

ENOTHE

European Network  
of Occupational Therapy  
in Higher Education



2015 European Year  
for Development

our world  
our dignity  
our future

ENOTHE

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of Occupational Therapy  
in Higher Education



-Pad

November  
2015

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## ANNUAL MEETING 2015

Within the Kaneff Centre at the University of Ruse, the large audience from 23 different countries waited expectantly for the first VIPs to open the 21<sup>st</sup> ENOTHE Annual Meeting. Excitement rose as everyone could see a group of people entering followed by cameras from the Bulgarian National Television. The national television had already interviewed Brian Ellingham, President of ENOTHE on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the press room of "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse. Both the Rector of the University, Cor. Mem. Professor Hristo Beloev and Brian Ellingham emphasised the importance of the development of the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education for the most vulnerable people of the Bulgarian society and other countries of the eastern part of Europe, where people with disability did not 'exist' under the communist regime.

The Rector Prof. Beloev who was very proud indeed to welcome the ENOTHE Annual Meeting to the university and took the chance to show the university to the Deputy Prime-Minister of Bulgaria, and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Ivajlo Kalfin. After the ceremonial event, they entered the Kaneff Centre, followed by the press, and were welcomed with applause. These ceremonies really made everyone aware of the importance of being host to an ENOTHE meeting as key to the recognition of occupational therapy as a profession. It is much harder in the western countries to attract national level VIP's to events like this. The Rector started with a warm welcome to the members of ENOTHE and emphasised that the University of Ruse was the pioneer of OT education in Bulgaria and that this bachelor programme was established in 2006, in close collaboration with ENOTHE.

The audience was happily surprised by the words of Minister Ivajlo Kalfin. He spoke in perfect English by heart and seemed to be fully aware of the importance of OT for the people in need and inhabitants of his country. We understood that our host, Liliya Todorova deserves excellent marks for promoting OT in her country. Liliya was not only the founding mother of the OT programme in Ruse, but is still also an ambassador for OT.

In her welcome address Liliya explained the development of OT in Bulgaria since she became 'hooked' on the OT philosophy, after meeting Hanneke van Bruggen. Liliya then caught the OT 'bug' and is still spreading her enthusiasm. She is now a well-recognised member of the university as an Associate Professor and Vice Dean of the faculty of Public Health. Also impressively Liliya's colleague and Annual Meeting co-organiser Petya Mincheva successfully defended her PhD thesis during the preparations of the ENOTHE meeting. These two remarkable women in OT in Bulgaria seem to have endless energy driven by willingness, power and motivation. Liliya has overseen; firstly the development of an OT programme in Ruse, being the host of an ENOTHE Annual Meeting and her next ambition is to establish an OT programme at Masters Level at "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse.

By Marie-Antoinette van Kuyk-Minis



ENOTHE President, Brian Ellingham receiving a medallion and certificate of thanks from the Governor of Ruse Region, in acknowledgement of the contribution and support that ENOTHE has given in establishing Occupational Therapy in Bulgaria

Joint Congress 2016





1st COTEC-ENOTHE Congress

Connecting:  
Education | Practice  
Research | Policy

Galway, Ireland | 15-19 June, 2016

www.cotec-enothe2016.com #COTEC-ENOHE16

# ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED...

Following the opening addresses, Iva Boneva impressed the audience with her lively and engaging presentation. Iva shared her impressions of cultural diversity from the perspective of a former communist country and discussed the 18 developmental goals.

Next there was a panel discussion about community development. The audience enthusiastically provided contributions to the discussion, creating a lively and interactive session. The contributions on a wide variety of aspects, showed the importance of the subject to the OT community.



On Friday Daniel Bratanov spoke about the development of robotics in healthcare, giving us inspiration about the interface of OT with the technical sciences.

