



## COTEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2013

<b>Annual report 2013</b>	<b>Agenda item 9</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> COTEC General Assembly	St Paul's Bay, Malta, October 21-22

This annual report consists of two parts. The first part describes the main challenges of this year and the second part is the report of the actions in the Action Plan for 2013. The Action Plan runs from approval at the Council meeting in Brussels in October 2012 till the General Assembly has adopted a new action in Malta plan for 2014.

During the reported period there have been two Council meetings; Brussels 26 - 27 of October 2012, and Copenhagen 11 – 12 of April 2013. In advance of the Council meetings the Executive Committee has met for two days. Interim meetings for the Executive Committee were held in Helsinki 7-10 February, and in Zagreb 14-15 of June 2013. The interim meeting in Helsinki also included a meeting with the WFOT President, Sharon Brintnell and the Vice President and link person to COTEC Samantha Shann, and the ENOTHE board. At the meeting in Zagreb the President of ENOTHE Anne Lawson Porter was present for two days. Regular skype meetings between Executive committee members were held in addition to the meetings outlined above.

During this period the Executive Committee consisted of:

- President, Mette Kolsrud, Norway, former Vice President, elected in October 2012 as president after Anu Söderström resigned as president in August 2012.
- Vice President, Renée Oltman, Germany, elected in April 2013
- Honorary Secretary, Saša Radic, Croatia, until June 2013.
- Treasurer, Maria Daniela Farrugia, Malta, elected in October 2012
- Link person to the ENOTHE board, Stephanie Saenger, The Netherlands, served as full board member.

The work of the executive board in this period has been characterized by four main challenges in 2013.

- i. Ambitions to be more visible and active in the European health- and welfare politics
- ii. Restructuring of the organisation, and cooperation with ENOTHE
- iii. Strengthen the communication with the member National Associations

- iv. It is clear that the spare capacity of the executive committee complicated the tasks above.
  1. Since in 2012 COTEC is a legal entity there were more opportunities to be involved in other organisations working in health and welfare politics in Europe. COTEC started to use this opportunity to become a member of two European organisations. European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC). COTEC also had a meeting with Mrs. Paula Duarte Gaspar, member of the Cabinet of Health and Consumer Policy and Mrs. Katja Neubauer, deputy head of Unit of Healthcare system. This was the first meeting for COTEC on this high level in EU.
  2. Restructuring the organisation has been another challenging task of the last (two) year(s). The Council meeting in Athens Autumn 2011 decided that COTEC should be a more political and proactive organisation. The Council adopted a political program for 2012-2016 which gave direction for the political work. Since then a description of a new organisational model and necessary policy documents have been made and are adopted. The last part was adapted in Council meeting in Copenhagen this May, and the new organisation will work with a General Assembly in October. Planning a first General Assembly has been a challenge in its own.

Parallel to this restructuring of COTEC, the cooperation with ENOTHE has been strengthened. The two organisations have agreed on the goal that there needs to be **one** clear voice on behalf of Occupational Therapy in Europe. The cooperation is developing very well, with several joint working/expert groups and a constructive dialogue on a new OT-Europe organisation. The challenge is to find a organisational structure that will be effective and acceptable for both organisations.

3. Sending out a COTEC Newsletter has been a major step forward to achieve better communication with the National Associations. The first newsletter was sent out in February 2013, and until now there have been three newsletters. Another action is to send information directly to the Associations and not through the delegate. Also members were asked to give input for the Action plan for 2014. Although there has been some feedback, we are hopeful there will be more response in the future.
4. The last big challenge this year has been lack of human resources in the executive committee. The president withdrawal before the autumn meeting last year and the honorary secretary's withdrawal before the spring meeting this year led to a dramatic minimum capacity. An executive committee with only four persons is very vulnerable. Fortunately the person elected as a link person to the ENOTHE board (Stephanie Saenger) served as a full member of the Executive committee and contributed much to the work.

