

COTEC

Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



Newsletter
June 2018

Editorial

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Elitsa Velikova

conducting of the 1st Baltic Congress of Scientific Researchers in Occupational Therapy, an idea that had been born a long time ago but the decision was taken as part of the Action Plan of the National Associations within the Baltic workshop.

It is June again; half of 2018 is over, good time for review of the achievements.

One of the most important events for me in the first half, organized by the COTEC Executive Committee, was undoubtedly the conducting of a workshop for the Balkan countries.

For sure it was a fruitful workshop. The Executive Committee hopes that the National Associations will achieve their goals and remains on the table to provide additional support to individual needs and thanks for the great opportunity to meet with three COTEC Members and representatives of two other countries and learn about the OT professional bodies in the Balkan region!

I focused my attention on this topic because it was a great pleasure to see the results of the last year's workshop for the Baltic countries, namely the organization and



OT researchers from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia

We, as Executive Committee, are very glad that the workshops also contributed to COTEC meeting one of its key strategic objectives of supporting national associations in their continued development. And do not forget that it is our common vision to make Occupational Therapy visible and valued in Europe that brings us together and lets us grow as a profession!

In this newsletter you will read also about many COTECs involvement in different events and collaborations during the last months, and of course it is time again for the new Summary of the profession 2018.

Enjoy!

COTEC INTERIM MEETING MAY 2018 BELGRADE

We arrived in Belgrade to be greeted by Milan Kecman the President of the Serbian Association. He had done a great job in finding us accommodation, and making sure that we were comfortable and set up to work.

Stephanie (President) and Anu (Vice-President Administration) had been able to fly in a day early and visited the Health College in Belgrade University. They met the Dean, and teachers on the Occupational Therapy course. Stephanie's presentation on COTEC and OT-Europe to the students was well received and there were questions and discussion.

We were kindly invited to hold the first day of our meeting at The Clinic for Rehabilitation, where Milan works. We started early (8am) so that we could see some of the work undertaken by the Occupational Therapists in the different units within the hospital. We visited and were made welcome at paediatrics, spinal cord injury and the outpatient service - we were also greeted warmly by the Orthodox Priest who ministers from the lovely little chapel on site. After a day of hard work – sustained by some excellent pastries made on site, we managed to get through our agenda - including some future planning of the Congress in Prague in 2020. Minutes of the interim meeting will be on the website very soon.

That evening we had some time to walk around the old centre of Belgrade, and admire the architecture, stopping at a traditional restaurant for tasty Serbian cuisine. Our meeting on Saturday was attended by Occupational Therapists from Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and of course Serbia. It's was really appreciated that people gave up part of their weekend to come together.

Everyone worked hard during this interactive day – presenting their services using SWOT and PEST analyses, and then working in groups on the internal and external issues affecting each countries association which emerged.

Internal were: Creating the right infrastructure and building sustainability and External were; building good relationships with education providers, and developing contacts with politicians, authorities and organisations that can support associations.

There was also time to meet old friends and make new ones over lunch and by the end of the day everyone left feeling tired, but hopefully inspired and refreshed in looking forward.



With the participants of the workshop

Request for support

Prior to the interim meeting Stephanie Saenger and Anu Soderstrom visited the Higher Education School of Professional Health Studies, Belgrade.

They talked to the dean and staff and held a presentation for the students.

It was clear the shortage in occupational therapy literature is an important issue at the school and so it was decided to ask the help of COTEC members and their network with a request to help them to enrich their library collection.

When you are able to help our colleagues in Belgrade with the following, we would be very grateful.

We are interested in textbooks, books and papers from professional journals in English, and also in useful links for free downloading that kind of literature in the following fields:

- Occupational therapy in pediatrics
- Occupational therapy in mental health
- Occupational therapy in rheumatic diseases
- Occupational therapy in neurology
- Occupational therapy in surgery/orthopedic conditions and extremity amputations

We are also interested in everything that you could give us about occupational assessment (tests, questionnaires, methodology of assessment) in mentioned fields.

