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President's Editorial

Since I wrote my first editorial in December 2013, 4 newsletters have been issued and the 3rd General Assembly (October 2,3 in Latvia) is coming up. How time flies and how many actions are taken! The Executive Committee (EC) is regularly updating the Action Plan 2015 and has started work on the new strategic plan for 2016-2020. The draft strategic plan will be available for discussion with members during the Governance Day, to be adapted, finalised and then presented and voted on in Galway. Based on the positive feedback of the meeting in Nijmegen, the EC has decided to continue with a full Governance Day and the round table discussions about 4 or 5 issues that are of interest for all members, important for the future of OT and the actions of COTEC.

I ended my first editorial with "All for OT!" At the moment there are only 5 Executive Committee members, since the sixth member resigned in December 2014. The five remaining members have many commitments to their employers and/or personal responsibilities and therefore have limited time to give to voluntary work for COTEC and are in need of additional voluntary support. I am happy to say that quite some associations and/or individual occupational therapists have shown active involvement with the COTEC work.

Already one third of the member associations have nominated experts for the Register of Experts as you can read in this newsletter.

Another great help has been the work of Patric Duletzki regarding the Summary of Profession and his participation in the conference on Mobility of Health Professionals in the EU — Ethical Recruitment and Policy Coherence on May 5th in Brussels. (report in this newsletter)

As there are so many important and interesting things going on it is very helpful if occupational therapists are willing to represent COTEC, like Ingrid Sturkenboom EPDA project.

Another way to have more impact and to get our voice heard is to collaborate with others especially clients groups. Therefore I was very pleased to attend the conference and campaign launch on Patient Empowerment organised by the European Patients Forum which invited COTEC to join.

And finally we are very happy to have commissioned the webmaster of the new ENOTHE website, who is able and willing to build the COTEC website along the same lines. This new website will be launched in October together with the new logo for COTEC.

As you can see, in spite of our significant challenges, it's been a productive time.

Stephanie Saenger
COTEC President

COTEC Executive Committee Interim meeting

The second face-to-face meeting of COTEC Executive Committee took place May 7-9, in Florence, Italy. The location facilitated the organising of a meeting with CPLOL (Standing Liaison Committee of E.U. Speech and Language Therapists and Logopedists) and the Italian OT Association, AITO. Read a [short report](#) with photographs.

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 is open until October 31st, 2015. Details about [abstract submission](#) Congress website www.cotec-enothe.com



COTEC Register of Experts

Ten COTEC Member Associations (Bel, Cyp, Fr, Ger, It, Irl, Lux, Por, Swe and UK) have answered COTEC call and nominated experts to COTEC Register of Experts. A total of 56 experts responded to the request to be active for the European OT community.

COTEC forwards relevant and interesting information from Europe to the experts which they might not otherwise come by. As there are so many interesting events where occupational therapy could contribute, we hope in the near future some of them will be able to represent COTEC and the profession. It will be great if many occupational therapists around Europe take an active part in COTEC's mission to make occupational therapy visible and valued in Europe.

Member associations who have not yet sent in names of experts are asked to do so, as COTEC would like to have a register that covers all regions of Europe. The Register of Experts is a dynamic 'construction' so whenever you want to nominate an expert please feel free to send in their details to info@cotec-europe.org

COTEC and ENOTHE strategic planning



COTEC, like ENOTHE, is developing its next Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The COTEC-ENOTHE Link person, Anne Lawson-Porter, shared with the COTEC Executive Committee the work that ENOTHE had started in Austria in January. In developing the two strategies further it became apparent that the political background that we are working in is virtually identical. Also, as both organisations rely on their members and also require good governance procedures, two strategic aims for both organisations are complimentary. Whilst this approach was not strictly intentional it is apparent that approaching it this way demonstrates that our concerns are often the same, except ENOTHE concentrates more on education and COTEC on practice issues. The developing thinking about this approach is that as external stakeholders look at our websites via a joint portal (in the process of being developed), they will recognise that our key intentions are broadly similar and our specific interests are complimentary. We hope you agree! These two strategies might underpin our continued thinking about the development of the OT Europe concept.

