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Vice President's Editorial

I am writing this editorial midst the last preparations for the 3rd COTEC General Assembly. General Assembly will take place the first weekend of October in Riga, Latvia. Twenty-two COTEC Members will attend the meeting where eg. Action Plan and Budget for 2016 are on the agenda, and two new Members of the Executive Committee will be elected. To have six members in the EC again will mean that the Executive workload and representing COTEC can be better shared and we can re-organise the tasks evenly.

At the Governance Day preceding the General Assembly COTEC's new visual image and new website will be launched. Visual image including new logo have been designed by a German graphic designer and in co-operation with ENOTHE who launched their new website earlier this year. Common visual identity is another step closer to OTEurope and a stronger, harmonised voice for Occupational Therapy.

The work of COTEC, like every organisation is based on planning and scheduling. Sometimes the timeframe is five years, sometimes a couple of weeks. The past summer COTEC received invitations to events with very short notice. Delegating the representation to Member Associations is an option, when the EC cannot attend meetings or events. In this Newsletter you can read reports written by delegates from Member Associations representing COTEC.

With less than nine months until the first COTEC-ENOTHE Joint Congress 2016 the planning of the COTEC-ENOTHE 2020 Congress is starting to take shape. During the GA weekend in Riga COTEC-ENOTHE Congress Committee's recommendation for the host of COTEC-ENOTHE 2020 Congress will be announced.

Anu Söderström

Vice President Administration

1st COTEC-ENOTHE Joint Congress 2016 – Galway

The first joint Congress of COTEC (Council of Occupational Therapists for European Countries) and ENOTHE (European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education) will take place in Galway from June 15th - 19th 2016.



Call for Reviewers

It has been agreed that all correspondence regarding the call for reviewers will come directly from the Galway Conference organisers. This call is due to be distributed by the end of September. The criteria for Call for Reviewers has also been agreed and should have been sent out with the Call for reviewers, so we hope that you have been able to respond positively with nominated persons to act as reviewers.

Committee Meeting – November

The Organising Committee for the Congress has planned to meet in Galway 19-21 November and this meeting coincides with both the COTEC Executive meeting and the ENOTHE Board meeting. There will be an opportunity for discussions about the Congress and also the progress of OTEurope, alongside our various board and committee meetings. Anne Lawson-Porter and Anu Söderström are representing COTEC in the Committee.

Scientific Committee

The Conference Organisers are creating a Scientific Committee whose job it will be to design the overall programme following the completion of the abstract review process. It is intended that there will be two people from Ireland, two from ENOTHE and two from COTEC. COTEC representatives are Anne Lawson-Porter and Karin Orman. A work plan will be agreed and meetings will take place by skype.

Promotion

An e-zine with information on the Congress and Call for Abstracts was distributed on Monday, September 14th with the intention that National Associations could distribute it through their networks.

General

There have been one or two queries about whether there might be specific strands for particular topics eg occupational science, education. The overarching theme of the Congress is 'connecting' and the programme will be a compilation of integrated topics around specific areas of practice eg older people, mental health. Issues from research, occupational science, education, practice and policy will be integrated into sessions as appropriate.

Abstract submission is open until 31st October, 2015.

Details about the congress and abstract submission can be found on the web page

www.cotec-enothe2016.com

EU Conference on Universal Health: Investing in Health and Well being for All

COTEC Executive Committee is very pleased that the Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists was willing and able to send a representative for COTEC to the Conference Universal Health: Investing in Health and Well being for All, (Latvia), June 29 - 30th in Riga, Latvia.

Signe Tomsons represented COTEC. Prior the Conference she had a Skype meeting with COTEC President Stephanie Saenger to prepare the meeting and to identify the key messages and the special assignment. Her follow-up recommendations are in line with the EC strategy.