Our study program for professional occupational therapists is now in accreditation process for MA level, therefore book and journal donations will be highly beneficial to students and teachers.

With best regards,
Prof. Dejan Mitrasinovic, PhD, Director
Gordana Savkovic, Head of OT Departemnt
Jasmina Dimitrijevic, librarian

Information can be send to:
Jasmina Dimitrijevic, librarian,
biblioteka@vzsbeograd.edu.rs

WORKSHOP WITH THE BALKAN STATES

In line with the strategic vision for valued, visible, available and accessible Occupational therapy in Europe, COTEC has the strategic goals to engage with and inspires its member associations and to work towards the development of a sustainable network organisation by improving member engagement. It is also very important to get to know the local challenges and opportunities of the profession. That is why the Executive Committee strives to plan Interim meetings so that meetings with Members are also enabled.

The last Interim meeting took place in Belgrade, Serbia in order to be matched with a Workshop for the Balkan states. The workshop focused on the core business and effective running of a professional organisation. Promoting the OT profession and developing new job opportunities for occupational therapists require strategic planning, good marketing and networking. Close collaboration with the OT education and stakeholders in the labor market is also needed. The main goal for the Executive Committee was to encourage the National Associations of the post-socialist Balkan countries to continue with their efforts to share their experiences with one another, through discussions on completion planning, challenges, lessons learnt, regional collaboration and available support.

In order to have information on which to base discussions and also ensures the maximum output, the participants from Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia were asked to prepare in advance a presentation in the form of a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) and PEST (political, economic, social and technological) analysis outlining the current challenges for their countries and Associations. Bosna and Herzegovina and Macedonia also presented the OT situation in their countries.

The summarized results after the presentations made it possible to group the outlined challenges by horizontal and vertical indicators as shown in the table below.

CHALLENGES			
INTERNAL		EXTERNAL	
MEMBERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of members or not increasing number of members. Lack of motivation among the members. They are inactive, with reduced empathy toward the Association. Collecting the membership fee – financial situation. Image of the associations among members / member recruitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low awareness about OT profession. Government changing – political instability – lack of government funding. Making contacts or keeping them. Lack of working places – migration in western European countries. "Competition" with other professions. Poor economic situation – low salaries. 	POLICY
RESOURCES & SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited financial and human resources – the same human resources for everything. Lack of English language skills among the OTs. Lack of Strategy of Development (Strategic plan). Lack of official Standards and norms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of professional literature (in mother tongue). Limited OT programs. 	EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

According to the Summary of the issues after the SWOT and PEST analysis, the workshop continued with a group work on two round tables. The participants were divided into an internal and an external international group for discussions. Working in the group was guided by the Executive Committee via a 7 steps program. The round tables covered 4 of the steps and specifically:

- Defining scope.
- Finding problems.
- Analyse/ explain problems.
- Bring problems in order – making a hierarchy.

The second part of the workshop was held in national groups, assisted by one representative of the Executive Committee. The idea was to have a summary of the round tables discussions per country and to complete the 5th step of the program, namely Formulate goals and future actions.

By the end of the day all participating Balkan states had proposed a time frame for short, medium and long term goals concerning their most important and urgent challenges.

The participants are responsible for the last two steps – Making action and Evaluate, and the Executive Committee will follow up the progress. In September everyone will be asked to give an update at least on the short term goals which they set to themselves. For sure it was a fruitful workshop. The Executive Committee hopes that the National Associations will achieve their goals and remains on the table to provide additional support to individual needs and thanks for the great opportunity to meet with three COTEC Members and representatives of two other countries and learn about the OT professional bodies in the Balkan region!

SUMMARY OF THE PROFESSION 2018

The Summary of the profession 2018 will be published shortly and there were some interesting things to mention in the newsletter that arose from compiling this valuable document.

Next to conducting the survey to collect the summaries data, COTEC contacted the European Commission because of a mistake that was found in the regulated professions data base. In some countries the generic profession title was incorrect and thus it was not possible to compare the occupational therapy profession from these countries with other member states of the European Union. Thankfully the project coordinators had an open ear and were able to change the titles in cooperation with respective governments.

