

COTEC

Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



Newsletter
March 2018

Editorial

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Patricia Flynn

Since the beginning of the newsletters the editorials have been written by a member of the COTEC Executive Committee. However, due to an unfortunate accident Elitsa Velikova is at the moment not able to write the editorial.

As a real occupational therapist she managed to make the newsletter with one hand, supported by Patric Duletzki. Our thoughts are with Elitsa and we do hope she will recover soon.

For this reason we have asked Patricia Flynn to introduce herself in this editorial.

In the section OT-Europe you can find the email about the representation in Brussels that was sent to all Members.

Stephanie Saenger, President

I have been representing COTEC at events in Brussels since early 2018, having recently moved to Belgium from Ireland. I have 17 years' experience working as an Occupational Therapist in areas such as palliative care, care of the elderly, intellectual disability, overseas development, paediatrics, child and adolescent mental health, participatory facilitation and training, service management, and clinical supervision. I have lectured regularly for two Dublin Universities at Graduate and Post-Graduate Level, delivered training to teachers at a national level, and have been a frequent practice educator for occupational therapy students at undergraduate- and masters-level. My undergraduate research on Spirituality in the Reality of Practice was published over two editions of the Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy in 2002 and I am passionate about practice-based research with a view to making a meaningful and direct positive impact on services. In this regard, I conducted research on Children's Perceptions of Occupational Therapy in CAMHS and presented outcomes at the Association of OTs of Ireland (AOTI) National Conference in 2009. I have also developed, delivered, and evaluated parent workshops on organisational skills for adolescents.

I first made contact with a member of the COTEC Executive Committee at the Mental Health in the Workplace event organised by the EUMH Alliance on October 11th, 2017, which I attended in a personal capacity. Having expressed an interest in supporting the work of COTEC, and following introductions and discussions, I was honoured to take on the role of representing COTEC in Brussels. I have since attended and reported on "Coproducting employment initiatives for young persons with disabilities and mental health problems" in the European Parliament on January 30th, 2018 last; and the second meeting of the European Health Professionals Dialogue with the COTEC President on February 16th, 2018.

My vision is for occupational therapy to be a unified, assertive profession that is well recognised, represented, and respected; and I very much look forward to working enthusiastically to further COTEC's important mission to **make occupational therapy more visible, valued, available and accessible in Europe.**

Patricia Flynn

NEWS FROM OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EUROPE

Face-to-face Meeting

The Coordinating Group of Occupational Therapy Europe, consisting of Presidents and Vice Presidents of the three branches COTEC, ENOTHE and ROTOS had their face-to-face meeting in Abcoude, Nederland on January 25th, 2018.



Highlights of the meeting were:

ENOTHE has become a legal entity under the Austrian law.

ENOTHE office contract with York St. John University will end in May 2018 and from then on the ENOTHE office will be run by home based employee(s). Occupational Therapy Europe office is still in development. Occupational Therapy Europe Coordinating Group is in favour for having a representative in Brussels.

ROTOS will provide so called information papers about stroke and mental health to promote and explain the profession as was requested. In future more of these papers will be produced.

The possible change of the Occupational Therapy Europe abbreviation "OT-EU" to "OT-Eu" was discussed to better suit those COTEC Member associations from non-EU countries. Followed by the discussion in the COTEC Executive it was decided there is no need to change the abbreviation or logo. It was however pointed that the full name "Occupational Therapy Europe" should be used in documents and correspondence along with the logo with full name. Promotional material will be ordered to be used by all branches.

The Theme of the second Joint Congress was discussed. The development of Occupational Therapy Europe will be continued. Occupational Therapy Europe Coordinating Group will meet face-to-face twice a year, alongside other meetings. The next meeting will be held in Portugal, October 8th, 2018.



Occupational Therapy Europe Coordinating Group

Representative in Brussels

As mentioned in an email to all Members COTEC has been successful in broadening and expanding the European network and is invited to participate in quite some events in Brussels. As the human and financial resources are limited, the COTEC Executive Committee and the Occupational Therapy Europe Coordinating Group are very pleased to have found an expert living in Brussels who will ensure continuity in the representation. Patricia has introduced herself in the editorial.

[For the full letter click here!](#)

2nd COTEC-ENOTHE Joint Congress – save the date!

The 2nd COTEC-ENOTHE Congress will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, September 23rd - 27th, 2020. The theme of the congress is **“Occupational Therapy Europe — building resilience in individuals, communities and countries”**.

The Joint Congress will offer an opportunity for expertise from education, practice, research and policy to join on the same platform. This will provide an opportunity for delegates to benefit from the integration of recent developments in all four aspects of practice. The Czech Association of Occupational Therapists and the Faculty of Arts at Charles University are the co-hosts of the Congress.

The planning of the Congress is in progress. COTEC Vice President Administration Anu Söderström is a member of the Organising Committee and ENOTHE Board member Soemitro Poerbodipoero is a member of the Scientific Committee.

