



**2015 European Year
for Development**

**our world
our dignity
our future**

**March
2015**

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MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW 2014

We know that members are keen to find out how representative the current network is and how far reaching our potential is to influence the profession of occupational therapy, our profile and presence within Europe.

The European Union is a unique economic and partnership between 28 countries that together cover most of the Continent. ENOTHE have members from 24 of these countries and other contributing members from 5 countries external to Europe.

Only those with full membership from the European countries can vote at the General Assembly which is takes place at the Annual Meeting each year.)

We have had a small number of institutions during the 2014 who have written to say that they are unable to continue membership due a number of issues for example, closure of programme, lack of money or retirement of the long time representative and the university not prepared to continue to member. We have also a small number of institutions and organisations wishing to apply to be a member beginning in 2015.

I came across the United Nations Geo-scheme for Europe which seems as good as any pictorial explanation. The scheme subdivides the continent into the following:



- Key code:**
- Northern Europ
 - Western Europe
 - Eastern Europe
 - Southern Europ

Image adapted from United Nations Geo-scheme for Europe (wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Geoscheme_for_Europe date 11.02.2015)

We would be pleased to receive your ideas of how current members could help with increasing membership. We look forward to hearing from you.

We began collecting membership fees for 2015 on the 1st March 2015. This will be in the first instance through the online shop.

Fees in 2015

Annual Membership fees have not been increased for several years. In order that the ENOTHE Office and activities can be sustained and further developed into the future, a **5% fee rise** has been implemented this year.

We have introduced a new price structure for 2015 Annual Meeting, and are pleased that under this structure for the majority of attendees there will be **no increase** in cost. Non-members as always are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting but will be expected to pay a higher registration fee.

We will also be introducing a reduced registration fee for the Annual Meeting for retired individuals.

Annual Meeting 2015 Ruse, Bulgaria

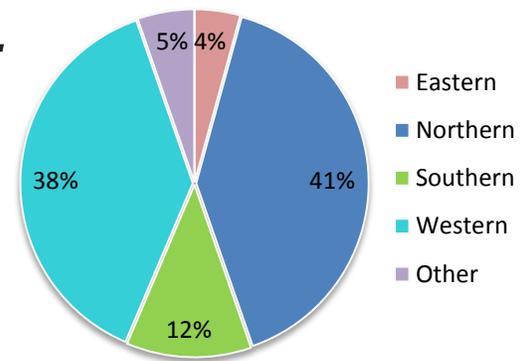
We have a list of useful documents for this year's Annual Meeting: -

- [Accommodation Suggestions](#)
- [Host University](#)
- [Travel from nearby Airports](#)
- [History & Culture of Ruse](#)
- [General Information about Ruse](#)



Membership Overview 2014 continued...

Regional Divisions	Countries	Total
Eastern Europe	Bulgaria (2) Poland (1) Czech Republic (1)	4
Northern Europe	Ireland (1) Lithuania (1) Denmark (8) Finland (3) Norway (5) Estonia (1) Iceland (1) Latvia (1) Sweden (5) United Kingdom & Northern Ireland (12)	38
Southern Europe	Greece (1) Croatia (1) Malta (1) Portugal (2) Spain (6)	11
Western Europe	Austria (7) Germany (13) Belgium (6) Netherlands (5) France (2) Switzerland (3)	36
The United Nations code some of our other contributing members as:		
Western Asia	State of Palestine (1)	1
North Africa	Tunisia (1)	1
Other Contributing members	United States of America (1) Canada (1) Australia (1)	3
Total members of the ENOTHE network		94



Please contact us with suggestions at enothe@yorks.ac.uk
Mandy Boaz,
ENOTHE Coordinator

ENOTHE Board Meeting -Strategy & Workplan

ENOTHE board meeting –
Vienna Friday 23rd January – Saturday 24th January 2015

After considerable logistical challenges the first face to face meeting of the new ENOTHE board took place in January hosted by the Occupational Therapy programme at FH Campus, Vienna. The main aim of the meeting was to constitute the board and to work on strategies and priorities for the next five



Using feedback from members at the annual meeting, WFOT and European targets for 2020 and the boards assessment of the network, three main areas were identified for development during the next five years (2015-2020):

- To develop a robust educational system for European occupational therapists which demonstrates comparability, high quality and flexibility to respond to change.
- To develop strong partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally to increase our presence and visibility and to promote our contribution.
- To continue to work towards the development of a sustainable network organisation by improving engagement with members, creating effective communication strategies and developing good governance procedures.