One interesting aspect amongst many about this database is the ranking of most mobile professions, where occupational therapy is currently holding the 18th place with 5119 occupational therapists having applied for recognition of their title in another EU country since the database was established. With this position OT's are being more mobile than speech therapists (21.) but less mobile than other health professions such as physiotherapists (4.), nurses (2.) and Doctors (1.).

If you would like to find out more about the occupational therapy profession visit the regulated professions database hosted by the European Commission. This info can also be found in this year's summary of the profession.

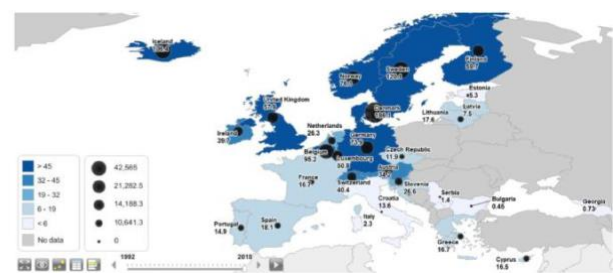
<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/regprof/index.cfm>

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Doctor of Medicine (130049) | 51. Pharmaceutical technician/Pharmaceutical assistant (1189) |
| 2. Nurse (117586) | 52. Dental technician (1185) |
| 3. Secondary school teacher (87281) | 53. Chiropodist (podiatrist) (1069) |
| 4. Physiotherapist (34449) | 54. Restaurant owner/manager /Caterer/Catering manager/Banquet organiser (1034) |
| 5. Dental Practitioner (23195) | 55. Surveyor (914) |
| 6. Electrician / Senior electrician /Specialised electrician (22420) | 56. Accountant/ Tax advisor (912) |
| 7. Second level nurse (20735) | 57. Industrial engineer (891) |
| 8. Primary school teacher (15281) | 58. Lorry Driver/Heavy Goods Vehicle driver (763) |
| 9. Veterinary Surgeon (12003) | 59. Insurance underwriter (751) |
| 10. Lawyer/Barrister/Solicitor (11491) | 60. Ski instructor (725) |
| 11. Pharmacist (11443) | 61. Mechanical engineer (722) |
| 12. Architect (8783) | 62. Veterinary nurse (715) |
| 13. Social worker (8545) | 63. Dental assistant/ Dental Nurse (705) |
| 14. Kindergarten teacher/ Nursery school teacher/Preparatory school teacher (8051) | 64. Electricity services supervisor / Electrical manager (704) |
| 15. Psychologist (7040) | 65. Chiropractor (694) |
| 16. Midwife (6252) | 66. Special needs care worker (686) |
| 17. Fork lift truck operator (6196) | 67. Repair of motor vehicles (681) |
| 18. Occupational therapist (5119) | 68. Diver (672) |
| 19. Radiographer / Radiotherapist (4617) | 69. Building contractor (657) |
| 20. Civil engineer (4089) | 70. Agronomist / agricultural engineer (616) |
| 21. Speech and language therapist (3656) | |

When viewing the number on occupational therapists per COTEC Member Associations we can happily announce that most countries are very successful in developing the profession and COTEC is able since 2018 to represent the interests of 180.000 occupational therapists. But it seems that there is no time to rest. Europe's population increase was higher than expected and demand for occupational therapy service is growing due to demographic changes and it is crucial to keep that pace of increasing the total number of OT's across the European region. The following two figures are from the COTEC statistics website and are illustrating the amount of occupational therapists per 100.000 head in 2008 and 2018.



OT's per 100.000 head in 2008



OT's per 100.000 head in 2018

If you would like to have a more detailed insight on the professions data you can also visit the COTEC website on: [http:// www.coteceurope.eu/directory/statistics/](http://www.coteceurope.eu/directory/statistics/)

NEWS FROM COTEC MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

In this issue of COTEC Newsletter you can find National news from four COTEC Member associations.

