

COTEC

Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



Newsletter

March 2016

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Editorial



Patric Duletzki, Member of the COTEC Executive Committee

I have been a member of the Executive Committee (EC) for six months now, and it is my time to write the editorial. I was very excited when my first article about „Free mobility of health professionals within the European Union“ was published in 2015 in COTEC newsletter. Back then I was not yet part of the EC; today I would like to write about my impressions of being part of COTEC EC.

So far it has been a very exciting time, the first thing was and still is to understand how the daily activities work within a pan-European organisation like COTEC. It appeared to me pretty fast, that in addition to skype meetings, the interim face to face meetings are vital to achieve progress in accordance with the COTEC Action plan. During these meetings we have the chance to reflect about what happened, discuss issues that arose, and decide on how to proceed. Reading across the minutes of the last two meetings I identified five main areas that were repeatedly discussed. These are member associations, the congress in Galway,

professional issues, collaboration with other organisations and issues part of the internal organisation. Giving all these topics the importance they need, is what determines a good decision making process. However I asked myself, how is it possible to balance the priorities amongst the aforementioned issues and simultaneously include the mandate of the general assembly (GA)? Working with colleagues that have been involved with COTEC for many years, demonstrated me, that not only keeping in mind the resolutions of the last GA is of significance, but also the development of occupational therapy in Europe through the years. Thankfully, they all are blessed with patience and take some of their free time to help me understand the changes COTEC went through. From the day COTEC was founded 30 years ago in 1986 (which is my year of birth) until the point ENOTHE was established, beyond the development of the Tuning competences, till this year when we are going to arrange the first COTEC-ENOTHE joint congress. These steps in COTEC's history show how occupational therapists advocate for our profession. I sincerely hope that we will always have dedicated and experienced occupational therapists to promote occupational therapy all over Europe, as described in this editorial, to make it accessible for all individuals and communities in need.

Patric Duletzki, Member of the COTEC Executive Committee

Joint COTEC-ENOTHE Congress Galway June 2016

The Congress Organising Committee and Scientific Committee have been working hard to ensure that delegates will have an exciting and fulfilling experience in Galway in June.

There have been 404 oral papers, 303 posters, 13 symposia and 87 workshops accepted and, at close of play on 14 March 730 delegates had already registered as early bird registrants. So, the first Joint Congress is shaping up to provide a first rate event with the provisional programme being well on its way to completion.

It's not too late to register – go to the Congress website to make sure that you are there.

The Congress will also include eight workshops on issues of significance for the profession in Europe for example, how we can best use research, the importance of fieldwork placements for students, working with refugees, e health. If you're planning to be at Congress make sure you come along and have your say.



Organising Committee Members: (from left to right)

- Anne Lawson-Porter; COTEC Joint Congress Link

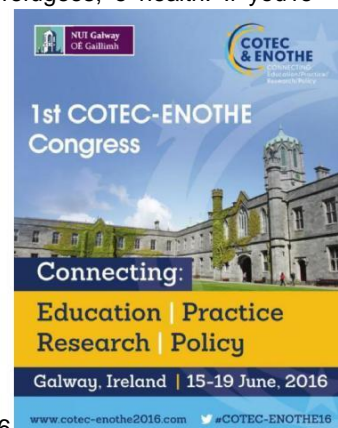
- Inés Viana-Moldes; ENOTHE Joint Congress Link

- Agnes Shiel; NUI Galway Host

- Mandy Boaz; ENOTHE Office

Not on the picture but also a member:

- Anu Söderström.



Facebook: COTEC-ENOTHE Congress 2016

Twitter: @COTEC_ENOTHE #COTEC-ENOTHE16

Website: <http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?conference=182>

Email: conference@nuigalway.ie

COTEC 1986-2016

As you might be aware COTEC is celebrating its 30th birthday this year.

The first joint congress offers an excellent opportunity to organize some small events to mark this occasion.

COTEC was established in 1986 to co-ordinate the views of the National Associations of Occupational Therapy of the then Member States of the European Communities. The European Council in Brussels agreed in 1983 that "mutual recognition for diplomas was an important step in creating satisfactory conditions for the exercise of a number of professions" including occupational therapists.

The name of COTEC has been changed over the years from Committee of European Occupational Therapists (1986) via Committee of Occupational Therapists for the European Communities (1987) to Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (2000-2001). Many meetings and successful congresses were organized by National Associations and hundreds of occupational therapists have given their time, expertise and energy to make COTEC what is today: a legal European organization that enables National Associations of Occupational Therapists to work together to develop, harmonise and improve standards of professional practice through a robust educational system, as well as advance the theory of Occupational Therapy throughout Europe to best address the social and health issues affecting the citizens of Europe.