Abstract submission and registration will open early 2019. Please follow the congress webpage www.cotec-enothe2020.com for



News from COTEC Member Associations

There is news from three Member associations in this Newsletter:

AITO, Italy describes changes in the funding of technical aids in the public health system and the new register of health care professionals. [Read more](#)



The invitation postcard for the 20th anniversary of the recognition by law of the OT profession entitled: “Past and Future perspectives”



Michele Senatore (AITO PRESIDENT), Litterio Runza (AITO VICE PRESIDENT) and in the middle Mario Marazziti (PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY AND PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE DEPUTIES CHAMBER)



All the Speakers of the event

APETO, Spain announces developments of both the association and National Health system along with professional congresses in the country.

[Read more](#)



ALED

Association Luxembourgeoise
des Ergothérapeutes Diplômés

ALED, Luxembourg has been negotiating towards convention for the profession and a nomenclature for private OT practitioners. [Read more](#)



The Committee of ALED

Work Support for People with Disabilities

On January 30th, 2018, the *Support Services of Tomorrow Taskforce* and MEP Brando Benifei co-hosted the '**Co-producing employment initiatives for young persons with disabilities and mental health problems**' conference in the European Parliament. At the event, the coproduction strategy *Individual Placement and Support (IPS)* was presented with testimonies from a beneficiary and an IPS worker. A job seeker and a parent also spoke about the realities of seeking and maintaining appropriate employment for people with disabilities. A commitment was given that coproduction will be at the core of how future European policies and strategies are designed.

Purpose of meeting:

Promotion of true coproduction of support services in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in all EU policies, legislation, processes, supports, and services.

Case presentation of an evidence-based *Individual Placement and Support (IPS)* coproduction methodology successfully implemented in the area of inclusive employment across the Netherlands.

Patricia Flynn (Irish OT, see elsewhere) represented OT-EU/COTEC at the Meeting in Brussels.

During the discussion of the IPS methodology, she had an opportunity to highlight the unique skills of occupational therapists. In addition to individualised, meaningful support to the employee, OTs are also experts in adaptation of the work environment and of the specific tasks, and of supporting the employer to acquire the necessary new skills for a placement to be ultimately successful.

[For the full report click here!](#)



European Health Professionals Dialogue

On February 16th, 2018 the COTEC President, Stephanie Saenger, and the COTEC Brussels Representative, Patricia Flynn, participated in a meeting for European Health Professionals. This meeting followed the initial meeting of the group on August 29th, 2017, which was attended by Stephanie Saenger.

The meeting's purpose was to continue the dialogue initiated at the first meeting, and identify common challenges and opportunities on a European Level.

In this meeting the Proportionality Test Directive process, recognition of professional qualifications, the Common Training Framework, and Primary and Integrated Care were discussed; as was the nature and future of the group. A follow up meeting is planned with the date to be decided.

As in the first meeting, it was good to make contacts and hear the successes and current challenges of other organisations operating at European level. The meeting is also a good forum for sharing information on relevant European events, processes, and resources.

The next meeting is planned on September 27, in Rotterdam previous to the EFAD conference.



[Read more](#)

Meeting Attendees (clockwise from far end of table in photo):

Caroline Teugels (Chair) **FIP-IFP**,
Matt Garoufalis **FIP-IFP**, Patricia
Flynn **COTEC** Brussels
Representative, Stephanie
Saenger **COTEC** President,
Michèle Kaufmann-Meyer **CPLOL**,
Judith Liddell **EFAD**, Lea Pfefferle
CED, Sarada Das **CPME**,
Stephanie Kohl **EAHP**, Ian
Beesley **ECU**.

ECCO Meeting

On February 26th, 2018, Marije Bolt (Occupational Therapist, Expert Primary Care and Oncology) represented COTEC at the first meeting of two.

At the first meeting at the ECCO office in Brussels, 12 European Associations held a presentation about the essential requirements for Primary Care interventions from their professions perspective. Two common issues were identified the need for a good ICT system that can be used and accessed by all professionals in the cancer care continuum and the need for a care coordinator and clear tasks for every professional. Occupational Therapists and expert Marije Bolt presented OT as one of the core profession of the multidisciplinary team and focused the presentation on 4 themes: what matters to you / it is about living, not existing / focus on the network of the client/ use one language (ICF). highlighted the following 4 themes and invited all the participants to adopt a holistic approach.

All the input and recommendations of this meeting will be the basis of an article and this draft will be discussed in the second (and last) meeting on May 14th, 2018.

It was very useful to attend this meeting as Occupational therapy will now be mentioned in the article and position paper as a profession that can contribute to the cancer care in primary care.

[For the full report see here!](#)



Occupational Therapy and Delirium

COTEC was very pleased to be invited and involved to contribute to the inter-professional position paper on the developments of delirium care across Europe. Thanks to Christian Pozzi (occupational therapist, Switzerland) who contacted COTEC, Experts of the Register have collaborated to describe the key concepts of the profession in this area.