In their News article the [Czech Association of Occupational Therapists](#) introduce the working group for occupational therapy in mental health in Czech Republic and remind the important dates of the 2nd COTEC-ENOTHE Congress to be held in the country in 2020.

[The French Association of Occupational Therapists, ANFE](#), introduces the new technical director of the association, announces the annual OT conference to be held in April 2019. ANFE also asks us to save the date for the next WFOT Congress to be held in Paris, 2022.

[Ergoterapeutene, Norway](#), writes about the fruitful examples of promoting the OT profession in Norway.

[The Serbian Association of Occupational Therapists](#) has elected a new board for the period of 2018-2021 and the association also participated in a workshop organised by COTEC in Belgrade.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EUROPE

For the stand at the WFOT conference in Cape Town a leaflet was produced with information about COTEC, ENOTHE, ROTOS and Occupational Therapy Europe. The banner of Occupational Therapy Europe was at display at the stand, which space was kindly offered by WFOT.

As COTEC Executive was not present in Cape Town due to strategic and budgetary reasons, we are pleased that in the full programme there was a meeting scheduled for Johanna Stadler-Grillmaier (VP ENOTHE) and Esther Steultjens (chair ROTOS) with Marilyn Pattison (president of WFOT) and Samantha Shan (VP finance of WFOT and contact person to COTEC) to update WFOT about the progress of Occupational Therapy Europe.



Occupational Therapy
Europe

NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



Dear Occupational Therapy colleagues in Europe,

My name is Shawn Abela and I am an occupational therapist from Malta. I have read for my bachelor's degree at the University of Malta and have just submitted my dissertation as partial fulfilment of my master's degree in Supportive and Palliative Care at the Sheffield Hallam University, UK. Throughout my years as a student and also in my first 5 years as a working occupational therapist, I have also been involved in promoting our profession on a national level and have acquired a keen interest in the way that occupational therapy is developing in different countries.

I am very excited and grateful to be part of COTEC as an Office Administrator. My first experience with COTEC came around a year ago where together with Stephanie Saenger, President COTEC, and representatives from the Malta Association of Occupational Therapists; we organized a number of meetings with Maltese members of European parliament. A year later, I am very honoured to be entrusted with this opportunity by the COTEC Executive to support its work and helping in the day-to-day administration. I look forward to this experience and promise my commitment and dedication to overcome any challenges that may come along.

The coming months will be very busy with the preparations for the General Assembly coming up next October. I look forward to meeting many of you there. In the meantime, do not hesitate to get in touch with me should you require any assistance on shawn.abela@coteceurope.eu.

Kind Regards,
Shawn

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.

Important dates to remember and share with colleagues:

Abstract submission opening: April 2019

Registration opening: January 2020

Early registration deadline: June 2019

Abstract submission deadline: September 2019

PR-material is available for national congresses, please contact Anu Söderström.



DUTCH JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EM

On April 5th, 2018, Marie-Antoinette Minis, Esther Steultjens and Stephanie Saenger came together to be interviewed for the Dutch Journal of Occupational Therapy EM.

The editor was interested to speak to the three Dutch presidents of ENOTHE, ROTOS and COTEC. During the interview the history, present and future of the organisations was explained and what was the influence of the European policies on national level.

It was suggested that as the Dutch culture is non-hierarchical and people from the Netherlands are pragmatic and creative and active in voluntary work might be the reason that at this time all presidents have the same nationality. It was stressed by all presidents that discussions take place within the Executive Committees and Boards and decisions regarding the organisations are never taken with only the three of them.



Marie-Antoinette Minis, ENOTHE President, Stephanie Saenger, COTEC President, Esther Steultjens, Chair ROTOS

PT IN MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Following the meetings with Staff groups working in Mental Health that were initiated by WHO-Europe and the keynote Stephanie Saenger has given at the Horatio Festival in Malta in May 2017 (see Newsletter June 2017) COTEC president was now the invited speaker at the International Conference of Physical Therapy in Psychiatry and Mental Health in Reykjavik, Iceland from April 10th – 12th.

