Annual Conference and Exhibition of Royal College of Occupational Therapists in Birmingham, UK on 17-18 of June 2019

COTEC President Stephanie Saenger was delighted to be invited to join the Annual Conference and exhibition of our Member Association RCOT in Birmingham on 17-18 of June.

Besides following the varied sessions Stephanie has been actively promoting Occupational Therapy Europe.

Some highlights:

The banner of the second joint COTEC-ENOTHE congress was displayed prominently at the RCOT stand and hundreds of flyers were distributed by hand to invite our UK colleagues to Prague. Also, the exhibitioners were informed and invited to bring their products to the attention of the European Occupational Therapy Community.

At the workshop “Writing an abstract and presenting” participants were challenged to send in their (first) abstract for the congress, and also other delegates were encouraged to send in an abstract.

She spoke to most of the Specialists Sections about the possibility of joining the OT-Europe Register of Experts as an individual, which was very enthusiastically received (see for information https://www.coteceurope.eu/directory/register-of-experts/)

The Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture was this year delivered by Dr. Sarah Kantarzis, former (vice) President of ENOTHE. The very interesting lecture titled “Shifting our Focus; Fostering the Potential of Occupation and Occupational Therapy in a Complex World” made the audience think about whether we really are addressing the challenges to health-promoting occupation facing the population.

On behalf of ROTOS information was exchanged and collaboration for the future ensured with the research section of RCOT as was with the BJOT editor for contributing to the special issues. On behalf of ENOTHE and SPOT-Europe, Stephanie had some interesting conversations with students, former and present SPOT board members Nathalie Pickering and Charlotte Walker.

The dinner with CEO Julia Scott gave the opportunity to conversations with colleagues from Canada, the new RCOT representative to COTEC Karin Bishop, the newly elected chair of the Irish Association Mary McGrath and WFOT VP Finance Samantha Shann.
At the closing ceremony a lovely serenade was brought by the group Singing 4 Breathing (www.singing4breathing.co.uk) to Julia Scott and a lovely picture slide show to highlight her work for RCOT and wishing her well at her retirement.