The board will be working to develop, concretise and refine these areas with a view to presenting the final strategy for approval at the next Annual meeting.

Other issues discussed at the meeting were; current and future project groups, collaboration between ENOTHE and COTEC and the development of OT-EU: conclusions from the Tuning workshops and how to continue the themes towards 2020; support for this year's Annual meeting in Ruse, Bulgaria and working towards the joint COTEC-ENOTHE conference in Galway, Eire in 2016. The issue of ENOTHE finances and the need to increase membership fees to secure the networks continuation.

Finally – the following board duties were assigned:

President with Honorary Secretary:

Brian Ellingham

Vice president with Communications role:

Marie-Antoinette van Kuyk-Minis

Joint Congress Link with Communications role:

Inés Vianna-Moldes

Projects Coordinator:

Joanna Stadler-Grillmaier

Annual Meeting Link:

Alma Cirtatus

COTEC-ENOTHE Link with Treasurer role:

Anne Lawson Porter



Project in Focus

Starting Tuning of OT Master competences – Reporting the first work phase of the ENOTHE Masters project group

By:
Alison Laver-Fawcett,
York St John University,
United Kingdom;



Ursula Costa,
University of Applied
Sciences Tyrol,
Austria



On behalf of the ENOTHE Masters project group

The aim of this ENOTHE project is to describe a common frame of reference for Masters programmes for Occupational Therapists in Europe. The first phase involved comparing the learning outcomes and competencies of a sample of occupational therapy masters' programmes and interdisciplinary masters' programmes as relevant to Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science. Similarities and differences were compared between learning outcomes / competencies in relation to the ENOTHE Tuning reference points and to the [European Qualification Framework](#). As a result the group identified and described 16 common curriculum areas. These areas have been labelled with active verbs to describe the related learning outcomes. Masters' occupational therapy specific competencies were related to each curriculum area in a consequent step. The 16 identified common curriculum areas are:

- 1) Evidence-based approach to clinical practice;
- 2) Guidelines, standards and systems;
- 3) Advanced problem solving ability;
- 4) Management of occupational therapy services and resources (including staff);
- 5) Promotion of occupational therapy;
- 6) Clinical and professional reasoning, critical thinking;
- 7) Core Occupational Therapy concepts and practice;
- 8) Life-long learning, reflection and continuing professional development (CPD);
- 9) Policy development;
- 10) Leadership in interdisciplinary work and team working;
- 11) Research;
- 12) Dissemination;
- 13) Innovative approaches, creativity and entrepreneurial skills;
- 14) Service evaluation and quality improvement;
- 15) Ethics and ethical reasoning; and
- 16) Advocacy / change agent.

This project group has comprised colleagues from:
Austria (Ursula Costa from the University of Applied Sciences Tyrol);
Belgium (Daphne Kos and Dominique van de Velde from KU Leuven, University of Gent);
Canada (Lise Poissant and Marc Rouleau from the Université de Montréal/Québec);
Denmark (Karen la Cour and Line Lindahl from the University of Southern Denmark);
Germany (Sandra Schiller and Ulrike Marotzki from HAWK University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hildesheim);
Norway (Klara Jakobsen and Jon Sörsgaard from Sør Trøndelag University College HiST);
Switzerland (Isabel Margot from the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland, Lausanne);
United Kingdom (Alison Laver-Fawcett and Mandy Boaz from York St. John University);
And representatives from the OT Euromaster programme (Fenna van Nes and Ton Satink).



The group have recently submitted a report, detailing the first work phase, to the ENOTHE board and the board has approved an application to extend the project into phase 2. The overarching aim of this project is to provide a useful basis for comparing and developing exchange among post-registration Masters programmes in Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science, and, in doing so, to contribute to Tuning specific and reflecting generic competencies respectively learning outcomes on Masters level. Furthermore, it may be used to enhance the quality of both existing programmes and programmes which are in the process of development.