To have information about Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy in Mental Health she sent out a short survey to all members of the COTEC Expert Register Mental Health group, which was answered by 15 people out of nine countries (Greece, UK, The Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, Spain, Belgium, Ireland, and Switzerland). In her speech Stephanie explained what Occupational Therapists do by the core principles, the Doing, Being, Becoming and Belonging and some models which the experts said they used in mental health. She also mentioned the concepts of Positive Health by Machteld Huber and the Flourishing of Corey Keyes as they are very much connected to the occupational perspective thinking.

Another part of the speech was about working together in partnership. In the survey most occupational Therapists said they see benefits in working together with Physiotherapists in mental health.

The speech was favourably received and it was very enlightening to hear in the varied workshops what the profession of physical therapy try to achieve in this area.

There were three occupational therapists present, two from Iceland and one from Chili and some interesting contacts were made. This conference was an excellent opportunity to make occupational therapy visible to an important group of colleagues and to confirm collaboration is the future.

For more information of the conference and the abstracts please visit <https://icelandtravel.artegis.com/event/ICPPMH-Conference2018>.



Gala dinner with Stephanie Saenger COTEC President, Liv Helvik Skjaerven Vice President of IOPTMH, Michel D. Landry, BScPT, PhD, USA



Michel D. Landry, BScPT, PhD, USA; Unnur Pétursdóttir President of Physiotherapy Association, Iceland, Stephanie Saenger

VISIT ICELAND

Following the Conference in Reykjavik (see elsewhere in this Newsletter) president Stephanie Saenger was invited by Ósk Sigurbardóttir, president of the Icelandic Association to two site visits in Reykjavik and to hold a presentation about COTEC work and the development of OT-Europe at the Icelandic Occupational Therapy Association.

These visits were very informative, interesting and offered a lot of opportunities to talk to colleagues in Iceland.

The first visit was at the Mental Health Day centre Laugarásinn in a residential area of Reykjavik where they offer early intervention service for people from 15-25 with psychosis. It was absolutely impressive what this multi-disciplinary team with two occupational therapists, working with the Icelandic Model, achieve!

They have close connections with the organisations on housing, work and sports facilities in Reykjavik and are successful in reintegrating their clients in society using the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) principles.

The clinic started in 2010 with 14 clients and has now 114 clients.

Please see the slides attached [here](#) to learn more about this successful team.



With OTs at the Mental Health Day centre

The second visit was at [BUGL – Children's and Adolescent Psychiatric Department](#) where they receive children up to 18 years' old who deal with mental health issues. They provide specialized interdisciplinary services that take children's needs into account, as well as their family's needs. They work closely with the parties conducting primary diagnoses, such as health clinics and social services, and other professionals working with the child and his/her family in their immediate environment. They receive referrals to BUGL from all over the country. An emphasis is placed on kindness in all communication as well as a good cooperative relationship with parents/guardians. There are 4 OT's working in BUGL and they are part of the multidisciplinary team. They work both in the outpatient and inpatient unit and are part of the Eating Disorder Team, and Neurological team. The teams work on both diagnoses and treatments. We also visited the garden at the centre that Ósk Sigurbardóttir has designed.



With OTs at BUGL

For the brochure see here: http://www.barnaspitali.is/library/FilesBH/Baeklingar/Fraedsluefni/BUGL_ENS_2017.pdf

The Icelandic Association is very successful in providing “lunch meetings” as part of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) at their office in Reykjavik. The presentation was attended by around 30 Occupational Therapists and as it was streamlined others could follow the lecture in the country. After the visits Ósk showed Stephanie some of the wonderful sites in Iceland.



At the waterfall



The speech of the COTEC President

EUROPEAN BRAIN COUNCIL

On April 23rd, 2018, Annick van Gils (OT and researcher at the KU in Leuven, Belgium) represented COTEC at the first session of the EBC.

