

COTEC Newsletter

Introducti

In this newsletter COTEC Executive committee wants to inform you about the latest developments in COTEC.

Inside this issue:

COTEC Executive Committee Interim Meeting In Zagreb	1
COTEC and European Forum for Primary Care - EFPC	2
Occupational therapy and European Forum for Primary Care-EFPC	2
COTEC and European public health alliance	3
Gratitude letter to the BAOT Secretariat in London	3
Support letter to Spanish occupational therapy association	3
Importance of COTEC for National associations—Croatian experience	3
Occupational therapy: Cost-effective solutions for changing health systems	3
1st Croatian OT conference—Everyday rehabilitation in community	4
Reminders	4

COTEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTERIM MEETING IN ZAGREB

The Executive Committee meeting was held in Zagreb the 13th to 15th of June. It was an effective and useful meeting well organized by the Croatian Association at the Silver Rehabilitation Centre. At this meeting the new vice president, Renée Oltman was present for the first time. Anne Lawson Porter, the president of ENOTHE joined the meeting most of the time.

The main topic on the agenda was to plan the General Assembly in Malta in October. Since this is the first time COTEC is arranging a General Assembly, there were several papers and details to be prepared. The plans for the seminar about Health 2020, the day before the General Assembly were finalized.

Other important issues were discussed. These included the follow up of the remaining actions in the Action Plan for 2013, the strengthening of the cooperation between COTEC and ENOTHE, strategies to voice Occupational Therapy's perceptions about topics on the European political agenda, the communication with member National Associations, and the planning, implementation and budget needed for the Action Plan for 2014.

Throughout this year, much of the executives work has been concentrated on internal organizational work so as to establish the new COTEC organization. The intention for the following years is to further collaborate with member National Associations and other cooperating partners in order to attain a stronger political voice on key European issues pertinent to Occupational Therapy.



COTEC AND THE EUROPEAN FORUM FOR PRIMARY CARE (EFPC)

COTEC executive is very pleased to have signed the agreement of associate membership with The European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC).

The EFPC has proved to be an influential organization in Europe with inclusive and effective strategies. It is a well recognised organization and is included in the European Commission's Transparency Register. This means that COTEC, through the EFPC, will be able to build closer relationships with key decision makers in Europe.

The EFPC was a member of the validation panel for the OT TUNING competences and is very aware of the contribution of Occupational Therapy in primary care and other areas. The fact that an occupational therapist has been nominated for a post in the Advisory Board of the EFPC illustrates the strong relationship between COTEC and EFPC. As discussed in the council meeting in Copenhagen and as recorded in the minutes we strongly advise you as National Association to consider membership of the EFPC. Mr. Diederik Aarendonk, coordinator of the EFPC has kindly explained the benefits of National associations becoming a member of the European Forum for Primary Care and you can read it [here](#).



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND THE EUROPEAN FORUM FOR PRIMARY CARE (EFPC)

In September 2013, at the annual EFPC conference in Istanbul, Marije Bolt, occupational therapist working in Primary Care in the Netherlands and former COTEC alternate, is candidate for a position in the Advisory Board. Having an occupational therapist in the Advisory Board of the EFPC, officially representing COTEC and ENOTHE is a great opportunity for our profession. We will be able to put the themes of concern and strengths of OT on the agenda of an organization with strong connections and close collaboration with the European Union!

In order to represent occupational therapy in its best way in the Advisory Board, Marije Bolt developed a short survey for all COTEC member associations. Although COTEC has already collected very useful information about Primary Care/community based OT in the Summary of the Profession and the concept Position Paper of the working group of Gunner Gamborg (February 2013) more detailed information is needed. You can find the survey [here](#). COTEC executive would kindly urge you to fill in the survey and send it to Marija Bolt (marijebolt@ergo-doen.nl) before 1st of August, so the results can be discussed in Istanbul and the summary of results presented in the next COTEC newsletter.



More information about occupational therapy in primary health care is available [here](#).

COTEC AND THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

On the 3th September 2013, Renée Oltman and Stephanie Saenger representing COTEC, will attend the EPHA General assembly. On September 4th and 5th the 4th EPHA annual conference will be held with the theme "[Brave New World, inclusive growth and well-being or vested interests and lost generations?](#)" The two day programme looks very interesting and covers a lot of important issues.

