

COTEC

Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



Newsletter

December 2017

Editorial

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Season's Greetings!

I hope you have enjoyed celebrations with your significant others, families and friends.

At this time of the year we all have our different traditions and it is lovely to hear from others how they have marked this time - from feasts (there do seem to be many of us indulging in eating and drinking!) to religious services of all denominations. We truly are occupational beings.

As the newest member of the COTEC executive group I am still finding out about the breadth of our organisation and how we are making our Presidents goal to "make Occupational Therapy recognised, visible, valued and accessible for all citizens across Europe" an actuality.

I have been touched at the welcome I have received and am looking forward to our next face-to-face meeting in January. This is particularly significant for me as not only will I have the opportunity to see my COTEC colleagues, but also to work with our ROTOS committee as they continue the exciting journey of developing the research agenda for Occupational Therapists working together across Europe. This is particularly inspiring for me as one of my first contacts with COTEC was when I was Chair of our British organisation and attended the 2012 COTEC conference in Stockholm (Sweden) and the idea of collaborating across Europe on research was on the business agenda. Sometimes it takes time for the right structures to emerge - as we can all experience in our professional lives.

I am also eagerly anticipating the OT-EU part of our time together. There is strength in Practice, Education and Research collaborating to raise the profile of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapists that is really exciting, and I am keen to play a part in this.

Moving into a new year is a time of reflection for me, and one of the important experiences of 2017 was attending the COTEC general assembly in Vienna, meeting many new representatives and hearing about all the initiatives underway - both centrally and in different countries. I feel very lucky and humbled that business is undertaken in English. I was so impressed at the way everyone around the table was able to participate and contribute. I will now have to study hard to recognise all the flags of the COTEC countries!

On behalf of the COTEC Executive Committee I wish you a happy and healthy 2018 and much success in all your ventures.

Naomi Hankinson,
COTEC Vice President

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News from COTEC Member Associations

In every COTEC Newsletter issue there are short news from a number of COTEC Member associations included.



For the last period of time, [Georgian Occupational Therapist's association \(GEOTA\)](#) was engaged in productive and educative activities and events, including engagement in World Occupational Therapy Day.



Latvijas Ergoterapeitu Asociācija
Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists
Association Lettone des Ergothérapeutes

The celebration of World Occupational therapy day in Latvia is expanding with every year. This year, various activities were carried out reflecting the daily work of occupational therapists by the [Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists](#).

[Slovenian Association of Occupational Therapists \(ZDTS\)](#) has organized several different events in 2017 with the aim of promotion and recognition of Occupational Therapy profession.



ENOTHE Annual Meeting 2017

COTEC Executive Committee Member Patric Duletzki attended the 23rd ENOTHE Annual Meeting, this time in Zagreb. The occupational therapy profession was growing over the years in Croatia and passed the threshold to be being an established provider of health and social services among the health professions in this country.

At the General Assembly common COTEC and ENOTHE such as continued funding for the OT-EU umbrella and a shared register of experts were discussed and approved. Furthermore an OT-EU workshop was jointly conducted by Johanna Stadler-Grillmayer and Patric Duletzki to promote on strong voice for occupational therapy in Europe.

One of the highlights of this meeting was the Gala Diner. Under the theme "Eating without Borders" many students got the chance to participate and network with researchers, educators and lecturers from across Europe. A choir of individuals who suffered from laryngectomy entertained the gathering with a couple songs. These ambitious people were able to demonstrate what it means, to do something meaningful despite all challenges.

At the end of the conference Mieke le Granse gave an inspiring Hanneke van Bruggen lecture. A video from the Escola Superior de Saúde do Alcoitão invited all participants to visit next year's annual ENOTHE meeting in Estoril.

Special thanks to Saša Radić, the Croatian Occupational Therapists Association and the ENOTHE office and Board that have worked hard to organise such a high quality event.



Johanna Stadler-Grillmayer and Patric Duletzki



The organisers: Saša Radić, the Croatian Occupational Therapists Association



Introducing the Career Development Framework: guiding principles for occupational therapy

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) Career Development Framework: guiding principles for occupational therapy, launched in September 2017, offers a set of principles for planning careers, learning and development. It is for everyone working in occupational therapy including support workers, students and registered professionals. It was co-created with members and non-members in order to develop an accessible and meaningful resource.

The Career Development Framework is an exciting new resource for the profession. The Four Pillars of Practice help occupational therapy personnel think broadly about their learning in relation to Professional Practice; Facilitation of Learning; Leadership; and Evidence, Research and Development. The resource is available as an interactive pdf and is accompanied by an implementation guide offering advice on ways to use it from some of the hundreds of people who co-created it. RCOT membership gives exclusive access to related tools, templates and resources too.

