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Power wheelchair driving training and provision in France and United Kingdom: A survey comparing practices

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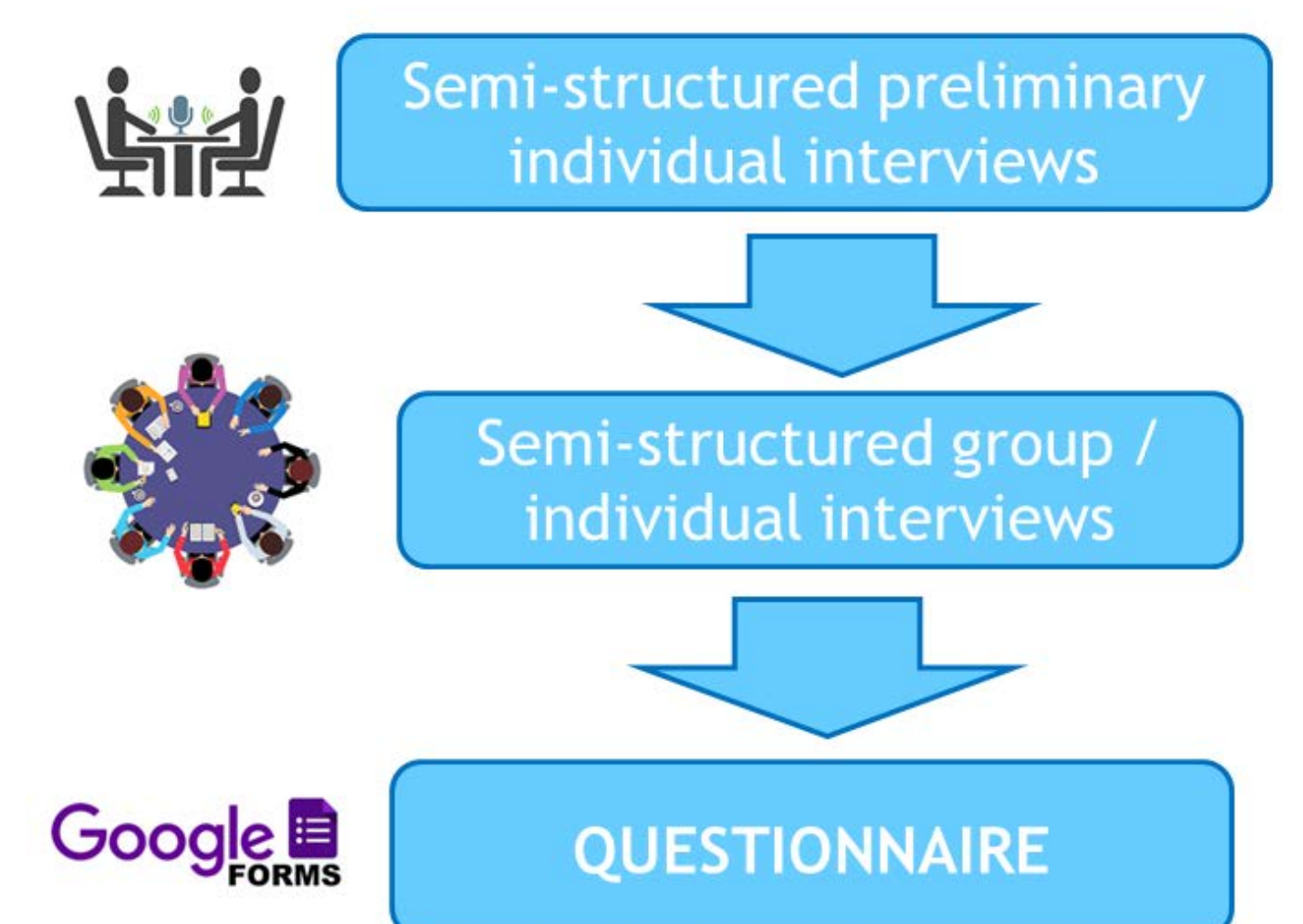


INTRODUCTION

- The prevalence of people using wheelchairs increasing in developed countries with 60 to 200 users per 10,000 inhabitants. [1].
- In France and United Kingdom, the process from referral to provision is organized but the practices of referral, assessment, provision and training are not standardized [2].
- This is a report of a survey of health care professionals on the training on those professionals and the process of providing powered wheelchairs (PWs) in France and the United Kingdom(UK),

