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Vice President's Editorial

As you are wrapping up your Christmas presents for your loved ones, COTEC is wrapping up the year with its final Newsletter for 2014. As tradition has it, everyone tends to look back at the old, while at the same time looking forward to new challenges, goals and dreams. So what has COTEC achieved 2014 and what is our vision for 2015?

In 2014 the newly elected board met for the first time aiming to “pop” the EU bubble. Armed with newly gained knowledge from the EPHA workshop we were looking at a challenging year. Collaborating with ENOTHE and WFOT, COTEC was represented in the European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC), attended the WHO Europe Regional Committee by invitation of WFOT and participated in the WHO Coordinated/Integrated Health service Delivery (CIHSD) High-Level Consultation meeting together with ENOTHE, only naming a few major milestones.

A yearly debate is the affordability of COTEC for our members. There is a cost involved in reaching our goals and achieving the tasks given by the General Assembly. Yet, there needs to be a balance between the financial burden, the human resources and the political progress. And most importantly in this debate is how to sustain COTEC memberships. Looking forward and being aware of membership issues our vision for 2015 is development and innovation. We are now reaching out to the experts and are asking you for nominations. Building and maintaining a professional network will help us reach the overarching goal to increase the visibility of occupational therapy in Europe.

On behalf of the all executives I am sending you warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

Renée Oltman
COTEC Vice President Finance

COTEC 2nd General Assembly

COTEC's 2nd General Assembly was held in Nijmegen, the Netherlands on the 25th and 26th October. The Sunday's Business Meeting was preceded by a Governance Day on Saturday. 21 out of 30 members were represented in person or by proxy. Further details about the 2nd General Assembly can be accessed through this [link](#)



20th ENOTHE Annual Meeting,

NIJMEGEN, the NL, 23-25th October

The 20th European Network for Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE) annual meeting was held this year in Nijmegen, Netherlands. Occupational therapy teachers, students, researchers and practitioners participated in three days of inspiring lectures and presentations and networking. The first day of the meeting was devoted to workshops concerning occupational therapy educational curriculum based on competencies defined by the "Tuning" process and their relevance and sustainability in view of social and political changes in Europe. Feedback from the workshops will contribute to the ENOTHE board work with defining and prioritizing ENOTHE's work towards 2020.

The remaining two days consisted of presentations and workshops connected to the "2014 year for Reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe", "2014 Year of the Brain" and the Europe 2020 targets. View some of the presentations here: <http://www.yorks.ac.uk/health--life-sciences/enothe.aspx>.

Next year the ENOTHE 21st annual meeting will be held in Ruse, Bulgaria where we will continue to follow up the 2020 targets and invite contributions related to the "European Year for Development 2015"

Brian Ellingham
President, ENOTHE

UIA Associations Round Table Europe 2014

The Union of International Associations, UIA, works to promote and facilitate the work of international associations and have been doing so for a long time. They are there to help associations improve their functioning and they also document the work of International Associations.

The Round Table was developed to give associations an opportunity to learn from each other through networking and sharing practice and ideas. Anine Willemse, Professional Operations Manager of AOTI, attended Round Table Meeting in Dublin on Nov 13-14 on behalf of COTEC. www.uia.org

Read MS. Willemse's [report](#) and see the [Programme](#) of Round table.

COTEC Executive Committee Interim Meeting - November 2014

A COTEC Executive Committee Interim Meeting was held in Köln, Germany on the 15th and 16th November. Further details about this meeting can be accessed through this [link](#).

First National Health Sciences Congress, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey

President of COTEC was invited to speak at the First National Health Sciences Congress, Hacettepe University, Ankara on November 20-21, 2014.

Prior to the congress she held a presentation about COTEC and European work for 100 students and their teaching staff, which was well received.

At the congress with the theme "Together we are stronger" Stephanie Saenger had a presentation "What our clients want, interdisciplinary work and integrated health care in the community" about the necessity of interdisciplinary work to tackle the challenges in an aging society.

Read [more](#) about the program

HORIZON 2020, project invitation

COTEC was invited by the Cyber-Physical Systems Development Section of the Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, to explore possibilities to be a partner in a European consortium for a research project proposal for Horizon 2020 to address the call "Technologies for better human learning and teaching" (ICT- 20 –2015). The researchers want to develop a Digital Platform-based Learning Ecosystem for Occupational Therapy (DP-LEOT). The learning ecosystem is intended to support learning and knowledge exchange among occupational therapists, in addition to providing e-learning services and networked infrastructural support for occupational patients and other potential end users. The presidents of COTEC and ENOTHE discussed the proposal and are considering to establish a joint working group. We have asked the initiators to make a questionnaire for our members to explore whether there are qualified and interested people to join such a group. The link to the questionnaire, deadline January 15th 2015, can be found below. We encourage you to distribute the information ASAP to colleagues with expertise and interest in this field. Although this very innovative project offers excellent opportunities for OT and their clients, the Executive Committee is aware this will take a lot of time and effort of our members and we have to be sure to be a reliable partner. See more information and [Call for participation in EU project VO2](#)

