

COTEC

Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



Newsletter

October 2017

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Editorial



The 2017 General Assembly in Vienna is only two weeks ago when I write this editorial, but a lot of things already happened since then. There was a very active discussion on how to enhance the Summary of the Professions quality during the Governance Day. Also the General Assembly gave the COTEC Executive Committee a mandate to proceed a migration of the COTEC register of experts to the OT-EU umbrella. Further it was possible to find out a little more about the member associations of COTEC and the customs in their respective countries, at the dinner tables in the evenings.

All in all I spent five days in Vienna as we also had our Executive Committee Interim meeting. Next to all the official meetings, where we finalised the agendas, it was a very exciting experience, not only did we say good bye to Anne Lawson-Porter our long-standing colleague who will be sorely missed. After all the hard work she had put into COTEC and ENOTHE she has definitely earned her retirement. But we also

welcomed our new Vice President Naomi Hankinson, having her on board on the Executive Committee will assuredly benefit our profession in the European arena.

After one good year we are able to go on with our Register of experts project. In Galway 2016 we set up a meeting to understand what the experts want, this year we had the chance to find out what the occupational therapy associations in Europe want. They want to share and make expertise and knowledge accessible to our partnering organization ENOTHE and the, yet to become an independent third leg of OT-EU, ROTOS network. We see this as a big step towards one strong voice in Europe and am quite happy about this action been taken. This week I set up the first e-mail account for a member of the ROTOS standing committee, which makes the OT-EU vision even more comprehensible to me.

At the moment I am making a plan on implementing the feedback on the Summary of the Profession, this means that it will hopefully be easier for our members to provide the annual update on the summary. A lot of the information that is required does only change from time to time and thus does not need to be updated annually. I hope that the Governance Day opened up ways to strengthen consistency of the hard data for the future, which in the long run increases the value of this document in demonstrating the occupational therapy profession across Europe and across European stakeholders.

Later this week I will have to pack my bag again as I will be representing COTEC at the annual ENOTHE meeting in Zagreb. Stephanie Saenger has been there numerous times in the last years and as it was always during her birthday I think she can suspend one time.

Patric Duletzki, Member of the COTEC Executive Committee

COTEC General Assembly 2017

The 5th COTEC General Assembly was held in Vienna, Austria, on October 1st, 2017.

22 of 30 COTEC members were represented in person and two members by proxy at the General Assembly. WFOT Vice President Finance Samantha Shann and ENOTHE President Marie-Antoinette Minis attended the meeting as observers. There were also observers from the OT Associations of Austria, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia and the UK.

The COTEC Annual report 2016 and Financial report 2016 were presented and both were approved unanimously. COTEC Interim report and Expenditure report for January-June 2017 were also presented to give members an overview of the business and actions carried after the previous GA which had been held in June 2016 in Galway.

The Action Plan and Budget 2018 were presented and both were approved unanimously.

The General Assembly elected new members to the Executive Committee. Stephanie Saenger from the Netherlands was re-elected as President for a two-year term 2017-2019, Naomi Hankinson from the UK was elected as Vice President for a four-year 2017-2021 and Anu Söderström from Finland was re-elected as Vice President Administration for a two-year term 2017-2019. The other members of the Executive Committee are Vice President Finance Eva Denysiuk (2016-2020), Member Patric Duletzki (2015-2019) and Member Elitsa Velikova (2015-2019).

Also a new COTEC Electoral Committee for a one year period 2018 was elected and the members are Pierre Seeuws, Ieva Jēkabsone and Popi Moustaka. The elected members of the Auditing Committee 2018 are Theo van der Bom and Ann-Marie Morrissey, deputy member to be elected by email vote if need be.

The full Minutes of the General Assembly can be downloaded in the COTEC website Members only section.



General Assembly 2017

The next COTEC General Assembly will be held in Portugal in October 2018 with a Governance day program preceding the General Assembly meeting. Exact dates and information of the venue will be announced as soon as it has been confirmed.