This was followed by the President of the Lithuanian Association of OT, Assoc. Prof. Giedre Kavaliauskiene and ENOTHE Board Member, Alma Cirtauta's presentation "Lithuanian story of Occupational therapy: collaboration, friendship, support and success", illustrating another example of the fast and intense development of OT.

The final ENOTHE Annual Meeting address was delivered by Sylvia Martins. Sylvia gave the Hanneke van Bruggen Lecture focusing on the subject of developing OT within Africa. This was a deeply touching presentation and explored the importance of community and personal development.

By Johanna Stadler-Grillmaier



## NEW ENOTHE LOGO

We are pleased to introduce the new ENOTHE logo. The new logo is the result of the boards work over the past 3-4 years following up the general assembly's decision to pursue lines of action to strengthen the visibility and impact of Occupational Therapy in Europe.

One line of action has been to work towards establishing an umbrella collaborative platform, Occupational Therapy Europe (OT-EU), for ENOTHE and COTEC to present a unified front in addressing health, social and educational policy in Europe. Access to European policy makers and forums is increasingly difficult and only available to registered organisations. Through collaboration with COTEC, which is a registered organisation, ENOTHE's views can be expressed and both networks strengthen their legitimacy when OT-EU speaks for both the profession and education. OT-EU will also be a forum to promote collaboration between the networks, such as the 2016 Joint Congress and establishing a European occupational therapy-occupational science research network.

The second line of action has been to establish a common internet portal for OT in Europe. The OT-EU portal will communicate common issues and give access to the independent ENOTHE and COTEC websites, and hopefully a research network website in the not too distant future. Both networks took this opportunity to renew their websites and decided to develop a common website template and modern graphic design to underline the unity of OT in Europe.

A logo for OT-EU has been designed consisting of three rings which can be associated with; the person-environment-occupation model, evidence based practice and the OT-EU collaboration: education-profession-research. The three rings are then broken down into logos for each area. The ENOTHE logo consists of a red ring representing education linking to practice and research. The COTEC logo has a black ring representing the profession that operationalizes education and research. The research logo will represent research that will inform and support education and the profession.



By Brian Ellingham



# JIP Project Update - Workshop Report

By Pier Paolo Pasqualoni (fhg, Innsbruck, Austria)  
& Ton Satink (HAN University of Applied Sciences,  
Nijmegen, the Netherlands)

On the first day of the 21st annual meeting of ENOTHE, Ton Satink and Pier Paolo Pasqualoni gave an interactive workshop about the aims and content of the Joint International Project (JIP) and the activities of the JIP project.



The JIP is a consortium of 12 international institutions in higher education that aims to develop an international network for European students to conduct a small research project in the area of self-management or health promotion in their own country, and work together, share ideas and reflect about their project with students from other countries. Currently 7 occupational therapy departments are involved.

Although the JIP is still in its pilot phase, already several bachelor and master students from Austria, Switzerland, the UK and the Netherlands have met via the JIP and worked on their 'JIP thesis'. In addition to the long distance communication between the students, also two student meetings have been organized (fhg, Innsbruck, Austria & ZHAW, Winterthur, Switzerland) to present and discuss JIP related products and topics.

During the workshop at the annual meeting in Ruse, three groups discussed several topics regarding the JIP. A mix of students and lecturers were actively contributing to the project team's considerations and experiences on:

- How to stimulate distance-learning among students from different countries and professions;
- Possibilities and pitfalls of e-learning;
- Chances for future development of the JIP.

Several ideas were collected. The main conclusion and recommendations emerging from the discussion were:

- The JIP is recognized as an important contribution to the area of 'internationalization at home.
- A user-friendly communication platform is important to make the JIP successful and to support communication and the exchange of research-related material.
- A general coordinator is needed to support the further development; a further coordinator should be in charge of answering questions and enhancing the exchange and communication between students and lecturers.
- Face to face meetings between students and lecturers continue to be important to complement and enhance long-distance learning.
- To support the individual projects and deepen the learning about health promotion and self-management, the JIP should aim to include online lectures and presentations at the yearly student meetings.
- It should focus on a good project organisation and appointments among the OT's in the first place before broadening up with other professions.