Conference and Campaign Launch on Patient Empowerment

The President of COTEC was invited to the Conference and Campaign launch of Patient Empowerment (PE), organised by the European Patients Forum (EPF) held on May 20-21, in Brussels.

During this conference, speakers from different fields gave their view on PE. Patient empowerment was presented as one of the key elements to change the health systems towards sustainability. The meeting provided the opportunity to be informed about the state of the art in PE and to inform other delegates and organisations about Occupational Therapy and the OT perspective on PE, this being one of the core values of OT and which was acknowledged by a number delegates.

Read the [the full report](#) with links to relevant websites.



Cooperation with CPLOL

During the Executive Committee Interim meeting a meeting with the Executive Committee of CPLOL, Standing Liaison Committee of E.U. Speech and Language Therapists and Logopedists was arranged.

Read a [short report](#) with photograph.



Mobility of Health Professionals in the EU — Ethical Recruitment and Policy Coherence

On 5 May 2015, European Parliament members of the Socialists and Democrats (S&D), in collaboration with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Health Workers 4 All and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), invited professionals and stakeholders to attend a session at the European Parliament complex in Brussels. The aim of the four-hour conference was to discuss free mobility of the European health workforce. Read [a summary](#) by Patric Duletzki, who attended the meeting.



EU Platforms

COTEC has been exploring additional NGO alliances to help achieve COTEC's objective of developing partnerships with groups active in European advocating. The Executive Committee has identified a small number of European Platforms which may be of interest to COTEC members. One such platform is the European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) and another one is the European Platform for action on diet, physical activity and health. [Read more](#) and find links to relevant websites.

Positive Health

Dr. Machteld Huber has reformulated the definition of health by changing the emphasis towards the ability to adapt and self manage in the face of social, physical and emotional challenges. Her concept of Positive Health is very much in line with the fundamental principles of occupational therapy, therefore the possibilities to connect OT and this concept have been investigated.

[Read more](#) on the concept of Positive Health

COTEC Secretarial News

Call to bid for COTEC-ENOTHE Congress 2020

The call to bid for COTEC-ENOTHE Congress 2020 is published and bids are expected by July 31st. The bids will be reviewed by Congress Committee, which has four appointed members: Mandy Boaz and Inés Viana Moldes from ENOTHE Board and Renée Oltman and Anu Söderström from COTEC Executive Committee. The Congress Committee will make a recommendation of the Congress host to both COTEC General Assembly and ENOTHE Annual meeting 2015.

COTEC Membership fee 2015

COTEC would like to thank all Members who have paid their yearly membership fee. Your contribution allows COTEC to grow as a professional organisation and follow future aims. We kindly ask all members with pending fees to arrange their payment. Please don't hesitate to contact the Vice President Finance Renée Oltman if you have any questions concerning your membership fee, renee.oltman@cotec-europe.org

COTEC Summary of Profession 2015

The Summary of the OT Profession in Europe 2015 was published in April. The document was circulated to all Members who are asked to send the document to relevant authorities in their country – such as the Ministries of Education, Social and Health issues and the regulatory bodies. The Summary can be downloaded at COTEC website www.cotec-europe.org

3rd COTEC General Assembly 2015

The 3rd COTEC General Assembly will be held in Riga, Latvia, Oct 4th, 2015. The preceding day, Oct 3rd, will be "COTEC Governance Day". Calls for agenda items and nominations have been sent out and the agenda will be circulated two months prior the meeting. Topics for the Governance day round table discussion will include Cooperation with others, Register of Experts (new areas), OT Common platform and ROTOS (Research of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science). The Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists is assisting with practical arrangements and social program.

COTEC Executive Committee Elections

The Call for nominations for the two vacant posts of COTEC Executive Committee is published and nominations are asked by July 1st. The Election process and Elections at the General Assembly will be conducted by COTEC Electoral Committee: Gela Maurer, Elisabete Roldão and Petra Schwab.

COTEC Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. The next Skype meetings are scheduled for Thursday, July 16th and Thursday, August 20th, 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 Riga, Latvia, adjoined with the General Assembly, October 2nd - 5th, 2015.

COTEC wishes all a wonderful summer!