COTEC has been connecting Occupational therapists in Europe for 30 years and will continue to do so striving to make Occupational Therapy visible, valued, available and accessible for all citizens in Europe.

COTEC Picture Poster Competition 2016

COTEC Executive Committee has announced COTEC Picture poster competition 2016. The theme of the competition is "COTEC Connecting OTs for 30 years – what will our future look like?"

The Poster competition acknowledges the 30th Anniversary of the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries, COTEC, in 2016.

Please [read more](#) and see guidelines

COTEC Executive Interim Meetings

COTEC Executive Committee has had two Interim Meetings in early 2016; the first one January 20-21 with ENOTHE Board and the second one March 11-12. Further details about the meetings can be accessed through this [link](#).

COTEC Register of Experts

First nominations to the Register of Experts were made in early 2015 when eight COTEC Member Associations acted on the call made by COTEC Executive Committee. By today eleven associations have sent names of Experts and more nominations are expected in the near future.

The Register now has 66 individuals and seven national specialist groups in the eight Expert groups. The priorities for WHO Health 2020 and Europe 2020 were referred to when initialising the need for specific groups of Experts.

Read more about the [Register of Experts](#) and find out how you could get involved

New Website



A big share of COTEC's communication is internet based, since we went online with our long anticipated new website (www.coteceurope.eu) we improved visibility of topics concerning occupational therapists throughout Europe. COTEC's website provides documents such as position statements and the annual summary of the profession. Since 2015 we can also inform about the occupational therapy profession on a European map in the statistics section underneath the bullet point "professional issues". Here you can also find the Guidelines for a Code of Ethics, on which the national codes of ethics in the Netherlands and Germany are based. Furthermore the COTEC Executive Committee maintains an up to date newsfeed for OT, health and social affairs in general. Here you can find calls for abstracts, interesting congresses and calls for action. Now the website has developed we invite you to share national news on the COTEC website. This can include articles about national congresses, the election of a new president, best practice examples, and other interesting and important issues within occupational therapy in your country. If you would like to take part in updating the national news section, please send your article through your national association to info@coteceurope.eu with the subject line NATIONAL OT NEWS: NAME OF YOUR COUNTRY.

@COTECEurope



[@COTECEurope](#) has surpassed 500 followers in March 2016!

After the first General Assembly in Malta it was decided COTEC should open a Twitter Account. After a period of getting used to this communication channel, COTEC is more and more active on Twitter with positive results.

Do you want to know what is happening in COTEC and relevant organisations? ***Follow us on Twitter!***

EPDA 100 Project

You will be aware that we have been working in collaboration with the European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA) for the last couple of years on the project titled 'My PD Journey'.

The EPDA now has a new project that COTEC has been asked to share with you. You are asked to read a statement and to please forward the information to occupational therapists who work with people with Parkinson's Disease. It is hoped that they, in turn, will encourage their clients / patients with PD to access the app and use it to contribute to the data set in due course. Please read the statement [here](#).

The COTEC Executive is hopeful that some national associations will consider participating in the call for involvement.

European Skills Competences and Occupations (ESCO) & Qualification Frameworks

COTEC has been involved in two European consultations regarding skills and competences and frameworks. This is important in the light of harmonising and improving standards of Occupational therapy.

European Skills Competences and Occupations consultation closed

In February 2016 the online consultation for the development of the ESCO classification was closed. Many occupational therapy experts have given feedback which was crucial in improving the draft description of Occupational Therapy in ESCO. In the next weeks a final report on the outcomes of this consultation will be send out to participants. The first public version of ESCO classification will be launched by the end of 2016.

See for more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/home?resetLanguage=true&newLanguage=en>

Qualification Frameworks

COTEC was invited by ICF International (a management, technology, and policy consulting firm) to participate in a study on international sectoral qualifications or qualification frameworks. The study which is done on behalf of the European Commission, will inform future reflections on how these types of qualifications or frameworks could be linked to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

After consulting ENOTHE and expert S. Rowan (UK) COTEC has answered the consultation, citing the TUNING reference points, Tuning Sectoral Framework for Social Sciences and The Occupational Therapy Euromasters.

Patient Empowerment

COTEC is invited by EPF to give feedback on the draft Roadmap on Patient Empowerment, developed as part of the EPF thematic campaign on patient empowerment.