Whether these ideas will support the JIP's further development will be discussed at the next JIP meeting in Innsbruck which will be held in December 2015.



*Further information regarding ENOTHE projects will be made available on the ENOTHE website during the next website update*

# #WorldOTDay

World Occupational Therapy Day took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015. It has taken place annually on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October since 2010.

ENOTHE has actively supported and encouraged members to participate with World OT Day and helping to raise OT awareness through its support. But has found its own contribution limited due to traditionally World OT Day falling only a couple of days after the ENOTHE Annual Meeting. However we in the ENOTHE office have enjoyed reading all the various and creative initiatives OTs, OT students and OT supporters have come up with. With the increasing influence of social media we enjoyed reading and re-tweeting throughout the day. Here are a few of our favorites:

 **Bill Wong, OTD, OTRL**  
@BillWongOT

One tip to be globally connected in #OT- use #WorldOTDay to network the heck out of today!  
12:26 PM - 27 Oct 2015

 **stephanie saenger** @ergosteph · Oct 27  
#WorldOTDay starts with meaningful occupation: Tweet and retweet and take action to promote OT  
@COTEC\_ENOTHE @enOThe1 @COTECEurope

 **WFOT** @thewfot · Oct 27  
Loving the cake theme on #WorldOTDay



 **COTEC** @COTECEurope · Oct 27  
Love the poster MAOT! #WorldOTDay @ergosteph @ergodus1 @enOThe1 @ENergotherapie



 **WFOT** @thewfot · Oct 27  
Celebrating #WorldOTDay around the world



With the Joint Congress taking place in June 2016, ENOTHE has the opportunity to be more active in next year's celebrations. We just hope we can match some of the great efforts and initiatives that will already be taking place.

Watch out for #WorldOTDay next year on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

World Federation of Occupational Therapists short survey to feedback on World OT Day resources: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WOTD2015>



## WFOT/COTEC/ENOTHE

WFOT/COTEC/ENOTHE Workshop: WFOT – minimum standards and the challenges of meeting fieldwork requirements

The workshop at the ENOTHE Annual Meeting 2015 was attended by 14 members out of 9 countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Rumania, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Finland).

Samantha Shann, VP finance of WFOT explained the Minimum Standards with special focus on the minimum requirements for Fieldwork. It was soon clear the contexts in which educators have to operate is very different. In Germany, the schools have according to the law to provide students with 1700 hours of fieldwork, which exceeds the 1000 hours of WFOT by far. In Romania, national laws make it hard to comply with the standards. In other countries (Latvia, Estonia) there were problems where hospitals which could provide fieldwork, had to be paid for these services. In Spain and Germany, regional laws and/or regulations make it complex to find a common national standard when organizing fieldwork. Some participants thought the Standards were out of date and should be more focused on inter professional practice

Samantha explained that recognition an educational programme can be given if applicants provide a strategic plan that explains the steps that will be undertaken to reach the criteria of the Minimum Standards.

Stephanie Saenger, president of COTEC emphasized the fieldwork is a major issue for both practice and education and should be tackled together. She suggested more information could be systematically gathered from COTEC members to collect best practices.

The workshop was originally targeted at supporting Eastern European countries in establishing occupational therapy education. A question was raised about COTEC and ENOTHEs strategy to give this support. As neither ENOTHE nor COTEC have limited means and manpower, the current strategy is to facilitate communication with people, institutions and organizations in our networks to find the most adequate support that can be provided. As was shown in the keynote address of Giedre Kavaliauskiene the development of a successful OT program is based on many different forms of support.

