



Occupational Therapy Europe current issues and future perspectives

Introduction

This paper has been prepared to be presented and discussed at COTEC General Assembly (GA) and ENOTHE Annual Meeting 2017 to inform both organisations about the development and progress of Occupational Therapy Europe since the respective meetings of 2016.

The history of the development of OT-EU since 2011 can be found at the OT-EU website.

Occupational Therapy Europe Strategic Goals as set by the OT-EU Coordinating Group in 2017:

1. Develop and strengthen political and strategic partnerships locally, nationally and European wide to increase OT-EU presence and visibility by addressing societal issues and promoting an occupational perspective of life.
2. Continue to explore and develop collaborative approaches with both organisations (COTEC and ENOTHE) to establish OT-EU as an umbrella organisation to coordinate and strengthen the impact of Occupational Therapy in Europe.

Key objectives 2017:

- Investigating the possibilities for OT-EU to become a legal entity to be a registered association and as such be able to join e.g. the EU Transparency register, WHO meetings and networks
- Establishing a mechanism for OT-EU budget
- Developing OT-EU communication strategies for social media, website and publications
- Exploring the possibility of an OT-EU office focused on administrative tasks initially
- Developing a research branch Research in Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science (ROTOS) as part of OT-EU to ensure that the activities of OT-EU are supported by best evidence and to improve the profession's credibility in addressing the Strategic Goals.
- Developing OT-EU Register of Experts
- Planning of OT-EU Congress 2020 in Prague



Current Situation and Progress OT-EU 2017 based on the key objectives

Legal Entity

The aim is to establish ENOTHE as a legal entity in 2017. The two organisations would then become equal members under the new legal entity OT-EU (association/federation) to be established in 2018. This allows both organisations to continue to work on their specific strategic goals and core issues. Until the ROTOS branch is further established with a board, statutes and budget, ROTOS will initially receive a standing committee status (see below).

Establishing a mechanism for an OT-EU budget

COTEC and ENOTHE will identify an equal sum of money from each of their budgets which is earmarked for use by OT-EU.

An OT-EU account might be realised when OT-EU has a legal status.

Developing OT-EU communication/publication strategies for social media, website and publications

A clear identification of responsibilities for the content of the OT-EU as well as COTEC, ENOTHE and ROTOS websites and social media needs to be established. The administrator of ENOTHE, Member of COTEC Executive Committee and one member of the OT-EU Coordinating Group have continued to develop the websites. Aligning and maintenance of three growing internally linked websites need further consideration.

Exploring the possibility of an OT-EU office focused on administrative tasks initially

As the ENOTHE office has to be transferred from May 2018 (as York St John has decided not to extend the contract), a solution for the short term and longer term needs to be found.

ENOTHE is responsible for the continuation of ENOTHE office to take over the office duties, in first place organisation of the 2018 Annual Meeting.

COTEC will search initially for a self-employed administrator.

The urgency to establish an OT-EU office with one or two self-employed persons has led to a call for vacancies advertisement to be sent out. An initial job description has been formulated based on previous discussions between ENOTHE Board and COTEC Executive Committee.

Development of the Research branch (ROTOS)

OT-EU, through COTEC and ENOTHE, will establish an expert group Research Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science (ROTOS) to develop a viable and influential research strategy for the profession to ensure that research findings will be easily accessible and available to strategically support OT in Europe, influence policy making and inform and be informed by practice, education and research.



Developing OT-EU Register of Experts

OT-EU Coordinating Group has decided that COTEC Register of Experts should become OT-EU Register of Experts. The criteria and process in order to be identified as an expert have been made in draft and will be finalised by the end of 2017.

Experts of the Register can be asked to write position papers or papers on behalf of actual political issues, to answer EU consultations and to represent OT-EU at meetings and conferences.

Planning of COTEC-ENOTHE Congress 2020 in Prague

The Czech OT association in collaboration with Charles University in Prague will host the OT-EU Congress in 2020 contact persons from both COTEC and ENOTHE are members of the 2020 Congress Organising Committee and a budget plan for the Congress has been agreed.