It can be viewed at:

www.rcot.co.uk/CareerDevelopmentFramework



Royal College
of Occupational
Therapists

A twelve-month implementation plan is also in place to aid its use in practice and, as part of this process, we would like to engage in dialogue with colleagues beyond the UK to hear your thoughts on its potential transferability.



Innovative Health Systems Reform

On November 28th 2017, policymakers and health representatives met within the framework of the European Parliamentary Interest Group on Innovation on health and social care to spur debate on the role of innovation in supporting the re-organisation of health workers to build effective and sustainable healthcare delivery across Europe. In this frame, the meeting entitled Innovative Health Systems Reform: Boosting workforce to meet new demands in healthcare systems provided the opportunity to exchange views on the development of a sustainable, innovative and flexible health and social workforce bound to the citizen and able to provide a successful and sustainable healthcare delivery in the future, making health systems resilient to future changes.

Stephanie Saenger President of COTEC attended the meeting and explained Occupational Therapy is a key profession in primary care and integrated care and can contribute to sustainable client centred health systems. Professor Jan de Maeseneer stated that Occupational Therapy is the most underused profession in Primary Care.

For more information see:

1. [2017 Companion Report Health Systems](#)
2. [Discussion Paper Health Systems](#)
3. [Jan de Maeseneer Boosting Workforce](#)
4. [Skill-mix Reforms and Innovations](#)

The full report is available [here](#).



Stephanie Saenger, President of COTEC at the meeting

Occupational Therapy Show



On November 22nd and 23rd the Occupational the Occupational therapy show was held in the NEC in Birmingham.

There were thousands of Occupational Therapists in the NEC at this free event which combines a trade event with education.

President Stephanie Saenger was invited to hold speech in the key note theatre and talked about: Occupational Therapy Visible & Valued in Europe: what do we do and what do we need?

She explained the work of COTEC, ENOTHE, ROTOS and OT-EU and stressed the need of being a member of your national association.

She visited the stand of RCOT several times during the event and attended the session of RCOT about the Career Framework, see elsewhere in this newsletter.

It was great to meet so many Occupational "superstars", OT clinicians and to see so many occupational therapy related exhibitors stands. During the event she made contacts which might be beneficial for the Joint COTEC ENOTHE congress in Prague in 2020.

For more information see the website of the OT-Show: <http://www.theotshow.com/welcome-to-OT#/>



Stephanie Saenger giving her speech



The SuperOT selfie station



European Patients' Forum Access Campaign



On Wednesday December 6th, President Stephanie Saenger attended the closing ceremony of the European Patients' Forum Access Campaign in European Parliament.

MEP Miriam Dalli from Malta, one of the 'champion MEP's of the campaign chaired the session which was attended by many patient representatives, policy makers and people of the pharmaceutical industry.

The panel consisted of the other MEP's campaign champions:

<http://www.eu-patient.eu/campaign/access-to-healthcare/meet-the-5-champion-meps-of-the-access2030-campaign/>

During the meeting it was stressed measures should be taken to make universal health coverage possible by 2030. EU Commissioner of Health and Food safety Vytenis Andriukaitis spoke at the meeting and explained some of the reports and policies. The need to strengthen the primary care was again one of the recommendations mentioned.



EU Commissioner of Health and Food safety Vytenis Andriukaitis

By tweeting about the meeting we generated exposure for COTEC and Occupational Therapy.

For more information about the Roadmap: [EPF's Roadmap "Taking action to achieving universal health coverage for all by 2030"](#)

A factsheet is available here:

http://www.eu-patient.eu/globalassets/campaign-on-access/access_to_healthcare_ii.pdf

A full report will be available soon!

COTEC Secretarial News

Summary of Profession

The Summary of the Occupational Therapy Profession will again be collated in 2018. The questionnaire will be circulated to all COTEC Member associations in the beginning of January and the final document will be published in April. For any questions, please turn to Patric Duletzki, patric.duletzki@coteceurope.eu

COTEC General Assembly 2018

The 6th COTEC GA will be held in Portugal October 7th, 2018 (date and location to be confirmed). There will be a Governance Day program the day before, and GA representatives are asked to consider also attending a part of the ENOTHE meeting held in Portugal October 4-6th, 2018.

COTEC Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. The next Skype meetings are scheduled for Thursday, January 11th and Thursday, February 8th 2018. For agenda items and other issues or proposals please contact anu.soderstrom@coteceurope.eu. The meetings are scheduled to start at 18:00 CET all the above mentioned dates.

COTEC Executive Committee next face-to-face meeting will take place in Abcoude January 26-27th, 2018 and meetings with ENOTHE and ROTOS are also scheduled whilst in Abcoude.



COTEC on social media

Please join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/COTECEurope/> and follow us on Twitter @CotecEurope and make COTEC and occupational therapy more visible in Europe.

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Happy New Year!



***We wish you and your loved ones a lot of new dreams,
hopes, experiences and joys!***