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Goodbye Anne Lawson Porter

At the 5th General Assembly in Vienna Anne Lawson Porter resigned as Vice President of COTEC. We are very grateful for everything she has done for COTEC in her four-year term as VP.

She has been a wonderful colleague, a great chair and moderator of meetings and a person who asked us the right questions at the right moment. She stimulated us to reflect on our actions and challenged us to think strategically and enabled us to phrase our thoughts in "proper" English. Her contribution to COTEC and the development of OT-EU and ROTOS is conclusive. On behalf of the General Assembly representatives and the Executive Committee we thank her and wish her well!



Anne Lawson Porter was given a special made Salad bowl

We welcome Naomi Hankinson as new Vice President of COTEC and are looking forward to working with her in the COTEC Executive Committee.



Naomi Hankinson, Vice President of COTEC

COTEC Executive Committee Interim meeting 2017

The 3rd Interim meeting of the year took place in Vienna, Austria, days prior and after the General Assembly 2017.

Main topics on the agenda were the membership and members' issues, financial issues, COTEC representation and cooperation with other organisations, and professional issues. The Executive Committee welcomed its new Vice President Naomi Hankinson and distributed the tasks to the next Skype meeting.

The next COTEC Executive Committee face-to-face Interim meeting is planned for the end of January 2018. Skype meetings continue to be held monthly.



The COTEC Executive Committee at the 3rd Interim meeting 2017 in Vienna



COTEC Executive Committee introducing the Committee's work to the elected Vice President Naomi Hankinson during the final day of Interim meeting in Vienna

2nd COTEC-ENOTHE Congress 2020



The 2nd joint COTEC-ENOTHE Congress will be held in Prague September 23-27, 2020. The congress will be hosted by the Czech Association of Occupational Therapists and the Faculty of Arts at Charles University.

Mark the dates in your calendar and follow the congress website:

<http://www.cotec-enothe2020.com/>



COTEC
Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



ENOTHE
European Network
of Occupational Therapy
in Higher Education



ROTOS
Research in Occupational Therapy
and Occupational Science



News from COTEC Member Associations

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

Four associations have sent in their news to this October 2017 issue.



Recently [Ergotherapie Austria](#) could reach a lot of its aims for occupational therapists in the country and were very pleased to have the chance to host the 5th COTEC General Assembly from September, 29th till October, 1st.



Helga Fabianits, Brigitte Stern-Grilc, Edeltraud Cortolezis

[Estonian Association of Occupational Therapists](#) announces the board, aims and mission to promote the profession at a high level.



Terje Bachmann, President of the Estonian Association of Occupational Therapists



Ilse Fitzbauer (a local politician), Marion Hackl (president of Ergotherapie Austria) and Brigitte Stern-Grilc (board member of Ergotherapie Austria)

One of the main topics [Deutscher Verband der Ergotherapeuten e. V. \(DVE\) / Germany](#) had focused up to now this year was related to the federal elections 2017 taking place in Germany this fall.



Royal College of
Occupational
Therapists



The article of [the Royal College of Occupational Therapists \(RCOT\)](#) includes information about the British Journal of Occupational Therapy, Improving Lives, and Saving Money campaign and about the Launch of the Career Development Framework: guiding principles for occupational therapy.

Occupational Science Europe Conference, Hildesheim Germany, 8th-9th September 2017



Johanna Stadler-Grillmaier and Esther Steultjens held a workshop on behalf of OT-EU

