

ENOTHE

European Network
of Occupational Therapy
in Higher Education



Strategy 2021 - 2025

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Introduction

European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE) was originally founded in 1995 and is today, a non-profit network association funded by annual membership subscription. The overall objectives for the members are to stimulate and promote high quality of professional lifelong education of Occupational Therapy across Europe. In December 2017 ENOTHE was registered as a legal form of an association, becoming a non-governmental organisation (NGO) under Austrian law and entered in the Austrian register of associations. In 2020 ENOTHE had a total of 110 members spread across 37 countries worldwide.

Mission statement

The European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE) is a non-governmental association that contributes to the development of occupational therapy in Europe by promoting occupational therapy education. It recognizes occupational therapists and occupational therapy educational programs need to be flexible and adaptive to the policy context they operate within, as well as future trends and emerging fields of practice, in order to remain sustainable, relevant and credible moving forward. ENOTHE focuses on its core business, online education, and through education be more strategic and proactive in addressing health, social and educational issues across the European region. As a network of universities, with the strong student voice being present, ENOTHE pro-actively partners with other stakeholders, thus contributing to the broader debate on education and its relation to health and social policy.

Strategic aims

1. To demonstrate educate and disseminate the value and evidence of Occupational Therapy as contribution to European health and societal issues of individuals, communities and other stakeholders to increase the visibility of Occupational Therapy.
2. To be actively engaged in advancing Occupational Therapy within European Higher Education systems in all three educational cycles (Bachelor, Master and PhD) through a solid research and interdisciplinary involvement.
3. To create arenas to share knowledge in between educational institutions across Europe so that graduates of Occupational Therapy are fit for the future in changing social-cultural, technological and political contexts.



4. To be proactive in developing Occupational Therapy education which is comparable, sustainable, accessible and supports the internationalization at home and abroad of programs as well as the (virtual) mobility of students and teachers.

Strategic areas and specific objectives

To achieve these aims, ENOTHE works out yearly action plans based on four strategic areas:

Education, Partnerships, Sustainable Network and Occupational Therapy Europe marked by specific objectives:

Strategic Area 1: Education

To support, develop and improve educational programmes for European occupational therapists that are comparable, of high quality, relevant and responsive to changes in society through the ENOTHE Center for Learning and Exchange (ECOLE).

To promote Occupational Therapy within European Higher Education systems in all three educational cycles, research and innovation.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

To promote the Occupational Therapy contribution and role in the health and social system within emerging fields.

To promote the development of a culturally-relevant occupation-based curriculum (education, research and practice) by the creation of possibilities, e.g. like the capacity-building courses.

To facilitate student's perspective and contribution within curriculum development to ensure to meet their demands. Encourage the development of the student summer courses.

COMPETENCIES

To enhance the development of competences in all three educational cycles in relation to social, political, cultural and technological development, entrepreneurship, innovation and internationalization.

FIELDWORK

To develop links for cooperation between educational programmes, fieldwork educators, stakeholders and clients in order to address the occupational needs of clients and society.

TEACHING COMPETENCIES

To support the development of innovative teaching and learning competences by the integration of evidence based teaching and learning methods and best practice in education



To support the professionalisation of Occupational Therapy educators, lecturers and trainers by (expert) trainings set up by partners for partners through 'train-the-trainer' courses.

Strategic Area 2: Partnerships

To influence strategic partnerships by demonstrating, educating and disseminating the value and evidence of Occupational Therapy as contribution to European health and societal issues of individuals, communities and other stakeholders to increase the visibility of OT.

INTERNAL PARTNERSHIP

To be an inclusive network of university and institutional members from all European regions by creating financial and practical solutions for inclusion. Demonstrating and promoting the value and contribution that becoming a member of ENOTHE brings.

To support members' initiatives by creating project groups to build knowledge and expertise in Occupational Therapy education

To establish members' interaction during Annual meetings and inter-annual meetings, through the exchange of members' achievements.

To generate debate and create more collective awareness of the strategic issues for the discipline development.

To contribute to the strategic objectives of Occupational Therapy Europe Foundation by collaborating with COTEC and ROTOS in the umbrella-organisation and participate in initiatives.

To support a Student Board Member and collaboration with SPOTEurope and occupational therapy students to facilitate internationalization and students' inclusion within the development of occupational therapy education.

To support joint international program initiatives and projects of ENOTHE members

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

To encourage members to build a solid relation between theory discourses, practice actions and research in different interdisciplinary projects, activities and education through closer collaboration with relevant partners¹.

To stimulate members to participate in European Union Working groups regarding Profiling and training the health care workers of the future, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention².

To build partnerships with the third sector (social partners as NGOs, organisations, associations, cooperatives and community groups) and other social partners with a focus on education and training.

To facilitate the awareness and importance of Occupational Therapy in political alliances and implementation and strengthening of these topics in education.



¹Partners like the Consortium of Institutes of Higher Education and Rehabilitation in Europe (COEHRE), European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education (ENPHE) The European Higher Education Area (EHEA), European Public Health Association (EUPHA), European Health Policy Platform, World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT), P4Play. ²Via Health First Europe



Strategic Area 3: Sustainable Network Organization

To continue to work towards the development of a sustainable network organisation with improving membership engagement comprising all European regions.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

To create effective internal and external communication strategies by supporting the distribution of information concerning European health, social and educational policy.

To increase collaboration among members of ENOTHE and between members, students and the board.

To keep up the website and archive core historical documents, access to products in a database.

To create long term strategy for future meetings

To maintain brand, style to use in public relations

To improve social media communication strategies and involvement of members

GOVERNANCE

To achieve transparency in internal procedures by developing good governance guidelines and procedures

ADMINISTRATION

To secure financial sustainability underpinned by robust, fit for purpose administration systems by increasing membership, decrease expenses, alternation of membership policies to meet current costs and sustain future developments.

To create transparency of the financial administration activities that are undertaken by the office and the elected board, including regular review of all activities and pricing structures for membership and annual meetings

To continue exploring options for a future permanent base and manning of the ENOTHE office



Strategic Area 4: OT-EU Umbrella

To participate in the executive board of the Occupational Therapy Europe Foundation and collaborate with the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC) and ROTOS to strengthen the impact of occupational therapy in Europe

ORGANISATION

To participate in Occupational Therapy Europe, whilst preserving the autonomy of each respective organisation.

JOINT ACTIONS

To engage in joint projects that promote the unity of occupational therapy in Europe, such as organising joint congresses and developing technically and visually compatible integrated websites and utilising social media.

To support and contribute to Occupational Therapy Europe expert groups to advise and inform OT-EU on European issues such as health and social policy, professional qualifications and regulations of Occupational Therapy in Europe.