# COTEC-ENOTHE Joint Congress 2016

By Inés Viana-Moldes

Dear ENOTHE members,

Please, remember **WE ALL** need your contributions to prepare a very interesting 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Congress COTEC-ENOTHE 2016, in Galway. Here below, you can find a summary with some relevant information:

**28<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015**

- You are still on time to contribute. Please, don't hesitate, send your **abstracts** and share with others your work, knowledge and dilemmas. Together we are stronger!

- Yes, your experience is also very welcome and we are sure that you could be a great **reviewer!** Please, send your application.

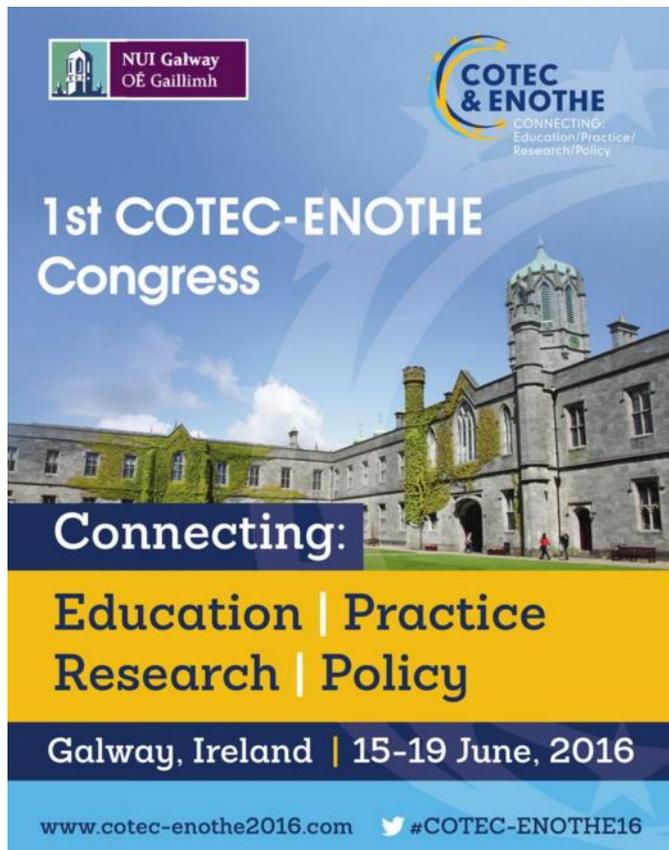
**15<sup>th</sup> of December, 2015. If you are a student, pay attention and follow ENOTHE website**

The Joint Congress Host University offered **18 grants for free registration to 18 Occupational Therapy Students** from across Europe who want to be engaged in the congress organisation working as a volunteer during one day. In this sense, during the last ENOTHE General Assembly, the ENOTHE members agreed with the board proposal to support accommodation for 18 students. If you are interested, information will be made available on the ENOTHE website in the near future.

**28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016**

**Registration is now open.** Have a look and remember the Early bird will finish at 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.

Be engaged and don't lose the opportunity to participate actively in this event ☺



Facebook: [COTEC-ENOTHE Congress 2016](#)

Twitter: [@COTEC\\_ENOTHE](#) #COTEC-ENOTHE16

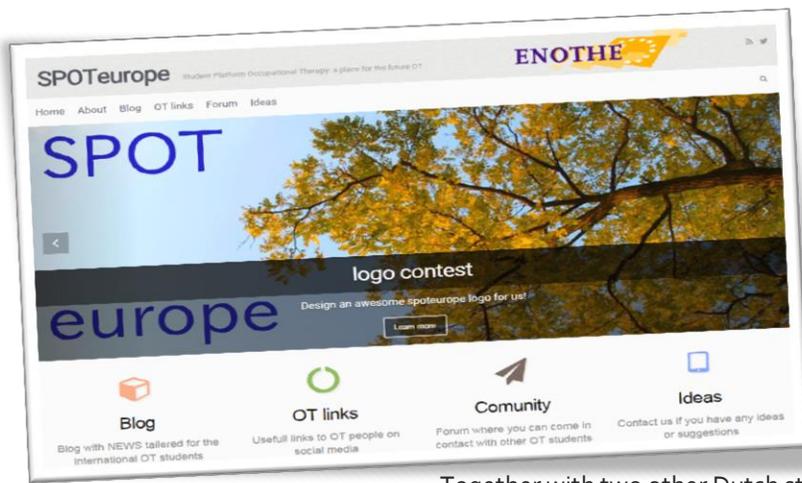
Website: <http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=182>