Read [Ms. Tomsons's report](#)

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?YourCompanyName/bb82b59737/cbc262a1a8/3614baafe2>

<http://rigahealthconference2015.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Riga-Roadmap-download-FINAL.pdf>

COT Annual Conference

COTEC President Stephanie Saenger and Vice President Anne Lawson-Porter were both honored and privileged to be invited to the 39th Annual Conference of the College of Occupational Therapists and the specialist section Work from June 30th - July 2nd at the Brighton Conference Centre. Honored, to be invited along with other international guests from Ireland, America and Canada and privileged to be amongst many hundreds of occupational therapists, eager to share their work and experience and keen to learn from the experience and expertise of others.

Another privilege was to hear from National leaders about the challenging issues that are having an impact on health and social care in the UK and, as important, how occupational therapists can place themselves in the mix of health and social care professionals in delivering some of the solutions for those issues. Many of the issues raised, for example, reductions in public services due to fiscal problems, the need for leadership to meet the challenges, the desire for patient led services and the requirement for evidence informed interventions, are also at the heart of the health and social care agenda in Europe, targeted at specific areas of practice such as the older person, children and young people, mental health and primary care. In that context it is clear that much of what challenges occupational therapists in the UK is also a challenge to occupational therapists across Europe.

EFPC 2015 Conference, "Integrated Primary Care: Research, Policy & Practice"

COTEC President attended the pre-conference day and the 10th conference of the European Forum for Primary Care in Amsterdam, August 30th - September 2nd. During the days Occupational Therapy was promoted in different ways. Students of the OT department of the University of Applied Science in Amsterdam were stewards and were wearing COTEC t-shirts, pins and "I love OT" badges. This year there were OT practitioners and academics, who actively brought OT forward in the discussions and workshops. COTEC President tweeted actively, which resulted in re-tweets and favorites. A promising start was made for developing a position paper on OT and Primary

care in cooperation with EFPC. This will be discussed at COTEC Governance day in October.

[read more and see pictures](#)

EPHA

Annual Conference

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european forum
for primary care

September 2015



The President was not able to attend as planned the EPHA Annual Conference in Brussels on September 2-3 and to represent COTEC at their Annual General Assembly. At such short notice it was not possible to find a representative. Contact has been made with EPHA and a meeting will be planned to discuss

the cooperation within the new strategies of both organizations. A full report of the conference will be available at the EPHA website www.eph.org

WHO Regional Committee for Europe 65th session

WFOT kindly invited COTEC President Stephanie Saenger and the President of the Lithuanian Association of Occupational Therapists, Giedre Kavaliauskiene, to participate in the WHO Regional Committee for Europe 65th session in Vilnius, Lithuania on September 14- 17, 2015.

Having a strong World, European and National representation and by using networking skills Occupational Therapy was noticed in the meeting. WFOT VP Finance Samantha Shann excellently delivered a statement on the WHO Physical Activity strategy during the meeting and two statements were video recorded (see statement WFOT) and received much positive feedback. VP Finance WFOT and COTEC President tweets were often in the top-tweets of the event (see #RC65) which raised the profile of occupational therapy. Lots of contacts, which might lead to further cooperation were made.

For more information see <http://www.euro.who.int/en/home>

or download the app <http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/governance/regional-committee-for-europe/65th-session/whoeurope-regional-committee-app>

[Short report](#) of the meeting attached. Read also WFOT joint statements [5a](#), [5c](#) and [RC65-9](#)



WFOT VP Finance Samantha Shann, President of the Lithuanian Association of Occupational Therapists Giedre Kavaliauskiene and President of COTEC Stephanie Saenger

Patient Empowerment by European

In COTEC Newsletter of June 2015 a report of the European Patients' Forum, EPF, Launch on Patient Empowerment was reported.