Read the Phase 1 Report for yourself by [clicking here](#).



Research Developments

Horizon 2020

By Stephanie Saenger

Over the last three months the COTEC president has been actively involved in the discussions of the DPLEOT project proposal for HORIZON 2020. (see COTEC newsletter December 2014).



The aim of the project is to use innovation and technology to magnify the impact of European Occupational Therapists by providing them and their clients with transformational tools, technology and education. The consortium, led by the Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands, consists of many ICT related companies (e.g. Siemens, DEEI, Telit, Brainwave), the Learning Technologies Group (LTG) and for occupational therapy COTEC/ENOTHE and four OT educational institutions.

Preparing a potentially successful proposal which complies with all the rules, is innovative and beneficial to occupational therapists and their clients takes a lot of time and effort.

There have been many Skype conferences and on Tuesday 24th of February all partners met face to face in Delft for a workshop and discussions. The discussions about how internet based technology can be used within OT education, practice and research are very interesting and open an amazing world full of exciting ideas and possibilities!

We are very happy that four OT educational institutes have shown interest in participating as OT experts in the consortium. The institutes are: **PXL Hasselt, Belgium; FH Campus Wien, Vienna, Austria; Hogeschool Zuyd, Heerlen, The Netherlands; Hogeschool van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.** For a number of reasons (e.g. lack of skills, expertise, time, human resources and interest shown by our members) the COTEC Executive Committee and ENOTHE board have decided not to take the lead of one of the project work packages but will participate as a partner in the consortium. COTEC and ENOTHE will specifically be involved in the tasks of testing, pilots and dissemination.

The deadline for the project proposal is April 14th. By September it will be clear if the project has the chance of being accepted. If the project is accepted more information and concrete questions will be communicated.

If you are interested to learn more about the project you can contact stephanie.saenger@cotec-europe.org

Workshop Competencies continued...

In the December 2014 newsletter the board informed the ENOTHE members about the preliminary outcomes of the workshops about OT competencies during the Annual Meeting in Nijmegen. This summary has been discussed during the Board Meeting of January in Vienna.

The board concluded that competences at **BACHELOR LEVEL** as originally formulated still meet the original target of the tuning competencies that is:

Comparable progress across EU for employment and mobility of Occupational Therapists.

Even though there is no need to rewrite the tuning competencies the board thinks it is important to continue the process that started in Nijmegen. **So the board would like to invite and encourage ENOTHE members of all regions of Europe to participate in work surrounding the tuning competencies.** This work addresses: -

- language issues due to the changing contexts in which OT professionals work
- contextual issues to develop skills for OTs to work at policy level.
- social, cultural, economic, political development
- linked in strategies regarding practical curriculum revision

The board and the ENOTHE office are investigating the political status of the Tuning competencies in the European context. During the next Annual Meeting in Ruse, Bulgaria, workshops will be organised to offer opportunities to members to re-think practical application of the competencies in undergraduate studies. This might help members to achieve an overarching political view to incorporate tuning competencies in their curricula.

If you would like to share your ideas about tuning competencies and feel like cooperating in the process please contact the board: enotthe.board@yorks.ac.uk The board supports the idea of creating a project group dealing with the tuning competencies during (or before) the next Annual Meeting.

The **MASTER COMPETENCIES** are actually under review by a project group. The outcomes of two workshops in Nijmegen are used to update the competences in order to benchmark the variety of Master educations in Europe.

According to the people present at the workshop the **PhD LEVEL** needs revision. They will be approached by the board after the clarification of the political status as mentioned above.

Developing an e-presence within Occupational Therapy profession



We invited members to contribute to our Newsletter to help support Occupational Therapy activities across Europe. The following article was sent from our representative members at the University of Derby, UK.

At the University of Derby in the UK we have recently embarked upon a project to encourage Occupational Therapists and students to consider raising their professional on line presence by engaging with a variety of social media and on line platforms. This has been met favourably as a means to increase opportunities for continuing professional development (CPD) and to increase professional networks and contacts.