EPF is aiming to launch the Roadmap at the concluding event of the EPF campaign in Brussels, in late June.

We would very much welcome your **feedback and ideas by 20 April 2016**, after which we will revise the document.

As part of the EPF campaign on Patient Empowerment EPF would like to remind everyone that they are continuing to collect "good practices in patient empowerment" through an online form available on their website: www.eu-patient.eu/campaign/PatientsprescribeE/good-practices-on-patient-empowerment/ The EC encourages occupational Therapists to send in best practices and to share this opportunity as widely as possible within your networks, and to send EPF directly any relevant information/news/resources you wish to share.



**COTEC AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN EUROPE
SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE OF EPF ON PATIENTS
EMPOWERMENT**

Call for Abstracts: European Forum for Primary Care Conference September 4-6, 2016

European Forum for Primary Care, EFPC, annual conference will be held in Riga, Latvia, September 4-6, 2016. Call for abstracts is open and COTEC would like to encourage Occupational Therapists working in the primary care to submit abstracts. Deadline for submission is May 1st, 2016.

europa
forum
for primary care

Read more <http://www.euprimarycare.org/riga/call-abstracts>

Finnish Association of Rehabilitation Professionals

New organisation established to secure stronger safeguarding for Occupational Therapists in Finland

In the end of year 2015 the Finnish Association of Occupational Therapists, TOI founded a new roof association together with the Finnish Association of Physiotherapists (FAP). The new organization is called Finnish Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. Both TOI and FAP remain independent associations who bring together the two professional bodies and students. The roof association provides the safeguarding and legal services for the individual members of TOI and FAP. The intention of Rehabilitation Experts is to promote rehabilitation as a core aspect within Finnish health policies while also strengthening the supervision of interests in the field.

Read more [here](#)



New Presidents

The Swedish and Slovenian OT Associations have elected new Presidents

COTEC congratulates the OT Associations of Sweden and Slovenia for their new elected presidents. The Swedish and Slovenian associations send us a little introduction about their new leaders.



Ida Kåhlin, President of the Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists

Ida Kåhlin was elected President for the Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists in November 2015, after 13 years as a member of the association's Board. Beside the position as President, she is a lecturer and researcher at Linköping University. The focus of her research is participation in older people with intellectual disability living in group homes. Ida has been a strong advocate for occupational therapy in Sweden for nearly 20 years and her interest in professional and educational issues has not cooled off — quite the contrary. — Occupational therapy is a fantastic idea, but I am convinced that the society does not utilise our competence to an ample extent. As President I will actively work to bring occupational therapy competence to the forefront in contexts of societal and individual profit, especially in new scopes of practice. I will also work to improve work-related issues, such as the need for adequate professional development and better wage structures."



Katarina Galof, the New President of the Slovenian OT Association

The New President of the Slovenian Association **Katarina Galof** is a mother of two teenage daughters and was elected into the office for 2016.

As a student, she worked in a centre for blind and visually impaired older people and in a psychiatric hospital Begunje. She has a decade of professional work experiences with the elderly individuals in their homes. She was constantly involved as a student educator in a gerontology practice placement. She works as an assistant at the occupational therapy department within the faculty of health science at the University of Ljubljana. There she is clinical OT educator for students in the field of geriatrics, the use of assistive technologies, group dynamics and occupational therapy in primary care. As a PhD student, she is currently exploring the model of treatment of the elderly at home environment. In her spare time she likes cycling.

Publications

President Stephanie Saenger was very pleased to follow the invitation of the editor for the March volume of Ergoscience to write a piece about COTEC and the first joint congress in Galway.

[Ergoscience](#) is a scientific journal for Occupational Therapy. It is published since 2006 and since January 2011 by Schulz-Kirchner Publishers. Ergoscience celebrates its 10th birthday. In addition to an item about the work of COTEC (page 11) and the joint congress (page 30) there was a call for all German, Austrian and Swiss Occupational Therapists to join the European Patients Forums' Patient Empowerment Campaign which COTEC has supported too. (page 42)

COTEC wishes to thank Mieke le Granse who is the chief editor of this issue for the given opportunity and wishes Ergoscience many years of high quality publications.

On request of the Greece representative Katerina Veneri the president of COTEC was co-author of the chapter titled "The European Perspectives of Occupational Therapy in Mental Health: The Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC) actions" in the book "THE CONTRIBUTION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT". The book will be published in May or June.