In 2018, the European Commission is expected to submit proposals for a mission-oriented and impact-focused 9th Framework Programme. In view of the preparations for the forthcoming EU research scheme, the EBC aims to bring attention to issues that affect therapeutic innovation and facilitate an exchange of views on how the post-2020 Framework Programme can make a real difference for patients living with brain disorders.

This event consisted of three individual sessions: (1) Missions and FP9, (2) The value of Innovation, (3) European Brain Research: Shifting gears and going global.

With hindsight the other two sessions might have given more opportunities to bring forward the Occupational Therapy perspective, but due to other assignments this was not possible.

Anyway it is important that Occupational Therapy was present and will be present in the future at EBC events.

The full report can be found [here](#).

More information:

<http://www.braincouncil.eu/activities/news/brainmission>



All speakers of the session (L-R): Dr. Alexander Schubert (ECNP), Hilikka Karkkainen (GAMIAN-Europe), Prof. Prof. Colm O'Morain (Biomed Alliance), Joke Jaarsma (EBC Treasurer), Dr Matthias Wismar (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies), Dr Christoph von der Goltz (Lundbeck), Nathalie Moll (EFPIA), Prof. Sebastian Brandner (UCL Institute of Neu-rology), Menno Aarnout (AIM), Jacobo Santamarta Barral (Young Person's Network at the European Multiple Sclerosis Plat-form), Margaret Walker (EUFAMI)



Second meeting European CanCer Organisation (ECCO)

On May 14th Marije Bolt (OT, Expert Primary Care and oncology) represented COTEC at the second meeting. In this meeting the participants gave their feedback and thoughts on the first draft, both on content and structure. The title of the paper will be expanded to “the essential requirements for integrated primary care interventions throughout the cancer care continuum”.

Much time was spending on identifying the essential requirements of oncology care in primary care teams. The MD Core Team consists of GP’s, nurses and pharmacists. The OT, PT, Dieticians, social workers etc. will be part of the Satellite Team.

The final paper will be presented and discussed at the ECCO summit meeting in Vienna, September 7th-9th, 2018, where also the voting on the resolution will take place.

Thanks to Marije’s experience in primary care, oncology and due to her recent involvement in writing a paper on Primary Care and Occupational Therapy for COTEC she was able to contribute in a positive and effective way.

For the full report, click [here](#).

More information: <https://www.ecco-org.eu>



ECCO group

GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS ADVOCACY NETWORKS

On May 16th Patricia Flynn represented COTEC at the Mental Health, patient empowerment and self-management of care and treatment – a Call to Action hosted by European Parliament Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders and the Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks (GAMIAN-Europe). Purpose of meeting:

To emphasize the importance and value of self-management and empowerment of people who use mental health services; and to conduct a final review of the multi-stakeholder authored and GAMIAN-Europe coordinated “Improving patient empowerment and self-management of care in mental health: A Call to Action” document.

Key messages received

The Mental health, patient empowerment and self-management of care and treatment – a Call to Action document was drafted through a participatory process involving stakeholders including experts through experience, advocates, families and carers, psychiatrists, human rights lawyers, service providers etc. Past discussions and debates regarding the use of the term “patient” in favor of “persons” were referenced; however, neither the arguments against nor the rationale for maintaining this emphasis was not elaborated on.



The GAMIAN meeting

Key messages given

While there was no opportunity to highlight the important role of occupational therapy in supporting self-management and empowerment during the course of the meeting; I had an opportunity to have a significant, individual discussion with Nessa Childers MEP around the need for additional resourcing of, and access to, psychosocial supports including occupational therapy in mental health settings. Nessa Childers is an Irish MEP who, prior to entering politics, worked as a psychotherapist. She is very active in the Parliament on human rights and health issues.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96603/%20NESSA_CHILDERS_home.html

For the full report, see [here](#).