This is an excellent example how knowledge can be shared and COTEC and its experts can contribute to the visibility of the profession.

Read more about this project in the **letter** of Christian Pozzi.



EUROPEAN
DELIRIUM
ASSOCIATION



Occupational Therapy and Delirium: two important events between 2017 and 2018

In these years we have studied the application of occupational therapy for elderly people with diagnoses of delirium as expressed in the studies of Schweickert, E. Alvarez and Pozzi.

Our work has led to two interesting results:

1) Presentation in an oral communication during the European Congress of the European Delirium Association in Oslo, November 17th-18th, 2017.

2) The drafting of a position paper on the topic with collaboration of COTEC in the divulgation and organization; and colleagues Verena Tatzer (Austria) and Maria Gracia Carpena (Spain) in preparing the substance. The publication is expected in July 2018.

For the feasibility of these projects we have created relationship with the president of European Delirium Association Dr. Morandi (Cremona) and some of his colleagues and experts on the subject delirium (for example Oslo Delirium Research Group and European Union Geriatric Medicine Society).

We therefore thank COTEC for their support and will disseminate the results we will obtain from these collaborations.

Christian Pozzi and Alessandro Lanzoni

[Read more about this project in the letter of Christian Pozzi](#)

Occupational therapists working in the geriatric setting (in community, nursing home and rehabilitation) in Italy and Switzerland



European Delirium Association Board in Oslo during the European Congress

Call to Action on Migration and Health

COTEC with a number of other stakeholders and organisations, was involved in the process of dialogue which resulted in a “Call to Action on Migration and Health”, directed to the DG SANTE (EU Directory General of Health)

It was a part of EU health policy Platform’s Thematic network on “Migration and Health”. Important is that everyone has the right to health and therefore all migrants and ethnic minorities in Europe have the right to equally access essential preventive and curative care, including mental health services (in which OT is represent), without any discrimination.

From COTEC side and as Occupational therapists we also argued the importance of an equal access to meaningful occupations and activities as a part of a healthy life and wellbeing.

[Here you can find the call to action.](#)

Call for experts/ representatives at EU Health Policy Platform

The EU Health Policy Platform is a collaborative initiative to ease communication between European Commission services and health stakeholders. It operates mostly through a Web Platform which facilitates online discussion and collaboration, supported by regular webinars; secondly there are face-to-face meetings to host targeted thematic discussions.

Each year there are specific thematic networks formed and supported by the European Commission, depending on the needs (and votes) of the different stakeholder groups.

This year two networks will be formed in which Occupational Therapy can play a vital role and the Executive Committee is hereby putting forward a call for a representative on the respective network.

The networks will start with their work on the webplatform through April, so a reply from interested individuals should happen in a timely manner.

The representation includes taking an active part in the discussions and work of the web platform, reporting back to the executive committee and may also include representation at face-to-face meetings where applicable. [Read more](#)



COTEC Forum

Since March 2018 we are testing the COTEC forum which can be found in the **member’s area** of the COTEC website. We added a discussion section for the mentoring system that was discussed at the governance day round table in 2017 and also one for each expert group. The forum is not static and there for new topics can be added over time if needed. For security reasons forum participants will be granted access manually by our executive member Patric Duletzki. Please contact him via patric.duletzki@coteceurope.eu to get your profile and start sharing ideas, knowledge and much more with COTEC members and the COTEC executive.

COTEC Secretarial News

Summary of Profession

The data for the Summary of Profession has been collected from Member Associations and the final document is being prepared for publication 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. For any questions, please turn to Patric Duletzki, patric.duletzki@coteceurope.eu.

Membership fees

The 2018 Membership fees will be collected in May, invoices to be sent out by Vice President Finance Eva Denysiuk. The fees are based on the Members' membership numbers of 31.12.2017 and an annual raise of 1,5% will be implemented as agreed by the 2016 General Assembly.

COTEC General Assembly 2018

The 6th COTEC General Assembly will be held in Oeiras, Portugal, October 7th, 2018. There will be a Governance Day program the day before, and the General Assembly representatives are asked to consider also attending the ENOTHE meeting held in Portugal, October 4th-6th, 2018.

Provisional program and general information about the General Assembly meeting and call for applications for Financial assistance have been circulated to all COTEC Members earlier in March. The Agenda for the General Assembly will be circulated by August 7th, 2018.

COTEC Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. The next Skype meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12th, 2018. For agenda items and other issues or proposals please contact anu.soderstrom@coteceurope.eu. COTEC Executive Committee next face-to-face meeting will be held in Belgrad, May 4th-6th, 2018.

COTEC on social media



In March @COTECEurope reached 1600 followers! 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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Wishes all a wonderful spring season



full of new ideas and inspiration!