

Current developments & Activities Occupational Therapy Europe 2017-2018

Meetings

- In order to further establish OT-Europe this year one face to face meeting by the OT-Europe coordinating group took place in Abcoude January 25th. This was the second time that president and vice presidents of COTEC, ENOTHE as well as the standing committee (SC) of ROTOS were represented. Another f2f meeting will be held after the ENOTHE conference in October. Details of the content of the meeting in Abcoude was published in the ENOTHE and COTEC newsletters such as the request to ROTOS to provide so called information papers about stroke and mental health to promote and explain the profession to the outside world.

Further Occupational Therapy Europe collaboration with ROTOS

- The ROTOS standing committee is in the procedure investigating the best form for ROTOS to take a legal status.
- More information about the activity of ROTOS there will be a workshop planned to take place at the 24th Annual meeting of ENOTHE held on October 2018 in Portugal and at the ROTOS webpage (<http://www.oteurope.eu/research/>)

ENOTHE board members and COTEC executive, COTEC members & experts and ROTOS representing OT-Europe

- Marie-Antoinette Minis represented OT-Europe at the 21st European Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Vilnius and at
- The 18st European Conference on Integrated Health Care. ICIC18 in Utrecht
- Panagiotis Siaperas attended the European conference of the International Network of Health Workforce Education in Athens
- An ENOTHE poster Educating High Quality Occupational Therapists for European strategic journey towards 2020 has been presented at the WFOT conference.
- A meeting took place at the WFOT by OT-Europe representatives and the President and Vice President of the WFOT
- Active participation of Executive Committee and Experts in all fields in the activities and

groups of the European Health Policy Platform (EUHPP) which has resulted in joint statement

- Signing Joint statements e.g. Patient Safety, Health First Europe and WHO 67 Regional Committee meeting on Health Work Force, Refugee Health and Planetary Health
- Signing the joint statement on Mental Health with consortium of Staff groups working in Mental Health in cooperation with WHO
- Participating in 3 meetings in Brussels with other health professionals to establish the Health Professionals Dialogue, which aims to cooperate as health professionals to make a strong voice towards the European Commission
- Signed a partnership with European Public Health Association (EUPHA) to strengthen each others' work and promote Occupational Therapy in Public Health
- Expert presented at congress and participated in the working group of European Cancer Organisation (ECCO) to write a position paper on multi disciplinary work in oncology care in Primary Care
- Representative in the Advisory Board of European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC) and contribution to the congress with workshop
- Experts represented Occupational Therapy in 3 meetings of European Brain Council (EBC) in Brussels
- COTEC represented WFOT and Occupational Therapy at the 67 Regional Meeting of World Health Organisation in Hungary, and will do so in Rome at the RC68
- Esther Steultjens attended the research meeting of the "To Reach Consortium" in Brussels and The Hague. ROTOS is involved in setting the European research agenda for the future. In addition, there were consultations by surveys for the Horizon Europe Agenda (the next programme for EU research when Horizon 2020 is finished). Occupation-based knowledge is advocated and expected as an important asset for future health care in Europe.
 The Department of Occupational therapy of the Radboud University Medical Hospital, which is part of the Rehabilitation Department, will be the hosting organisation for the COST-Grant application. The application will be part of the Dutch OT-research group that will be strengthened with a professorship as of September 1st 2018.
- Niall Turner (member of the SC of ROTOS represented ROTOS at the conference of the Royal College of Occupational Therapy in the UK. His presentation focused on the

development of ROTOS and strong networking with COTEC and ENOTHE. This will help in developing strong foundations for Occupational Therapy in Europe.

Common activities in the development of OT-Europe

- Exchanging items for newsletters between COTEC and ENOTHE
- Work on joint expert groups and actions (e.g. Displaced People).
- Collaboration in the preparation of the Prague Occupational Europe Conference in 2020.
- Production of PR- material
- Website & Social Media

Register of experts

- The first meet and greet by members of the COTEC Register of Experts was held at the Galway conference in 2016.
- At the general Assembly in Vienna 2017 it was decided to open the COTEC Register of Experts for Occupational Therapy Europe, indicating that the register is an essential part of the OT-Europe umbrella organization in progress open to expertise on the areas of practice, education and research. Only with the collaboration in OT-Europe and support of members in the way of acting on calls, representation and sharing knowledge OT-Europe will be able to reach its goal to make high quality occupational therapy, visible, valued, available and accessible in Europe.
- A document with rules and procedures has been produced that clarifies the way Occupational Therapists in any role (educator, researcher or practitioner) can become member of the register. We hereby encourage colleagues to nominate themselves and others.

Establishing a constitution of Occupational Therapy Europe 'State of the Art'

- Several skype meetings took place in preparation of the establishment of an OT-Europe constitution to coordinate and strengthen the impact of Occupational Therapy in Europe. One meeting with presidents COTEC & ENOTHE in Nijmegen, The Netherlands and several

phone calls and e-mails were needed to prepare a draft OT-Europe constitution as discussion paper for the Executive committee of COTEC Executive Committee and the ENOTHE board.

- Occupational Therapy Europe constitution and office are still in development. The OT-Europe Coordinating Group is in favour for having a representative in Brussels. The first meeting with a potential lawyer to explore legal aspects has been planned for September 2018.

Marie-Antoinette Minis, Stephanie Saenger