Email: Conference Secretariat: Maeve Egan [conference@nuigalway.ie](mailto:conference@nuigalway.ie)



Organising Committee Members: (from left to right)  
- Anne Lawson-Porter; COTEC Joint Congress Link  
- Inés Viana-Moldes; ENOTHE Joint Congress Link  
- Agnes Shiel; NUI Galway Host  
- Mandy Boaz; ENOTHE Office

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](mailto:enothe@yorks.ac.uk)



# SPOTeurope

(student platform occupational therapy)

[www.spoteurope.eu](http://www.spoteurope.eu) By Ward Dusink, SPOTeurope

A brief history of [spoteurope.eu](http://spoteurope.eu)

- It started with the vision or belief that more occupational therapists and therefore OT students should be involved with social media, if only to be able to share their practices, views and opinions.

## What's coming up for ENOTHE?

-20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> November the ENOTHE Board meets in Galway, Ireland

-28<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
Close of extended deadline for abstract submissions to the Joint Congress 2016

- 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
ENOTHE Membership period begins for 2016

- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
Early registration finishes for the Joint Congress 2016

Together with two other Dutch students (Anne lena & Anneloes) the SPOTeurope idea evolved into a presentation and workshop for the ENOTHE 2014 Annual Meeting. We had talked a lot about the content of our presentation and workshop, trying to figure out together what our goals were. We concluded there needed to be a place that made it easier for OT students to find their peers and communicate with each other.

In our workshop we held a vote among the students present. Democratically we determined the content and medium for our communication. After the workshop it was clear that there was a need for a website with a forum facility which students could use to ask questions. This forum would have the potential for all sorts of topics and issues to be discussed. With this format there is no need for a clear line which topic can or cannot be discussed.

At the end of ENOTHE Meeting there as one particular difficulty we faced. The three of us (Anne lena, Anneloes and myself) would be very busy during the coming months with research and placements overseas. We knew we would struggle to find the time to build such a website; we tried to start a group with enthusiastic OT students who could share a part of the responsibility to build this site. The difficulty was that there were many students willing to join in however there was none with the IT knowledge to build it.

Months passed and when my research finished I took it upon myself to build the website as best as I knew how. The product that has spawned from these efforts is now operational and functional. All the students from ENOTHE 2014 Annual Meeting have joined in with their different roles. Some represent their own countries and are able to answer questions that may be posed by students. Others manage the forum and further students write blog posts with news and upcoming international OT activities. At the ENOTHE 2015 Annual Meeting some students volunteered to be representatives for their country, which is great, but there are still some countries that need a representative.

The existing reps can be contacted by email:

- [belgium@spoteurope.eu](mailto:belgium@spoteurope.eu)
- [germany@spoteurope.eu](mailto:germany@spoteurope.eu)
- [thenetherlands@spoteurope.eu](mailto:thenetherlands@spoteurope.eu)
- [uk@spoteurope.eu](mailto:uk@spoteurope.eu)
- [switzerland@spoteurope.eu](mailto:switzerland@spoteurope.eu)

This list is also on the website and will be updated.

In conclusion, the website is ready to be used by students!

Over 60 international students have registered and the first questions have been asked! Both students and teachers are welcome to browse the site and forum and see if they can answer some questions at [www.spoteurope.eu](http://www.spoteurope.eu)

### Contact Us:-

Twitter: @ENOTHE1

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Next:-

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Newsletter

March 2016