COTEC representatives will attend the conference and utilize both knowledge and network opportunities. A report will be provided during the COTEC GA in Malta.



GRATITUDE LETTER TO THE BAOT SECRETARIAT IN LONDON

COTEC would like to express its gratitude to the British Occupational Therapy Association (BAOT) for their ongoing support to COTEC, amongst others through their secretariat services. This contribution was crucial in facilitating COTEC's work in Europe.

Whilst thanking BAOT for their secretariat service offered for numerous years until 2013, COTEC is now in the process of establishing a new secretariat in the nearby future.

COTEC letter of appreciation is available [here](#).



SUPPORT TO SPANISH OT ASSOCIATION

The Spanish Association has sent a request to COTEC to ask for support concerning the draft Law on Professional Services. COTEC has written a letter, which will be sent to the Spanish Ministry.



IMPORTANCE OF COTEC FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS— CROATIAN EXPERIENCE

COTEC as an European organization has an strong influence on both European, but also on an national level. Tuning standards and quality of OT practice which provides same level of services and is in accordance with EC Directive 2011/24/EU on cross border health care. Through proactive lobbying done in person, but also through documents (Position statements, Political papers, Summary of OT profession) which are published by COTEC, it has a positive influence on changing policy makers opinions in countries with developing OT communities, for example due to among else, intensive COTEC lobbying in 2009-2010, Croatian OT's have now regulated profession, system of registration and licensing and system of professional auditing.

We have to bear in mind that lobbying for OT profession needs to be a top down (on the level of EC policy makers) and bottom up (on the level of national policy makers) process, as this gives strong foundation of making OT visible and valued throughout Europe. So intensive proactive lobbying needs to be done through presence in EU public consultations, EU events, work with EU MEP's etc.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGING HEALTH SYSTEM NEEDS

Health care in Europe is changing. There is a urgent need to redesign healthcare due to the financial crisis. It is important that healthcare is sustainable, is accessible for all and costs are kept within the budgets. Occupational therapists working in primary care are important to deliver efficient and effective high quality services to enable people to live longer, comfortable and save at their own homes. Occupational therapy is a cost effective solution for changing health care system needs.

Article Kate Rexe et al. (2013). Occupational Therapy: Cost-Effective Solutions for Changing Health System Needs. Healthcare Quarterly Vol.16 No.1 can be accessed [here](#).



1st Croatian OT conference—Everyday rehabilitation in community

Croatian Association of Occupational Therapists has organized [1st Croatian OT conference with international participation "Everyday rehabilitation in the community"](#) in Zagreb on June 15th 2013. Conference patrons were the Mayor of Zagreb Mr. Milan Bandi and the Croatian Ministry of Health.

Speakers at the conference were OT's, MD's and other professionals from the Croatia, The Netherlands, Norway and Malta as well as the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities. In his opening speech of the conference, conference patron, the Mayor of Zagreb Mr Bandi (and a person who received OT services post CVI) stated "The occupational therapy has a dual role. The first is an optimum integration into life, and the other in an optimum functioning in life, noting that the hands and heads of occupational therapists irreplaceable". Conference itinerary was based on CBR evolution, from routes set by former WHO consultant prof.dr.sc. Ana Bobinec Georgievski, through NGO involvement at the present and future possibilities presented by COTEC Executives. Conference conclusions state that OT's with their unique understanding of the impact of occupation on health, being the central interest of OT practice, provide indispensable dimension to health and social care sector of society, especially in CBR. And, CBR is considered to be the most practical and cost effective form of rehabilitation which enables promotion of active participation as an effective strategy in making society inclusive for all.

Pictures and conference conclusions can be accessed [here](#). Book of abstract and Conference conclusions and recommendations are available through Croatian association of occupational therapists (udruga@hurt.hr). Presentations are available by clicking on the picture of Executive.



Reminders

Don't forget:

Call for bids for the GA 2014 are out. Guidelines can be found on the COTEC website.

Don't forget:

The 1st COTEC General Assembly will be held on the 21st and 22nd October 2013 at the Dolmen Hotel, St Paul's Bay, Malta.

Don't forget:

Call for Nominations of the Executive Committee for the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC) Deadline July 15th 2013.