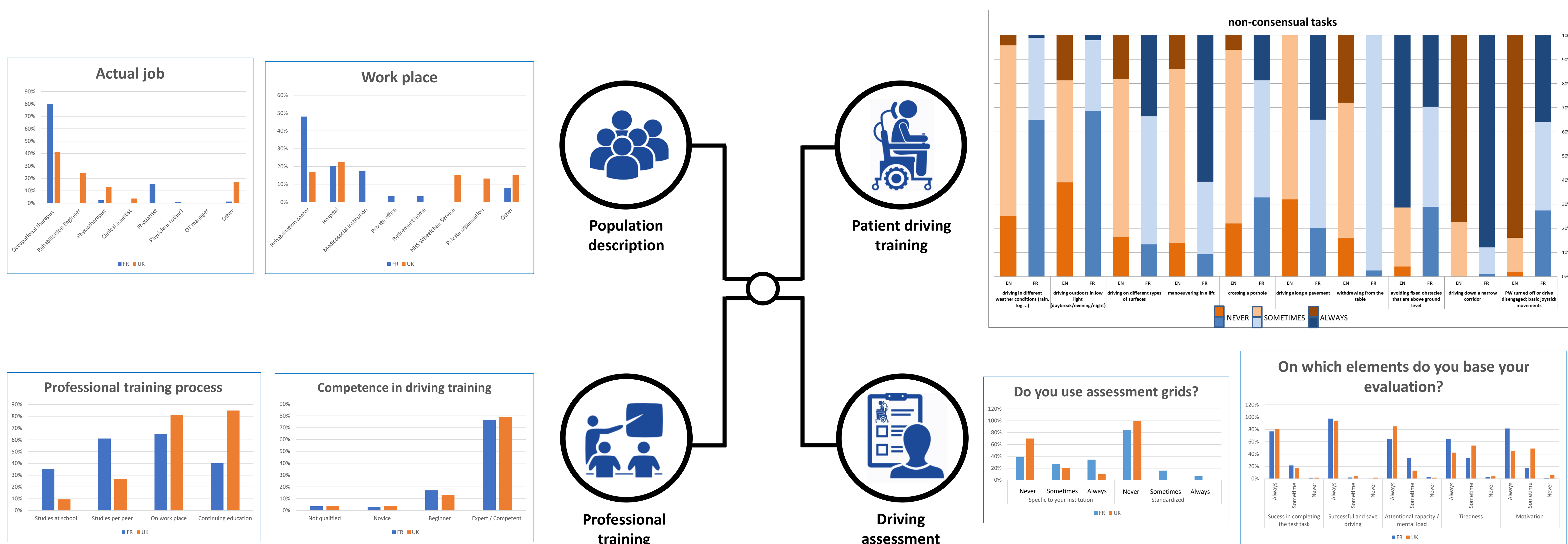
METHOD

- The survey was based on a literature review and exploratory interviews with French and British experts in training and PW provision. The questionnaire topics included 36 questions about the **profile of the respondents, their training, user driving assessment and training practices**.
- This survey was conducted with French and British professionals involved in the provision of PWs.
- An online questionnaire was sent to **rehabilitation units in France, and NHS services in UK**, involved in the training and provision. The study received HRA and HCRW Approval. The online questionnaire was open from November 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018.



MAIN RESULTS

- **367 responses** received.
- Heterogeneity of the health care professionals involved in PW provision, and their training,
- High level of competence and confidence claimed for user assessment training and training driving,
- The lack of a standardized user driving training process.



DISCUSSION - CONCLUSION

- While there is a basic consensus regarding training tasks, the training process and assessment are relatively subjective in both France and UK,
- This survey is in line with the conclusions of Le Ray [2] and Bozec [3] concerning the lack of practices standardization. Despite this lack of standardization for the PW users training and the training of the trainers, this survey indicates that range of practices are quite similar on both sides of the Channel.
- These data will inform the three main objectives of the ADAPT project which are to develop a smart wheelchair, a virtual reality powered wheelchair simulator, and a training program in assistive technologies including the devices developed in ADAPT.

[1] Vignier N. et al. Demographics of wheelchair users in France: results of national community-based handicaps-incapacités-dépendance surveys. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*. 2008 Mar;40(3):231-9

[2] Le Ray and al., The Electric Wheelchair User Aptitude Certificate (CAUFRE) [Certificat d'aptitude à l'utilisation du fauteuil roulant électrique], la lettre de médecine physique et de réadaptation, 2012, volume 28, pages194-195

[3] Bozec T., Evaluation et accompagnement en ergothérapie lors de l'acquisition d'un fauteuil roulant électrique, sous la direction de Caroline Diplas, IFE Rennes, 2013