Occupational Therapists within the UK have been reluctant to engage with on line and social media learning opportunities for fear of confidentiality breaches and allowing the boundaries between their personal and professional lives to become blurred. We strongly feel these fears can be addressed by OTs increasing their understanding of the use of social media and other on line platforms and engaging with these potential learning opportunities in a professional as well as a social and personal manner.

We use a variety of social media platforms within the programme to engage with students at all levels from pre enrolment to post graduation. For example, we run closed Facebook pages for those students who have been offered a place here at the University to enable them to keep in contact with us and build links within their cohort prior to enrolment. This allows students to find out more about the expectation of the programme, decrease anxiety about relocating to a new city and establish friendship contacts across the cohort.

We have developed a free on line portfolio based within Google sites for recording CPD which we encourage our students to use. This portfolio can be viewed by tutors to give guidance and encouragement to students about recording CPD to enhance their learning and career opportunities. The portfolio tool allows students and OTs to upload a broad evidence base of professional development including word documents, video, photographic evidence and posters pdfs.

Twitter is actively used by staff within the programme to alert students to additional learning resources and students use twitter to maintain contact with tutors when completing work for modules within the local community. This platform also allows students to engage with a global OT community. Twitter has also become a useful marketing tool for the programme to enable interested parties and stakeholders to become aware of the achievements of our students and the excellent teaching activities embedded within our programme.

As students near the end of the programme we actively encourage them to use LinkedIN to promote themselves professionally and access a wide variety of career resources. We also host a graduate Facebook page which allows us to maintain contact with students and monitor career destinations and promote continuing development opportunities post-graduation.

Social media and on line learning opportunities are developing and changing at a fast pace. As Occupational Therapists we need to respond and adapt to these changes and consider opportunities for us and our clients for future appropriate use of social media and in doing so raise the on line professional presence of the profession of Occupational Therapy.

ENOTHE has also been working hard to develop its own social media reach. Used to reach members quickly with short bits of information, support interesting developments and spread news that is OT related. We have seen our reach grow on our 2 main platforms in the last 6 months by 50% on Twitter and 13% on Facebook. We would love to continue to grow so please do share and connect with us. And if you would like ENOTHE to show support for an OT initiative you are running please tweet us @ENOTHE1

Would you like to feature in our Newsletter? We want to help support Occupational Therapy activities in Europe. If you are involved in any non-ENOTHE research projects or clinical practice placement developments and want to help promote your involvement or project please email enothe@yorks.ac.uk for more information

The Development of OT in Bulgaria

By Liliya Todorova

At the beginning of the new Millennium Bulgaria was one of the few European countries, where Occupational Therapy was not known. In 2003 the University of Ruse joined ENOTHE and became a partner in the Joint Action Programme "Facilitation and Participation of Young Persons with Disabilities in an Enlarged Europe" (FPYPDEE). Thanks to this project two participants from the University of Ruse were prepared to become lecturers and clinical supervisors in occupational therapy.

The first Bachelor degree programme in Bulgaria was launched at the University of Ruse in September 2006. In 2009 the education was successfully accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency in the professional field of Public Health with the highest grade. The first cohort of 11 qualified occupational therapists graduated in 2010. At present there are altogether 66 students and 66 graduates from the programme.



Establishing a new profession turned out far more challenging than expected, but the pioneers faced it equipped with strong motivation and personal dedication. The main key to success however is PARTNERSHIP and the best place for networking and creating partnerships is ENOTHE. Through ENOTHE the University of Ruse had the unique opportunity to participate in the process of elaboration, consultation and validation of the European Specific Occupational Therapy Competences, while working on the promotion of the profession in the country.



In order to ensure high quality standards the University of Ruse has been involved in a wide range of European projects and international events. Students and teachers from the university have participated in almost all ENOTHE meetings since 2003. The university has hosted 44 students from Germany, UK, Belgium, Netherlands and Portugal. In turn, 12 Bulgarian students have been on Erasmus placements abroad. Incoming students, together with the Bulgarian students, act as ambassadors of the profession in fieldwork placements and play an important role for the promotion of occupational therapy in Bulgaria. The Erasmus network is continually growing thus expanding the fieldwork opportunities for Bulgarian students.