On behalf of OT-EU I attended the 4th Occupational Science Europe Conference which was organized very well by the German organization committee. Ruth Zemke's key note lecture presented a nice overview of the founding and background of Occupational Science in which she also addressed the advocacy for occupation as a paramount feature of health and well-being. The aim of occupational science has to do with knowledge generation regarding the form, function and meaning of occupation and it should enhance social transformation for all human beings. The conference was attended by 200 researchers, most of which had an occupational therapy background. A lot of different topics were discussed and presented in interesting workshops. I attended a very nice workshop on the non-Anglophone perspective of occupational science and realized that within Europe a multi-language approach is needed to establish high levels of knowledge generation and dissemination. This was also a topic that was discussed in the workshop I executed on the development of a European Research Network of Occupational therapy and Occupational Science (ROTOS). In that workshop the general aims of such a network were presented and discussed from an occupational science perspective. It resulted in a collaborative attitude towards network building and interesting questions and ideas were raised to develop that network further. In general, the conference was very inspiring because of the open attitude towards knowledge building and academic discussion on very relevant topics. The topics were very diverse but all were focused on an aspect of occupation, theory or methodology for specific target groups like refugees, or people with a work related disability. Topics that are really of interest in Europe. I really got a good overview of what is happening in the field of occupational science and truly felt that both OT practice and OT education have the same aims and perspectives with regard to future challenges as Occupational Science Europe. Therefore, development of OT-EU as a non-governmental organization that integrates practice, education and research in occupational therapy and occupational science is something to strive for.

Dr. Esther Steultjens (Chair of the ROTOS standing committee)

First Meeting of the Complete OT-EU Coordinating Group

Preceding the COTEC Governance Day and GA, the Coordinating Group of OT-EU met in Vienna. As the chair and vice chair of the ROTOS standing committee had been elected, this was the first time the complete group was together.

It was a very pleasant and constructive meeting where many plans were made to be followed up in the near future.



*From left to right:
Anne Lawson Porter, Stephanie Saenger, Esther Steultjens
(chair ROTOS), Alison Laver Fawcett (V-chair ROTOS),
Johanna Stadler Grillmaier, Marie Antoinette Minis*

RCOT Celebration

On 20th September COTEC VP Anne Lawson-Porter and President Stephanie Saenger were honored to attend the **RCOT Celebration of Excellence in Occupational Therapy Awards 2017**.

This festive event was held in the beautiful Fishmongers' Hall in London.

This event showed again how many excellent occupational therapists on all levels contribute to the profession.

For the VP and President it was a good opportunity to network and to inform individual RCOT members of COTEC/OT-EU's work and to interest them for e.g. Register of Experts.



'Participation' and 'Empowerment' Core Topics at the EFPC Conference

The European Forum for Primary Care conference took place from 24th to 26th September in the Casa do Medico in Porto. The topic 'The Citizen Voice in Primary Care, a social commitment to 'health for all' fitted perfect with the scope of Occupational Therapy.

Although there were not that many Occupational Therapists among the audience, the voice of OT was heard. Rieke Hengelaar, researcher at the department Occupational Therapy of the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, presented her study on improving collaboration in informal care. Leen De Coninck, researcher at the department Occupational Therapy of the Artevelde University of Applied Sciences in Ghent presented an outdoor poster on the effect of Occupational Therapy on the functionality of community dwelling older adults.

The professional network was maintained and new contacts were established. We had an interesting talk with Nicola Bedlington, secretary general of the European Patients Forum, and with researcher Pedro Melo, from the Catholic University of Portugal, who developed the Community Assessment, Intervention and Empowerment Model. Dr Melo is considering involving an Occupational Therapist in his research team. Occupational Therapists of Portugal who are interested in research, take your chance!

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



Professor Jan De Maeseneer enjoys a well-deserved Retirement

On Saturday 30th September we celebrated Professor De Maeseneer who went on Emeritus. Professor De Maeseneer was keynote speaker at the COTEC conference in Galway in 2016 and a promotor of Occupational Therapy.

Professor De Maeseneer was honored for his career by among others the Flemish Minister of Health Care Jo Van Deurzen, the director of the Division of Health Systems and Public Health of the WHO Dr Kluge, and his many foreign contacts in Africa and other continents. He could celebrate this moment together with his wife, children and grandchildren, the many colleagues and friends. OT-Europe thanks Jan for his vast contribution in promoting Occupational Therapy and wishes him a well-deserved retirement.

