

COTEC Newsletter

Introduction

In this Newsletter the COTEC Executive committee would like to bring you up-to-date on the latest developments at COTEC.

We sincerely hope that you will read the Newsletter with care, as only with the understanding, support and participation of all members, COTEC can grow to become strong and influential organisation that is needed to address issues relating to Occupational Therapy in the European Health and Social Care arenas.

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COTEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTERIM MEETING IN HELSINKI

The COTEC executive committee interim meeting was held in Helsinki on February 9th and 10th. The main topics dealt with were are:

- 1) to follow up on items of the Action Plan (2013);
- 2) to prepare the 58th and last COTEC 'meeting' to be held in Copenhagen (April 11th and 12th)
- 3) to prepare for the 1st COTEC General Assembly in Malta (October 21st and 22nd).

The final draft of the Rules of Procedure together with the associated appendices and the mandate for the electing committee were discussed and will be sent out with the Agenda for the October meeting.



Despite our very limited resources currently, with the COTEC executive committee made up of only four members (all volunteers), two of whom were not able to be physically present at the Helsinki meeting, a lot of work was discussed, prepared and completed.

It is clear that COTEC has to become a more sustainable organisation both in its operations as well as in its human resources. COTEC must be able to effectively follow up the political programme and be able to cover issues that relate to the Occupational Therapy profession in the Europe.

MEETING WITH WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (WFOT)



In Helsinki the COTEC executive committee and the ENOTHE board had a meeting with Sharon Brintnell, the WFOT President and with Samantha Shann, WFOT Vice president, Finance and WFOT - COTEC link person.

As COTEC is now a regional member of WFOT it was agreed to work on closer cooperation between the organisations. There were key areas for this co-operation, the development of OT education and the establishment of national associations in countries where these structures do not exist, as well as further COTEC - WFOTs engagement with the World Health Organisation in the European region. Plans for a communication structure are being made.



MEETING WITH EUROPEAN NETWORK OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (ENOTHE)



The COTEC-ENOTHE meeting was also held in Helsinki to coincide with the above meetings. The plans for a common web site, "OT Europe" were further developed and money allocated from both budgets. An organisational structure for the closer cooperation of the two bodies was further discussed. Members of both organisations will finalize the assignments for joint expert groups: one will be concerned with raising the profile of Occupational Therapy in relation to the 2014 EU 'year of the brain', and the other will focus on developing a sustainable research organization.

NEW FINANCIAL PLAN FOR COTEC



In order to make COTEC a more sustainable and effective organisation, more influential in Brussels, more able to promote OT together with ENOTHE through expert groups, and to have paid administrative and secretarial resources, COTEC needs to approach financial planning in a new way. Financial resources could also contribute to the running of a new joint and updated website, as well as enable COTEC to be active participant within the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and other relevant organisations. Taking all this in mind, a new financial plan needs to be well defined.

A SWOT analysis of the COTEC financial situation was discussed at the Helsinki Executive Committee meeting. There are no other realistic sources of income other than membership fees that can be utilised at this point in order to establish COTEC in the political arena of European health and social care. It is for this reason that a new membership fee system is being developed which will generate more income. To consider this further, the new income system will be presented and discussed in Copenhagen.

CHANGES IN THE COTEC SECRETARIAT

In January of this year COTEC was notified by the British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT) that having reviewed their commitments and resources they had to withdraw their secretariat function for COTEC from the end of 2013. The BAOT has performed secretarial services for COTEC since 1993, a service for which COTEC has always been extremely appreciative. This change will mean that COTEC needs to find a new way of funding and carrying out secretarial services from 2014 onwards.

ELECTIONS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

As the Vice President position in the COTEC Executive committee is vacant, a new candidate needs to be elected at the next meeting. In accordance with the old guidelines the candidate will be elected for only a half of year. It would be preferable however if that elected person would also be interested to be part of the new Executive committee due to be elected at the 1st COTEC General Assembly in October. The application form for this will be sent out with the Agenda for the Copenhagen meeting by the end of February.

In Copenhagen we will need to decide on the different positions that will form the new Executive committee.

We strongly encourage the delegates and national

associations to try to find interested and committed candidates to stand for nomination for this election to the European OT General Assembly.

At the 58th Council meeting in Copenhagen, we will also need to elect an Electoral Committee. The Electoral committee will prepare the elections to be held at the 1st COTEC General assembly. Candidates for the Electoral committee are asked to express their interest during the council meeting (as there is no written nomination procedure).



1st General Assembly—Malta 2013

The 1st General Assembly will be held in Malta on October 21st and 22nd 2013. On the first day there will be an introductory session with a guest speaker presenting the strategy Europe 2020 – for a healthier EU, and a member of COTEC providing an overview of the COTEC history and current activities. The second day will be allocated to business matters.

More information on the 1st General Assembly in Malta will be available in Copenhagen. The COTEC executive committee encourages all National association presidents to come to the 1st COTEC General Assembly and represent their association.



If you have any questions or comments, please contact the COTEC executive committee.

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