

In this issue

- 1 Executive Committee Editorial
- 2 COTEC Executive Committee Interim meeting
- 2 COTEC-ENOTHE Joint Congress 2016 – Galway
- 2 Exciting new developments for ENOTHE
- 3 National Annual Conference or ErgoAustria
- 3 Cooperation with other Allied Health professional organisations
- 3 MyPDJourney Project
- 3 Horizon 2020 project
- 4 Inequity by disease – research project
- 4 EU Consultations
- 4 COTEC Secretarial news

Executive Committee Editorial

Yes, it's that time again. Time when COTEC provides updates about the work it is carrying out - representations and sustaining of occupational therapy in Europe, preparations for the upcoming COTEC-ENOTHE Congress in Galway, collaboration with ENOTHE, and much more. It is this time my turn to write the editorial, as this is one of the last newsletters that I will be contributing in. As stated in both previous COTEC General Assemblies, I will be resigning in the following General Assembly in Latvia.

My first COTEC meeting was in 2008. Since then, we have witnessed COTEC transform from a European organisation that is mainly looking at internal occupational therapy issues, into a recognised organisation that is making OT visible to the outside world. Despite multiple challenges, this is gradually becoming a reality, by making alliances with other organisations, networks and stakeholders at European level, and engaging members and their individual members in participating in national and European projects. This is done whilst keeping at heart COTEC's governance and the sustaining of its members. It is of paramount importance that COTEC is and remains present for and actively helps to assist its members develop, network and be aware of each other's ongoing challenges and achievements.

Nominations for two COTEC executive member positions will soon be open. I encourage occupational therapists to come forward with their nominations to contribute to occupational therapy in Europe. It is such a rich experience to witness occupational therapists coming from different sizes and forms of national occupational therapy associations, and from different countries across Europe, collaborating together to influence health and social European issues. Each contribution is so important, useful and unique.

Following my years in COTEC, I am impressed and also inspired by the work that past and present COTEC Executive Committee and various members do, their willingness to think out of the box, and their attempts

to try hard to keep their feet on the ground while reaching for the stars. It is each member national association member in COTEC that sustains COTEC - through the financial commitment, the responses to the various requests, and also the constructive discussion that enables COTEC to function and boost its work. We have to acknowledge that our resources are extremely limited. All COTEC executive and members' contributions shall not be taken for granted. We all know this requires exertion, at times over and above the daily job, and we shall all be grateful for each other's efforts.

Additionally, I can state that it is a rewarding experience to be part of the COTEC Executive Committee as it helped me to appreciate the different cultural perspectives across Europe, gained further understanding about how European policies and political fora influence what occupational therapists do in practice, as well as experienced different levels of development of the profession, education and management of national associations across Europe and beyond. I look forward to continue utilising the benefits gained from such an experience to the benefit of the local profession in my country, Malta, as well as continue to contribute to COTEC as a member of my national association. This is because COTEC's success is not only due to the commitment and delivery of its non-paid Executive Committee members, but is also due to its representative members, who through their participation in General Assemblies, groups, representation and commitment to COTEC's activities, COTEC can achieve greater impact on European issues.

Maria Daniela Farrugia

Member of the COTEC Executive Committee, 2013-2015

COTEC Executive Committee Interim meeting

The first 2015 face-to-face meeting of COTEC Executive Committee took place February 6-8, in London. The first day of the meeting was hosted by the British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT).

Read [full report of the meeting](#)



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. The theme of the congress is 'Connecting' and this is the first congress which will offer an opportunity draw on expertise from education, practice, research and policy on the same platform. Abstract submission opens on 1st April, 2015. Details about the congress and abstract submission can be found on the web page www.cotec-enothe2016.com

Read more [about the Congress](#)

Exciting new developments for ENOTHE

ENOTHE office is pleased to announce the launching of the new ENOTHE website and the forthcoming 21st Annual Meeting to be held at the University of Ruse in Bulgaria (22 – 24 October 2015). [Read more](#)



National Annual Conference of ErgoAustria

Stephanie Saenger was delighted to hold a keynote speech at the Austrian Conference in Salzburg, titled Doing, Being, Becoming and Belonging, being an occupational therapist in Europe.

As preparation she had send out a survey to explore and clarify some issues about professional identity and roles of occupational therapists and OT areas in Europe. Thanks to the enthusiasm of participants, more than 360 occupational therapists around Europe replied, the data could be used to compare and identify differences between the countries. In the presentation it was explained how OT's can participate in COTEC's work on individual, national and European level. Following this information three experts in OT showed willingness to be involved in COTEC Register of Experts. The conference theme was *Völlig von der Rolle*, and it offered an excellent opportunity to meet Austrian colleagues and students and to be informed about the state of the art in Austria and discuss the relevant topics for occupational therapy.

Cooperation with other Allied Health professional organisations

To be more effective in the EU arena the COTEC Executive Committee is strengthening its relationships with other European organisations in the Allied Health area. [Read more](#)



My PD journey

My PD journey is a multi-stakeholder project organized by the European Parkinson Disease Association (EPDA). The project aims to improve healthcare organization and delivery for people with Parkinson's disease across Europe. Read a short [update report](#) from COTEC representative in My PD Journey project, Ingrid Sturkenboom



HORIZON 2020 project

Over the last three months COTEC president has been actively involved in the discussions of a project proposal DPLEOT for HORIZON 2020. (see COTEC Newsletter December 2014). The aim of the project is to use innovation and technology to magnify the impact of Europe's Occupational Therapists by providing them and their clients transformational tools, technology and education. [Read more](#)

Inequity by disease – research project

In December and January the Executive Committee sent out a call to members to participate in a research project about inequity by disease undertaken by the University of Ghent, Belgium. Although the researchers, the Chair of the European Forum of Primary Care and COTEC Executive Committee are convinced occupational therapists and their clients must encounter a lot of examples of inequity by disease, this was not felt by the occupational therapists themselves. Even with an extended deadline the number of examples given did not meet up to the expectations. We do thank those members who have contributed to this research and in doing so took the opportunity to influence the person centred delivery of services to clients.

EU Consultations

To make the OT voice heard in Europe, COTEC answers the relevant EU consultations. The consultation on the Working Time Directive was completed. (see COTEC Newsletter December 2014)

An invitation of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health (EXPH) was received regarding the consultation on the preliminary opinion on “Competition among healthcare providers in the European Union: Investigating policy options”. [Read more](#)

COTEC Secretarial News

COTEC Executive Committee Elections

According to the Constitution the Executive Committee of COTEC consists of 6 positions: President, Vice President, VP Finance, VP Administration and two Members. Both Members will finish their term of office midterm and therefore new Members will be elected at the next General Assembly. The term of office for the Members of the Executive Committee is four years with a possibility to be re-elected in the same position for a term of two years. The Call for nominations was circulated March 1st, 2015 and nominations are asked by June 1st. The Election process and Elections at the meeting are conducted by the appointed COTEC Electoral Committee: Gela Maurer, Elisabete Roldão and Petra Schwab.

COTEC Summary of Profession 2015

The annually published Summary of the OT Profession will this year be presented in a renewed, more interactive and descriptive format. A German OT student Patric Duletzki has volunteered to do some administrative work for COTEC and is working on the document in cooperation with VP Administration. The final document will be published mid-April.

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". Calls for agenda items and nominations will be sent out in the spring and meeting papers will be circulated two months prior the meeting. The Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists is assisting with practical arrangements.

COTEC Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. The next Skype meetings are scheduled for Thursday, April 16th and Thursday, May 21st, 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 Florence Italy, May 7-9, 2015.

COTEC wishes all a relaxing spring time!