WHO Regional Meeting



The 67th WHO Regional meeting was held in Budapest, 10-13 September 2017. All delegates of the Countries on Ministerial level were present and many delegates of NGO's and or UN offices.

President of COTEC represented WFOT & COTEC this year. Representation of Occupational Therapy on this High Level is important, mainly to promote OT and to make connections with other NGO's and, if possible, with WHO officials. Making (joint) statements will promote and explain the occupational perspective to Member states delegations and other NGO's.

COTEC and WFOT endorsed three joint statements on agenda items 5a, b, c which were all presented during the meeting. In these statements the WFOT logo and COTEC logo were incorporated, which raises our visibility.

Many contacts with relevant NGO's were strengthened or made, one important new connection was made with (European Public Health Association) EUPHA.

A request was made by the Secretary General of the World Federation of Neurology and the World Stroke Organisation to produce an article for their website on Occupational Therapy and neurology/stroke.



Joint statements are to be found here:

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/34898/9/Joint-Statement-IAHPC-WHPA-WFOT-WONCA-COTEC-5a.pdf?ua=1

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/34902/7/Joint-Statement-ADI-MMI-EPHA-EUPHA-Studiorum-WONCA-COTEC-WFOT-WHPA-EFNNMA-WFME-A4HP-IAHPC-5c.pdf?ua=1

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/34901/1/Joint-Statement-WONCA-HCWH-MMI-WFOT-COTEC-5b.pdf?ua=1



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

WHO Europe Mental Health

The fourth meeting of Staff groups working in Mental Health on September 22, in Copenhagen was chaired by the new manager division Mental Health Daniel Chisholm. Daniel explained the main interests and goals of the Mental Health division. There was a lot of discussion about the next step of collaboration and we agreed that a statement (with evidence supported) about multi- and inter-disciplinary teamwork with all professionals involved and their competences recognized and respected is the right way forward to develop good and sustainable Mental Health services in Europe. Such a document could be helpful for members to use to promote multidisciplinary work in countries where this is not familiar.

For more information see:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/m3ea88kc308uvho/COTEC%20Report%204%20meeting%20WHO%20MH%20September%202017.pdf?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kzxhruuchzvp6tu/4th%20Meeting%20Report%2029.09.2017%20draft.pdf?dl=0>



Fourth meeting of staff groups active in mental health in the European Region

Health Professionals Dialogue

On 29th August COTEC president participated in a lunch meeting in Brussels on initiative of Caroline Teugels, Executive Director of International Federation of Podiatrists – Fédération Internationale des Podologues.

Nine people of seven organisations were present: European Region of World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT), European Chiropractors' Union, European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD), Council of European Dentists (CED), Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU GPUE) and Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME).

The Standing Liaison Committee of E.U. Speech and Language Therapists and Logopedists (CPLOL) and the European Association of Hospital pharmacists could not be present but are included in the group.

The dialogue's purpose was to discuss and create a Platform for knowledge and information exchange and identify common topics of interest, make joint actions and or statements when appropriate.

This first meeting the European legislation which affects health care professionals was discussed. A follow up meeting is planned in November.

It was good to meet colleagues of other professions and to exchange information, especially as some partners have more experience and manpower than COTEC.

For more information of the meeting see [here](#).

Interesting link for information about migrating OT: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/regprof/index.cfm?action=profession&id_profession=1300&tab=origin1

ENOTHE General Assembly

The Executive Committee of COTEC is very pleased that at the ENOTHE General Assembly all the agenda items about OT-EU and the ROTOS were positively received and voted for.

The Executive Committee congratulates Marie-Antoinette Minis with her re-election.