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/9086-ict-20-2015.html>

Mental Health and societal Integration- work and community

COTEC, as participant in the development of the Index for Mental Health (see former Newsletters), was invited by the co-chairs of the European Parliament Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders, and the Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks (GAMIAN-Europe), to the Interest Group's first meeting in the new Parliament. This meeting addressed the **Mental health and societal integration – work and community**, and took place on 19 November. The Executive Committee invited Pieter Vaes, OT lecturer at PXL Hogeschool in Hasselt, Belgium and expert in mental health to represent COTEC at this important meeting.

Background to the meeting is the need for those affected by mental health problems to remain part of their surroundings as well as society as a whole. This topic was timely as the Joint Action on Mental Health is entering its second phase, and the outcome of the meeting can serve as input into the work of the Partnership – societal integration is part of all themes of the Joint Action.

In line with its plan to join European patient organisations as well as in line to address mental health, COTEC will be exploring the possibility to join GAMIAN - Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks - Europe.

Inequity by disease – research project invites OTs to participate

COTEC Executive is more than pleased Occupational Therapists are invited to join a research project about Inequity by disease. This is an excellent opportunity to support our clients and to raise the visibility of Occupational Therapy. COTEC Member associations are requested to spread this questionnaire to your members by means of Newsletters, website or any other medium that will reach as many OT's as possible.

[Inequity by disease - link to questionnaire](#) to be filled by Jan 31st, 2015.

EU Online Public Consultation Initiative on the Review of the Working Time Directive (DIRECTIVE 2003/88/EC)

On December 1 2014, the European Commission launched an online public consultation on the review of the Working Time Directive. This public consultation will run until March 15 2015.

The Commission is reviewing the Working Time Directive to reflect on how to best meet the needs of workers, businesses, public services and consumers. This public consultation is very important since the organisation and regulation of working time in the public and private sector has considerable social, economic and political impact.

In its current form at EU level, Directive 2003/88/EC (the Working Time Directive) aims at providing minimum standards common to all EU countries to protect workers from health and safety risks associated with excessive or inappropriate working hours, and with inadequate time for rest and recovery from work. For more information on this Public Consultation, please click

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=333&consultId=14&visib=0&furtherConsult=yes&langId=en>

OT News from the Netherlands

A web based tool, which measures the experiences of the client with occupational therapy will be launched for members of EN, Ergotherapie Nederlands, at the end of the year.

SEO, a scientific research institute, has done an analysis regarding the costs and benefits of occupational therapy intervention with people with dementia and their carers and with children with writing problems. Occupational therapy is cost effective in both groups.

[Read more](#)

COTEC-ENOTHE Congress 2016 - Galway

At a SKYPE meeting with the Galway team, ENOTHE and COTEC on 1st December, it was decided to open the call for abstracts for the Joint Congress 2016 on 1st April 2015. The closing date will be 31st October 2015. ENOTHE and COTEC will be seeking experienced reviewers in the next few months to help with the abstract review process. National Associations will be contacted in the New Year to identify people with the right experience and skills. Watch out for the notification!

COTEC Secretarial News

Changes in the COTEC Executive Committee

COTEC Executive Committee Member Helena Cronebäck has resigned from her Executive post. Her letter of resignation was circulated to all Members on December 12th and the resignation is effective immediately. The Executive Committee will announce how the Executive tasks will now be divided and which actions need to be taken due to the change of the composition of the Executive Committee.

COTEC Summary of Profession 2015

The questionnaire for the Summary of Occupational Therapy Profession 2015 will be circulated to the Members at the end of the year. Members are asked to fill in the on-line questionnaire by January 31st, 2015. The final document is planned to be published at the end of March.

The membership of the Hungarian Association of Occupational Therapists has been terminated The General Assembly made the decision to terminate COTEC membership of the Hungarian Association of Occupational Therapists, METE, due to unpaid membership fees. METE was a member of COTEC since September 2004 and has about thirty practising members.

COTEC Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. The next Skype meetings are scheduled for Monday, December 22nd and Thursday, January 15th, 2015. For agenda items, proposals and exact times please contact anu.soderstrom@cotec-europe.org
COTEC Executive Committee next face-to-face meeting will take place in London, February 6-8, 2015. Another meeting is scheduled for May.

COTEC General Assembly 2015

The 3rd COTEC General Assembly will be held in Riga, the capital of Latvia, October 4th, 2015. Saturday Oct 3rd will be "COTEC Governance Day". Calls for agenda items and nominations will be sent out in the spring and meeting papers will be circulated two months prior the meeting.



*COTEC Executive Committee wishes You
Happy Holidays!*