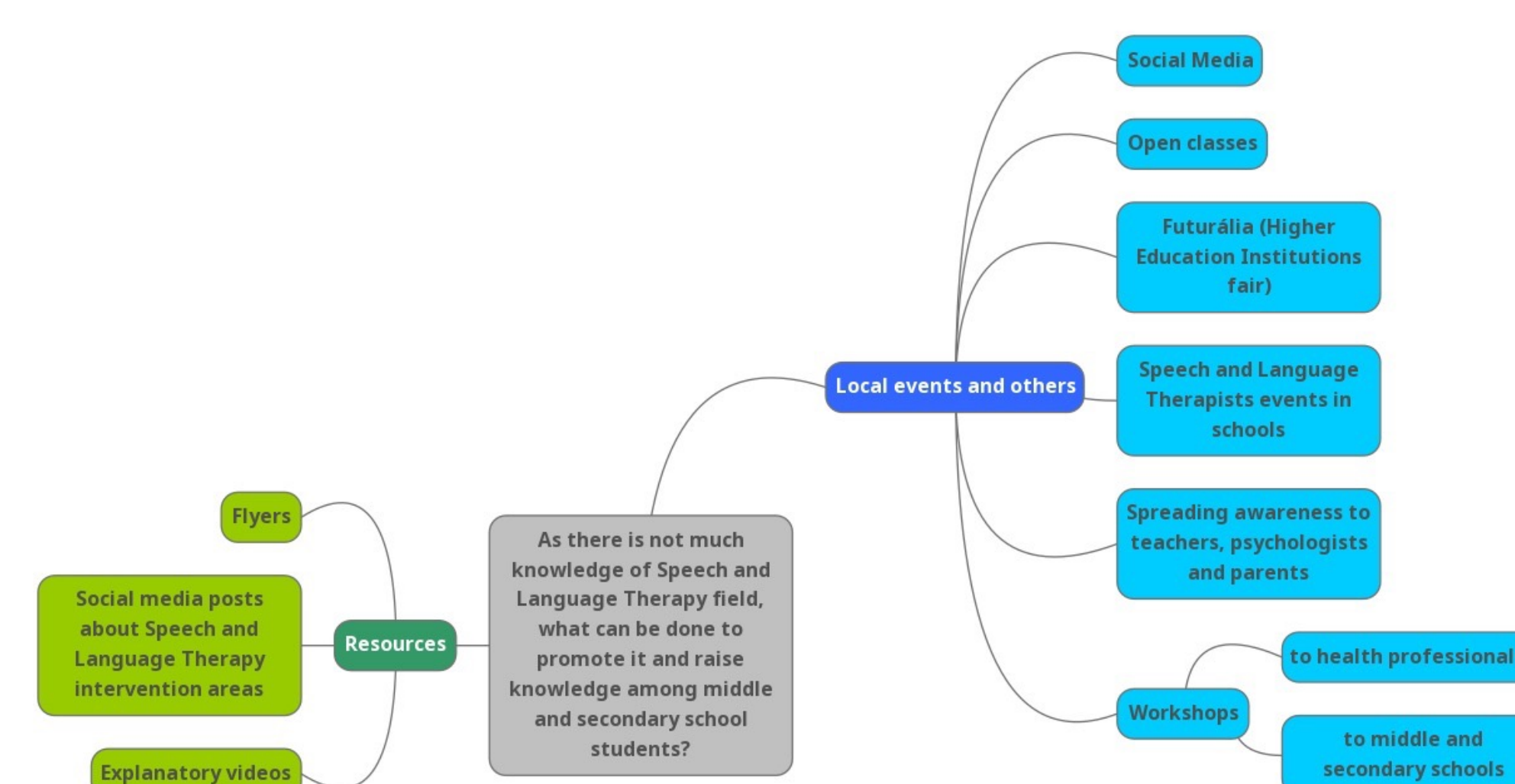### MOTIVATIONS for the profession



### TELEPRACTICE and the USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES



### PERSPECTIVES for the future



### DIVULGATION of the profession and field



## Conclusions

- Motivation for choosing SLT programmes and the profession is related to affective factors, influence of significant people and the characteristics of the profession, namely because it covers different levels of intervention and populations.
- Telepractice and the use of new technologies is seen as a positive change and challenge to the future of the profession.
- The need to disseminate the profession to the community was expressed, and in particular, using social networks, information leaflets, open classes, awareness campaigns and actions targeting future professionals (students of middle and secondary schools), caregivers and other professionals such as health and education professionals.