Marie-Antoinette Minis

EMA Human Scientific Committees' Working Parties with Patients' and Consumers' Organisations (PCWP) and Healthcare Professionals' Organisations (HCPWP) joint meeting

President Stephanie Saenger was pleased to be asked by the European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC) to represent EFPC at the Session on Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – European Medicines Agency (EMA) Human Scientific Committees Working Parties with Patients and Consumers (PWCP) and Healthcare Professionals' Organisations (HCPWP) joint meeting in London on September 19.

The meeting was organized by EMA and brought all European institutions which are involved in AMR and patient organisations together to inform each other who was doing what and to discuss the AMR situation and how everyone could cooperate and support each other.

Although AMR is not one of the priorities of COTEC's Action Plan it was useful to attend as AMR is a life threatening challenge that needs the full attention of all Health workers and citizens.

The meeting was live streamed; you can see the live stream here:

http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/news_and_events/events/2017/09/event_detail_001506.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058004d5c3

For more information follow the links:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/p51poswsk190ari/COTEC%20Report%20EMA%20September%202017.pdf?dl=0>

https://www.dropbox.com/s/n5mxra45lbzq0lx/amr_action_plan_2017_en.pdf?dl=0

https://www.dropbox.com/s/nrzzhhznwgf2rge/Session%20on%20AMR_19Sep17_briefing%20for%20participants-1.0.pdf?dl=0



Public Consultation on Digital Innovation and Cross-border Exchange in the Health and Care Sector

As shared with the members earlier this year the European commission issued a public consultation on digital innovation and cross-border exchange in the health and care sector (Transformation Health and Care in the Digital Single Market). COTEC answered the above consultation on behalf of our members.

The purpose of this consultation was to define the need and scope of policy measures that will promote digital innovation in improving people's health, and address systemic challenges to health and care systems. Protection of personal data and patient rights are important factors to keep in mind in this regard.

From our point of view supporting citizen feedback and interaction between patients and health care providers is one main area where digitalisation can be an asset. Therefore service users need full access to their personal health data and should be empowered to manage them. Occupational therapists can support them in doing so.

Another point we stressed was that occupational therapists need access to health data as well as all other health professionals, not only doctors and nurses, in order to work interdisciplinary and get the best results for the people we work with.

The consultation covered also issues of cross-border access and barriers (for example lack of digital infrastructure), for more information please contact

eva.denysiuk@coteceurope.eu

We also would like to encourage all our members to answer to the European commission's public consultations as national associations. This will make Occupational therapy more visible and valued.

Open consultations are available in many of the EU's languages and can be accessed through this website:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations_en

COTEC Secretarial News

COTEC Event Calendar on the website

COTEC welcomes Member Associations to send in information about OT events to be posted on the COTEC Calendar: National OT conferences and meetings, international and multiprofessional conferences related to OT held in your country, high level meetings. Please send name and date of the event and a short description or link to a website to Patric Duletzki, patric.duletzki@coteceurope.eu

COTEC also encourages you to check the calendar regularly to be able to inform your members about coming events in Europe.

COTEC Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. The next Skype meetings are scheduled for Thursday, November 2nd and Thursday, December 14th 2017. 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 Amsterdam in January 2018 and meetings with ENOTHE and ROTOS are also scheduled whilst in Amsterdam.

Minutes of the Interim meeting held in Vienna the days before and after the 5th General Assembly are uploaded in the Members only section of COTEC website.

COTEC Executive Committee contact information

All Executive Committee members email addresses are firstname.lastname@coteceurope.eu.

The newly elected COTEC Vice President Naomi Hankinson can be contacted at naomi.hankinson@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 the ENOTHE meeting held in Portugal October 4-6, 2018.

Member association contact information

In order to ensure smooth communication within COTEC it is essential that we have up to date email addresses on COTEC's contact list. Any changes in the Member association contact information are asked to be updated to VP Administration Anu Söderström.

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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***We hope you had a wonderful and active World
OT Day and informed, inspired and influenced
many!***



Inform, Inspire, Influence
#WorldOTDay 27 October