Public consultation on the review of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

There are approximately 80 million citizens with disabilities in the EU, who often face barriers that prevent them from fully participating in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others. In its commitment to eliminate these barriers and improve the life of people with disabilities, the EU became a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Convention). Implementing the Convention is an ongoing process and it is a shared responsibility of the EU institutions and the Member States. The EU can only act within the powers conferred to it by the EU treaties. A first review of the EU's implementation of the UN Convention, done by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recognised the progress achieved until now, but also provided some recommendations for the future.

At EU level, the UN Convention is implemented through the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. This Strategy has identified eight main areas for action at EU level: Accessibility, Participation, Equality, Employment, Education and Training, Social Protection, Health and External Action. Having reached the halfway point in its implementation, the European Commission launched a public consultation in order to assess its impact and to ensure EU policy remains tailored to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

The survey researched the opinion on what has been achieved so far at EU level, views on the challenges faced by all persons with disabilities and how the European Union should address them.

The findings of this public consultation will be used to assess the progress made under the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and to identify gaps to be addressed at EU level to ensure the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society.

COTEC answered the consultation, send it to their Members and Tweeted about it.

Occupational Therapy and Oncology

The coordinator of the European Forum of Primary Care invited COTEC in collaboration with the Dutch association for OT, Ergotherapie Nederland (EN) to nominate an occupational therapist to represent Occupational Therapy in the working group Professional groups/experts with a special interest in cancer of the European Cancer Organisation ECC.

ECC organises a European Cancer Congress in Amsterdam in 2017. For more information about the congress see:

<https://www.ecco-org.eu/Events/ECCO2017>

Marije Bolt, COTEC/ENOTHE representative in EFPC advisory board, has agreed to take this role and will collaborate with the specialist group of OT and Oncology of EN.

This is an excellent opportunity to make the contribution of OT in oncology care visible for other professions.

For more information: Occupational therapists who have examples of best practices and or results of research are encouraged to send them to info@coteceurope.eu with OT&Oncology.



Secretarial News from ENOTHE

by Mandy Boaz ENOTHE Coordinator



During 2015 a new ENOTHE website www.enothe.eu was launched and further improvements and developments will continue as the Office responds to suggestions and requests from the members. There is a membership area that includes the contact list for everyone and specific documents and papers.

For more secretarial news and ENOTHE projects, please read the [article](#) of Mandy Boaz, ENOTHE Coordinator.



COTEC Secretarial News

COTEC Summary of Profession 2016

The data for the annually published Summary of the OT Profession has been collected from COTEC Member Associations in February-March. COTEC Executive Committee Member Patric Duletzki will collate the data and prepare the final document which will be published in April. The document will be circulated to all COTEC Members, partners and stakeholders, members of the Register of Experts and it will be uploaded to COTEC website.

4th COTEC General Assembly 2016

The 4th COTEC General Assembly will be held in Galway, Ireland, June 18th, 2016 in conjunction with the 1st COTEC-ENOTHE Congress. Agenda and papers will be circulated two months prior the meeting by April 18th.

All COTEC Member associations are asked to inform VP Administration the name of the GA Representative by April 15th or send the apologies for absence, if no representative will attend. This year there will not be a separate Governance day program before the General Assembly. Should the GA representatives wish to attend the full Congress program, they should register to the Congress using the electronic registration form on www.cotec-enothe2016.com. GA representatives book their accommodation by themselves. If GA representative only attends the GA meeting, no fee will be charged but she/he will not have access to any of the scientific Congress sessions. All enquiries and requests concerning the GA should be addressed to VP Administration Anu Söderström.

COTEC Newsletter

Starting from the June 2016 issue the Newsletter will always include news from COTEC Member associations. A group of Members will be asked to submit news to each issue and all 30 Members will be given space in one Newsletter every year. Members will be contacted in April with instructions.

For any other comments or feedback related to the Newsletter, please contact Executive Committee Member Elitsa Velikova, elitsa.velikova@coteceurope.eu

COTEC Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. The next Skype meetings are scheduled for Thursday, April 14th and Thursday, May 12th, 2016. For agenda items, proposals and exact times please contact anu.soderstrom@coteceurope.eu. COTEC Executive Committee next face-to-face meeting will take place in Galway the days before and after the COTEC-ENOTHE Congress, June 13-15 and June 19th, 2016.



COTEC

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Wishing you the colours of Happiness and Joy this Spring!



***We are looking forward to meeting many of
you in Galway!***

