

COTEC Interim Report / January-August 2014

In this update report the Executive Committee wants to inform the Members about actions taken in 2014. Most of the actions were also previously reported in COTEC Newsletters.

Executive Committee

- Monthly Skype meetings with the full Executive Committee
- Various Skype meetings in different constellations around specific tasks e.g. Governance, Communications
- Two face to face interim meetings in
 - Brussels, February
 - London, June (funded by NBCOT)

Brussels was the first face to face meeting with the newly elected Executive Committee. The Committee combined this meeting with attendance at a workshop at EPHA to learn about effective ways of working at the EU level.

Items discussed in Brussels

- action plan revision, prioritising according to the GA in Malta. A working document was made, which has been updated during the year
- tasks divided between the members
- start with governance handbook & communication strategy
- start revising and updating Rules of Procedure and Constitution
- transparency register application was completed

Participated in

- EPHA workshop about demystifying the EU bubble

Extra meetings with

- ENOTHE President Brian Ellingham and a board member of ENOTHE
- Marije Bolt, COTEC and ENOTHE representative in the European Forum of Primary Care (EFPC) advisory board

London

In June COTEC Executive Committee followed an invitation from NBCOT (National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy) to London where the *International Occupational Therapy Regulatory Forum* took place under the theme: *Building a Global Occupational Therapy Regulatory Community*. The Executive Committee used the opportunity to have an interim meeting, at no cost to COTEC, as well.

- NBCOT meeting, three presentations
- preparing agenda GA Nijmegen
- ongoing tasks, communication strategy, governance, Rules of Procedures, Constitution, Fee structure
- meeting with representative of the Fee group

Joint expert group on research

The working group has received extensive joint feedback from COTEC and ENOTHE on their first report. Feedback was also gathered in a workshop during the ENOTHE Annual meeting in York.

The final report is still being discussed. The coordinator had to leave due to illness and a new coordinator is appointed. The group met in June and a final report is expected in August 2014.

Joint Congress

- Several Skype meetings were held with Agnes Shiel, representative of the Organising Committee, and progress is being made.
- A Joint Congress planning group has been formed with representatives of Galway and the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI), Brian Ellingham, Mandy Boaz, Stephanie Saenger, Anne Lawson Porter and Agnes Shiel
- Keynotes were identified
- Planning process is well on the way
- Promotional materials were sent to WFOT2014 Congress and put on display at the WFOT stand
- The Congress theme will be CONNECT with a sub heading reflecting the connection between policy, practice, education and research to be formulated.
- A scientific committee will be formed when needed, reviewing process mainly on line

Joint web portal

- Joint working group is dissolved
- List of substance requirements for the web portal is made
- Meeting Brussels presidents COTEC/ENOTHE
- Two quotes have been asked for, ENOTHE office in York will make one, too

Communication with individual National Associations

- National OT Association of Portugal, APTO
On request the Executive Committee wrote a letter to support APTO in their effort to keep the OT profession and OT education an independent profession in its own right.
- British Association of Occupational Therapists and College of Occupational Therapy / 38th Annual Conference of COT in Brighton.
Stephanie Saenger was honoured to be invited and delighted to attend the 38th Annual Conference of COT in Brighton. It was very interesting and useful to hear the challenges faced by occupational therapists in the UK and to be able to join the discussions in the various groups. It was enlightening to hear the views of our colleagues and stimulating to feel their enthusiasm for the profession. Together with Camilla Cox, the UK delegate for WFOT, Stephanie presented and discussed the work of COTEC in the international fringe meeting.
- National OT Association of Italy, AITO
On request the Executive Committee wrote a letter to support AITO in their effort to keep the OT profession and OT education an independent profession in its own right.
- National OT Association of Hungary, METE
Correspondence about the situation on law on education.
- National OT association of Austria and the National OT Association of Turkey invited COTEC president to be a key note speaker at their conference.

Contact has been made with the national associations of Romania and Turkey about applying for COTEC membership.