Through participation in Intensive Programmes and international modules, such as An European Perspective on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and Elderly, IC4Life and EEE4All, teachers and students tune their knowledge, teaching and learning methods to best European practice. The university hosted outstanding guest lecturers from all over the world – Gail Whiteford from Australia, Anne Kinsella from Canada, Elaine Struthers from the USA. The most appreciated guest is Hanneke van Bruggen, who guided and supported us throughout the whole process.

University staff was represented in a number of European projects – the European Archipelago of Humanistic Thematic Networks, Tuning Sectoral Framework for Social Sciences, Competences for Poverty Reduction (COPORE).

The university works in close collaboration with foreign organizations like Frontline Partnership from the UK and Ubuntu group from Belgium. They organize trainings and provide basic equipment for the OT programme in Ruse. In 2011 and 2014 big Open Days for Occupational Therapy were organized in collaboration with Frontline Partnership with the aim to present the unique contribution of the profession to service users, employers and wider society.



In December 2014 second year occupational therapy students from the University of Ruse and children from orphanages organized Christmas Talents Show which was held at Kanneff Centre. The show was opened with the Cups song, which amazed the audience with team work and good rhythm skills. The children really enjoyed their time on the stage and admired the other children for their talents.





Brief Development Update from COTEC



By Anne Lawson Porter

The COTEC Executive Committee Interim Meeting London, 6-8 Feb 2015

What's coming up for ENOTHE?

Close of Abstract Submissions for Students 1st May

Close of Abstract Submissions for Academics & Others 31st March

Opening of online Registration period for the Annual Meeting, Ruse, 2015 1st April

Opening of Early call for Abstracts for the Joint Congress Galway, 2016 1st April

The COTEC Executive held its interim meeting in London, hosted on the first day by the British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT) at its headquarters in Southwark, London.

Sadly not all members of the Executive Committee were able to attend the meeting due to work and family pressures. This serves to underline the vulnerability of an organisation whose officers are entirely voluntary and who experience high workloads both in their day job and for COTEC, and who are stressed as a result. Voluntary work is to be applauded and encouraged but it may be time for the organisation to consider more sustainable and consistent ways of achieving its goals

The agenda for the meeting was very full. Work was progressed on updating the 2015 Action Plan and completing the revision of the Constitution and Rules of Procedure in readiness for the election of two new Executive Members. A statement was produced outlining the expectations and time commitments of Executive Board members to help with the nomination process. Work was started on a strategy for engaging with MEPs now that new EC committees are beginning to be more established and work on the COTEC Communication Strategy continues.

Preparations for the next COTEC GA were also discussed and the papers needed, to inform discussions at the GA and the preceding Governance Day, were identified. This included a first draft of a consultation document to begin the process for COTEC's next Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

It is interesting to note that many of COTEC's activities around Governance and Strategic planning are mirrored in many of ENOTHE's activities this year. There are likely to be similar issues and approaches, so we are sharing documents to avoid duplication of effort and to aid the development of individual documents for each organisation.

As well as all the governance issues, reports on the Executive's work with other stakeholders such as EPHA and EFPC were also given. COTEC has been working with The European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA) on a Research funded project. The 'My PD Journey' Project is making very good progress with occupational therapists being involved in two of the four stages completed so far. The COTEC representative to the EPDA project, Ingrid Sturkenboom, attended the EPDA Strategy Meeting on 19 Feb in London.

The Joint COTEC-ENOTHE Congress is getting closer and, as ever, discussions about progress forms part of our standing agenda. Agnes Shiel, the Galway principle organiser, will be meeting with COTEC representatives and the ENOTHE Board at a meeting in Amsterdam in March. On the agenda will be issues such as budget costs for the Congress, marketing and exhibition area, scientific programme, chairing of sessions.

The next COTEC Executive interim meeting is in May and will be held in Italy, where an invitation has been extended to meet and support the Italian Association and to meet with the European Organisation of Speech and Language Therapists (CPLLOL).

Next:-

ENOTHE
Newsletter
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