

## **COTEC 4 Year Strategy 2025-2028**

The Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC) is a European Organisation for over 215,000 occupational therapists through membership of their National Association. This strategy outlines the key areas of business for the organisation, indicates areas of political interest and identifies priorities for the next four years. Strategic goals are based on COTEC's organisational values, professional values and the philosophy of occupational therapy, set within the dynamic context in which occupational therapists are educated and work across Europe.

The strategy forms a framework for the work of the organisation covering the period 2025-2028. In yearly discussion and agreement with Member Associations at the General Assembly, COTEC will implement the strategy into Annual Operating Plans.

### **Strategic Vision**

Occupational Therapy is valued, visible, available and accessible in Europe by service users and policy makers and occupational therapists are proud to be a member of their National Occupational Therapy Association and the European Professional Community.

### **Strategic Goals 2025-2028**

1. Strengthen political and strategic partnerships locally, nationally, and throughout Europe to increase the profession's impact on health and societal issues, working toward promoting an occupational perspective of life.
2. Support COTEC Member Associations and their members in delivering occupation-based, evidence-informed occupational therapy in existing and emerging areas of practice by qualified occupational therapists or where appropriate, overseen by them.
3. Actively promote the Occupational Therapy practitioner voice at local, national and European level.
4. Maintain a sustainable organisation for COTEC Members to contribute to the European agenda and support their members' professional growth.

## Key Objectives

- 1. Strengthen political and strategic partnerships locally, nationally, and throughout Europe to increase the profession's impact on health and societal issues, working toward promoting an occupational perspective of life.**
  - a. Highlight the importance of mutual collaboration and partnerships to the Member Associations when developing the Occupational Therapy profession, within and beyond the health domain.
  - b. Encourage and facilitate Member Associations to be visible partners in different interprofessional projects and actions, influencing the development of decisions at the local/national/international political agenda on key and contemporary issues.
  - c. Increase collaboration with the third sector, service users and other health and social partners such as NGOs, associations, cooperatives, community groups and others.
  - d. Involve Occupational Therapists at a European level by e.g. engaging representatives/experts in meetings relevant to Occupational Therapy, providing opportunities through Occupational Therapy Europe register of experts, providing information about Occupational Therapy resources and sharing information on European policies and initiatives.
  
- 2. Support COTEC Member Associations and their members in delivering occupation-based, evidence-informed occupational therapy in existing and emerging areas of practice by qualified occupational therapists or where appropriate, overseen by them.**
  - a. Distribute information related to European health, social and educational policy.
  - b. Engage in joint projects to promote the contribution of Occupational Therapy practice in education and research in line with European priorities.
  - c. Contribute to the development of a European Community of Occupational Therapy to promote and support existing and emerging areas of practice.
  - d. Support the development of current and the establishment of new Occupational Therapy associations within the member states of the Council of Europe.

- 3. Actively promote the Occupational Therapy practitioner's voice at local, national and European level**
  - a. Listen to and respond to clinical issues and concerns for Occupational Therapy practitioners across European countries.
  - b. Facilitate supportive spaces for Occupational Therapy practitioners to highlight issues relevant to practice and to increase visibility of important clinical events and influences.
  - c. Amplify the practitioner's voice where possible in the work of COTEC, creating open and accessible channels for feedback, consultation and communication.
  - d. Maintain effective communication measures, implementing the COTEC communication standard of procedures.
  
- 4. Maintain a sustainable organisation for COTEC Member Associations contributing to the European agenda and supporting their members' professional growth.**
  - a. Communicate the value of COTEC Membership.
  - b. Ensure openness and transparency through robust governance procedures.
  - c. Promote the importance of being a member of a National Occupational Therapy Association to maintain and/or increase membership to meet the future developments of COTEC.
  - d. Contribute to organising a European Occupational Therapy Congress which offers opportunities for practitioners to network and present, learn, and share professional practices.