**An annual report from ENOTHE link person and WFOT link person are also attached.**

## REPORT: Action plan for COTEC 2013

### 1. Values of Occupational Therapy in Europe

GOAL	ACTION	REPORT
Human rights and diversity	Establish contact with the WHO Europe together with WFOT	<i>It was clarified that COTEC cannot enter WHO separately as a NGO, because all NGOs working with WHO have to be multi-regional organisations. The joint meeting with WFOT in Helsinki discussed common strategy and cooperation for WHO's work in Europe. COTEC intends to work more towards European issues in WHO as a regional member of WFOT.</i>
	Participate at the WHO congress in Helsinki summer 2013	<i>WFOT has decided that this congress was not at a high priority and will not to attend the WHO congress in Helsinki. Therefore COTEC could not participate alongside WFOT in this congress.</i>
Inclusion and participation		<i>Meeting with European Forum for Primary Care about cooperation and membership. (The EFPC is focussed on inclusion and rights on primary care for all citizens). COTEC is now an associate member of EFPC, and has urged our members to join EFPC as national members.</i>

### 2. Health and social affairs in the European countries

GOAL	ACTION	REPORT
Health and welfare for the European population	Participate in the EPHA meeting and learn how EPHA can be useful in the political work of COTEC	<i>Cotec will participate in the EPHA meeting and General Assembly, autumn 2013. Further participation in EPHA working groups will be included in the EU strategy plan 2013-2016.</i>
	Approve a position statement on OT	<i>A position statement on community based occupational therapy was planned to be finalised at the Copenhagen meeting by a working group. The working group concluded that they could not carry out the</i>

		<i>task.</i>
	Make a new strategy plan for "COTEC goes EU 2013-2016"	<i>EU strategy plan will be presented at the general assembly in Malta</i>
		<i>Mr. Tonio Borg, the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, is invited to be key speaker on the Health strategy 2020 at the seminar day at the General Assembly in Malta. He cannot make it due to another meeting. Currently awaiting reply from SANCO for a representative.</i>
	Participate in open discussions related to EU health strategy	<i>COTEC has not found open discussions related to The EU health strategy to participate in this year.</i>
Sustainable health and social care	Make and distribute information on OT relevant to the Health Strategy 2020	<i>Three representatives from COTEC executive committee - Ms Mette Kolsrud and Ms Stephanie Saenger, and ENOTHE - Ms Anne Lawson Porter, met with Member of EU Cabinet in Health and Consumer Policy Mrs Paula Duarte Gaspar and Deputy Head of Unit Healthcare system, Mrs Katja Neubauer the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. The representatives gave a short power point presentation on COTEC, OT in Europe and OT's contribution to the health and welfare for inhabitants in Europe, and especially on the strategy for Active and Healthy Aging. This was the first meeting for COTEC at this high level in EU. The presentation is published in the newsletter number 2.</i>
New assistive technology	Make a statement on the European Year of the Brain 2014 for relevant stakeholders	<i>A statement on the European Year of the Brain 2014 is planned together with ENOTHE. A draft brief for a joint expert group is produced, and a group will be established.</i>

### 3. Occupational Therapy Practice and Development

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>REPORT</b>
Qualification and standards for the Occupational	Work on recommendations for specialisation	<i>A document was presented in The Copenhagen Meeting, and a group was established to work further on the</i>

Therapy profession	in OT in Europe	<i>guidelines.</i>
Education and professional developments	Develop a common website with ENOTHE	<i>A joint working group is working on a common website. Funding is allocated on the budget for a common website. Planned launch in 2014.</i>
	Establish expert group together with ENOTHE on relevant topics	<i>The funding for joint groups is allocated. Joint expert groups will be established on the year of the Brain 2014. Joint expert group on research is established in 2013. Report will be given in ENOTHE meeting York and GA in Malta.</i>
	Strengthen the cooperation with WFOT	<i>WFOT, represented by the president Sharron Brintnell and the vice-president finance and link person to COTEC Samantha Shann, ENOTHE and COTEC had a joint meeting in Helsinki. All agreed upon strengthening the cooperation for topics relevant for Europe. It was confirmed COTEC is a regional group of WFOT. A communication chain with WFOT and ENOTHE is being worked upon.</i>
Research	Work further to strengthen the cooperation with ENOTHE on the topic of research	<i>Joint expert group on research is established in 2013. Their assignment is to design a structure and action plan for how OT research and researchers can be represented in a sustainable way in the context of OT EU, to ensure the legitimacy and credibility of Occupational Therapy in Europe. Report will be given in ENOTHE meeting York and GA in Malta.</i>