COTEC Position Statement on Patient Empowerment and the 5E's is finalized. The possible steps that can be taken by COTEC, National Associations and individual OTs to support this EPF campaign and will at the same time promote OT will be discussed during COTEC Governance Day in October. Examples are outlined in the Toolkit of EPF. To gain more insight in the knowledge and expertise of Occupational therapists regarding Patient Empowerment, all COTEC Member Associations and experts are asked to inform the Executive

Patients' Forum

Committee if they have expertise, good practices and/or national actions on Patient Empowerment. Please send information to stephanie.saenger@cotec-europe.org

Link to the [COTEC Position statement on Patient Empowerment](#)

Link to the [EPF Patient Empowerment toolkit](#)

“Interprofessional Education (IPE) for Integrated Primary Care Professionals” - Position Paper of the European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC)



COTEC President Stephanie Saenger has in September had a meeting with Loes van Amsterdam, director of VAOMA (Amsterdam Organization and Management Advice). Ms. Van Amsterdam is writing a position paper on Interprofessional Education (IPE) for Integrated Primary Care Professionals. She is

very interested in the role and position of OT in Primary Care and the professional identity of Occupational Therapists. Ms. Saenger shared the results of her informal research on professional identity and explained the role of OT in primary care, multi- and inter professional team, client centered care and presented the Summary of OT Profession. The Position Paper will be published in the January 2016 issue of the Primary Health Care Research & Development (PHCR&D), the official digital EPCF journal of Cambridge Press. Ms. van Amsterdam advised to consider a broader research by COTEC on the professional identity and role of OT in primary care based on the informal research.

Empowering patients - how can technology contribute to improving health literacy?

STOA (European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment) held a workshop on Health Literacy in Europe on July 1st 2015 in the EU Parliament in Brussels to bring stakeholders from health and technology together. Over 100 participants joined the two-and-a-half hour session listening to and discussing with a diverse group of panellists. Speakers included representatives from academia, EU, WHO, patient organisations, pharmaceutical and technical industry.

One of the participants, Eva Denysiuk, a member of DVE, the German OT Association has written [a short report](#) of the workshop. Eva is also listed on COTEC Register of Experts.

An executive summary of the workshop can be found here

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/stoa/cms/home/events/workshops/literacy>

See also Health Literacy, the solid facts http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/190655/e96854.pdf

HORIZON 2020 project

As communicated in the earlier newsletters COTEC was invited to join the application of a HORIZON 2020 project and the proposal was submitted April 15th, 2015. In September the project members have received a negative evaluation on the proposal. It is decided a skype meeting will be organised to reflect on the feedback of the EC on the proposal and to discuss the options for resubmission.

OT in Forensic services

September 2nd, 2015 COTEC Executive Committee forwarded a request for assistance in a research done by Caty Connell, Senior Forensic Occupational Therapist on OT in Forensic Psychiatry, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

You can read her email and request [here](#)

COTEC Secretarial News

3rd COTEC General Assembly 2015

The 3rd COTEC General Assembly will be held in Riga, the capital of Latvia, October 4th, 2015. The preceding day, Oct 3rd, will be "COTEC Governance Day". Twenty-two Member associations will be represented at the meeting along with observers from the National OT Associations of Romania and Russia, ENOTHE and WFOT. There will be elections for two Members of COTEC Executive Committee and the Action Plan and budget for 2016 will be agreed on. The Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists have prepared a social program and a working dinner between the board members of the association and the Executive Committee of COTEC has been planned.

COTEC Visual identity is changing

COTEC Visual identity will be renewed in October. Renée Oltman has had the lead in the project with German graphic designer Alexandra Bendels and the new logo will be launched at the Governance Day. In order to have a stronger corporate image some printed material will be ordered for Executive Committee and Members to use.

COTEC Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. For agenda items, proposals and exact times please contact anu.soderstrom@cotec-europe.org

COTEC Executive Committee next face-to-face meeting after the General Assembly will take place in Galway, Ireland Nov, 19-21, 2015 adjoined with ENOTHE Board meeting. The meeting venue will be National University of Ireland in Galway, which will also host the COTEC-ENOTHE 2016 Congress in June. The Executive Committee and ENOTHE Board will have a chance to see the Congress venue and meet the local Congress organizing committee.

COTEC wishes all a fruitful autumn season!