External meetings/contacts/actions

- Equity Action
Stephanie Saenger and Renée Oltman attended the Equity Action conference in Brussels January 23, 2014. Equity Action is the EU funded Joint Action on Health Inequalities focusing on developing knowledge for action on health inequalities.
COTEC decided to attend the conference to investigate the impact Occupational Therapy might have on health inequalities. Through the course of the day it became clear that the present research and evidence sufficiently covers determinants which promote health and reduce health inequalities, yet, how to close the health gap, and with which measures, remains an open debate.
- Coordinated/Integrated Health service Delivery (CIHSD)
On April 1st the president of ENOTHE Brian Ellingham and COTEC president Stephanie Saenger were invited to participate in the Coordinated/Integrated Health service Delivery High-Level Consultation in Brussels. This was a great opportunity to build networks and to inform the participants about OT. Brian Ellingham was panellist and explained very well that OTs are used to working with an enormous amount of different disciplines from medical, social, technical backgrounds which illustrated that OTs are used to work outside the purely medical environment and in fact are delivering integrated care. This was a good opportunity to strengthen our contacts with WHO-EU region and other organizations like Eurocarers and European Patients' Platform.
- EPHA working group on Health Professions and Policy Coordinating Meeting
On May 8th Stephanie Saenger attended the first of two annual EPHA Working Groups on Health Professionals took place on the morning of 8 May followed by the monthly Policy Coordinating Meeting. The Working group discussed interesting issues
- Teleconference and interview on Index Mental Health
COTEC was invited to and participates in an expert panel contributing to the development of an index on the active integration of people with serious mental illness - an EIU research project commissioned by Janssen. The panel had one tele-conference and some written feedback rounds. Stephanie Saenger was also selected to be interviewed to give more information about challenges in participation, best practices and the work of OTs in Mental Health. The Index will be published later in 2014. Participation in the panel is an excellent way to raise the visibility of occupational therapy.
- EPHA Professional Development Program, PDP
Anne Lawson Porter participated in a PDP course of EPHA and learned about strategic communication and the way EU works.
- European Parkinson Disease Association (EPDA) strategic committee and projects
In April this year, the EPDA launched its SHI, in collaboration with EPHA, EFPC, Eurocarers, The European Patients Forum (EPF) and the European Brain Council (EBC) supported by AbbVie. Occupational therapists are included as important stakeholders in their SHI project plan.

- NBCOT

In June the Executive Committee followed an invitation from NBCOT (National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy) to London where the *International Occupational Therapy Regulatory Forum* took place under the theme: *Building a Global Occupational Therapy Regulatory Community*. Thirty people from 18 countries followed NBCOT's invitation and discussed various topics around regulatory governance of OTs and their educational accreditation as well as frameworks for continuing competency and scopes of practice. The first aim of the *International Occupational Therapy Regulatory Forum* was to share information and establish a network. Questions and topics arising will be shared among the network and might initiate future meetings.

Consultations

COTEC is now identified in the European Commission's Transparency Register. This means that COTEC will be able to build closer relationships with key decision makers in Europe as it is increasingly recognised as a legitimate organisation within Europe. COTEC Executive Committee will be alerted to any open EU consultations in our field of interest.

Consultation on Primary Care

COTEC answered a call of the European Commission on the preliminary opinion on the 'Definition of a frame of reference in relation to primary care with a special emphasis on financing systems and referral systems'. COTEC's contribution was also shared with EPHA.

Consultation on European Commission's Impact Assessment guidelines was done with EPHA.

Union of International Associations, UIA

UIA invited COTEC to send two representatives to the *8th UIA Associations Round Table - Europe* on 13-14 November in Dublin. The UIA Round Table is an opportunity to learn through networking and through practice. Meet decision-makers from other international associations and share experience and knowledge to help you run your organisation better. The Executive Committee felt this would be very interesting to attend but due to the budget, the priorities, more work already than we have capacity for and of course the ideal of involving our members, it was forwarded to the AOTI with the question to find representatives for COTEC. One representative from Ireland will join the meeting and will report to COTEC.

Ongoing internal activities

Executive Committee members have been working on ongoing actions like the Communication Strategy, the Governance Handbook and the administration and correspondence.