#### 4. Labour market

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>REPORT</b>
Mobility		
New jobs	Develop an example list of new jobs for OTs in different countries	<i>No tasks have been carried out but it is planned that this will be tackled through the new website</i>

#### 5. The organisation

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>REPORT</b>
Implementing the new organisational	Make a clarification on	<i>Further work on clarification of advantages and costs to have a paid general secretary</i>

model	advantages and costs to have a paid general secretary for some hours a week	<i>or a paid president for some hours a week will be worked on. An agreement has been established with the German NA to provide secretariat services to COTEC free of charge.</i>
	Organize the first COTEC General Assembly	<i>The First General Assembly will be arranged in Malta 21-22 of October. Call for items to the action plan for 2014, information for the election and invitation to the General Assembly are sent out in time. The agenda and the papers to the meeting are prepared and sent out within the end of August.</i>
	Establish the new organisation	<i>Last details of the new structure of the organisation were discussed and approved in Copenhagen. A new plan for financial assistance for COTEC was also presented and discussed in Copenhagen.</i>
Strengthen the cooperation with the Member Associations		<i>The executive committee started to send out newsletters to the National Associations after each executive meeting. First newsletter was sent out after the executive meeting in Helsinki in February. A second and third newsletter was sent out after the Copenhagen meeting in April and the interim meeting in Zagreb in June.</i>
Communication strategies	Update the website and prepare for a joint website with ENOTHE	<i>The website is still not satisfactory updated. The website will be updated but it is also characterized by the situation that it is an old fashion site and we are working on the new common platform with ENOTHE .</i>
		<i>It is decided that there will be sent out Newsletter from the executive committee to the member associations four times a year. Newsletter 1, 2 and 3 are sent out. The last will be sent out after the General Assembly meeting.</i>
Cooperation with other organisations and networks	Work further with the plan for closer cooperation with ENOTHE	<i>Executive committee had a joint meeting with ENOTHE board in February in Helsinki. The president of ENOTHE joined the COTEC executive interim meeting in Zagreb in June. There are four joint expert groups at the moment. Supplementary to the work of the ENOTHE link person, close relations and regular communication are established with the ENOTHE president.</i>
		<i>COTEC executive and ENOTHE board are working on a draft for an OT-EU umbrella</i>

		<i>organisation to be implemented in 2016.</i>
		<i>ENOTHE is working on a joint political program for OT-EU based on the COTEC political program.</i>
		<i>In 2014 ENOTHE will move their office to another country. COTEC and ENOTHE will go forward and explore options to deliver joint financial and secretarial services.</i>
		<i>COTEC/ENOTHE will prepare a joint OT-EU stand at the WFOT congress in Japan in 2014. COTEC /ENOTHE have send in a workshop abstract for the WFOT congress.</i>
	Have a closer cooperation with ER-WFPT	<i>The vice president of ER-WFPT was invited as a guest speaker at the Council meeting in Copenhagen. Subsequently a short meeting with her and the COTEC executive committee was arranged. She is invited to be a key note speaker at the European Congress in Ireland in 2016.</i>
	Investigate the benefits of closer cooperation EHF	<i>Some information on The European Health Forum is investigated. It might be an important organisation, but their meetings are expensive. COTEC has decided not to join their meeting this year due to the costs.</i>
		<i>Meeting with European Forum for Primary Care about cooperation and associate membership. COTEC has become an associate member of EFPC in May 2013. An OT officially representing both ENOTHE and COTEC has been nominated to the advisory board of EFPC. This nominee will be attending the EFPC meeting in Istanbul in September 2013. A questionnaire on OT in Primary Care is send out to all members with the newsletter</i>
Strengthen communication with EU	Use the membership in EPHA and EHF to strengthen the strategy for working towards EU	<i>Two members of the COTEC executive committee will attend COTEC the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual conference and the General Assembly for EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) in September.</i>
	Develop a strategy in preparation for a further contact with EU institutions	<i>A draft of the EU communication strategy plan has been started and will continue to be worked on.</i>