PATIENT RIGHTS EVENT

Patricia Flynn represented COTEC in Brussel at the 12th European Patients Right Day conference. This event was organised on May 23rd by the Active Citizen Network, with the theme of Therapeutic Adherence. The conference emphasised the significant financial and personal costs, and considerable scale, of non-adherence to healthcare treatments. Contributory factors were discussed, and the solutions presented were predominantly political, medical, technological, and pharmaceutical. This event again showed the need to increase awareness of the role of occupational therapists in effectively supporting therapeutic adherence through person-centred and community-based interventions.

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

For the programme, click [here](#).



12th European Patients Right Day conference

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE

On behalf of COTEC, ENOTHE and ROTOS, dr. Marie-Antoinette Minis, ENOTHE President held a poster presentation at the 18th European Conference on Integrated Health Care.

The whole conference was focussed on all the believes and values we express as occupational therapists. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration between health care and social care, client centre practice and the new views on the meaning of health by Machteld Huber. The audience was impressed with the Occupational Therapy Perspective on Integrated Health Care. A vivid discussion as a result. It was clear that presenting for this type of audience is very important to raise the visibility of Occupational Therapy. Unfortunately, it is expensive for OT-Europe to attend these type of conferences, which was the reason only Marie Antoinette could attend.

The Poster will be published in the ICIC journal.

As result of this event occupational therapists were invited to publish a case study about collaboration between OT's and GPs in the Dutch Journal of General Practitioners.

For more information see also:

<http://www.coteceurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Occupational-Therapy-perspective-on-Integrated-Care.pdf>

See the [poster](#) and the poster [text](#).



Marie-Antoinette Minis with the poster



PARTNERSHIP WITH EUPHA

The Executive Committee of COTEC is very pleased that on June 21st President Stephanie Saenger and Dr Dineke Zeegers, Executive Director of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) signed an agreement on partnership. EUPHA accepts COTEC as a partner of EUPHA with all benefits of an associate member.

COTEC will specifically work with the EUPHA section on Social security, work and health, including collaboration for workshops and pre-conferences at the annual EPH Conferences and elaborating joint statements.

Both EUPHA and COTEC agree to:

- Disseminate information to their networks on each other
- Advertise the (bi) annual conferences of each other
- Create synergies wherever possible between both associations

We are looking forward to a constructive and inspiring partnership!



EUPHA website and follow us on Twitter: @EUPHActs

The 11th European Public Health Conference will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from November 28th to December 1st, 2018. Main theme: 'Winds of change: towards new ways of improving public health in Europe'

More information: EPH Conference and @EPHConference



COTEC Secretarial News

COTEC Office Administrator

COTEC has made a 6-month contract with Shawn Abela as COTEC Office Administrator. Shawn started working for COTEC May 15th, 2018 and is working 8 hours per week. Shawn introduces himself elsewhere in the Newsletter, his email address is shawn.abela@coteceurope.eu

COTEC correspondence

The Executive Committee has discussed COTEC internal communication with Members at their recent Interim meeting. Some Member associations are harder to reach by email than others and the Executive Committee has used also WhatsApp and facebook as a media for communication. It was however pointed that this was not a satisfying way to work as this sort of communication is difficult to share with others or archive. Email will from now on be the only channel of communication between COTEC Executive Committee, COTEC Office and Members. It is the responsibility of the Member associations to make sure the incoming mail from COTEC reaches the relevant persons in the association.

COTEC General Assembly 2018

The 6th COTEC GA will be held in Oeiras, Portugal October 7th, 2018. 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 4th-6th, 2018.

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

For any queries about the General Assembly, please contact anu.soderstrom@coteceurope.eu

COTEC Executive Committee meetings coming up

The Executive Committee has a monthly Skype meeting the second Thursday of the month. The next Skype meetings will be on July 12th and August 9th, 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 adjoined with the General Assembly in Portugal Oct 4th and 8th, 2018.



COTEC on social media

Please join the nearly 1700 likes on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/COTECEurope/> and follow us on twitter @CotecEurope with over 1600 others and make COTEC and occupational therapy more visible in Europe.

COTEC
Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



COTEC

Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



Wishes all a summer



full of restoring energy!