

ENOTHE

European Network
of Occupational Therapy
in Higher Education



Explanation Document Strategy 2021 - 2025

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Introduction

At the Annual Meeting (AM) 2019, the General Assembly mandated the Board to continue with and update towards a new five year strategy from which yearly action plans can be identified.

Based on the experiences with ENOTHE's Strategy document and actions plans in the last four years the following steps have been taken and will proceed towards an updated Strategy plan.

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 can focus more on its core business, education, and through education be more strategic and proactive in addressing health, social and educational issues across the European region. As a small organization, with an official Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status, it is necessary that ENOTHE collaborates within Occupational Therapy Europe with other organizations, networks and stakeholders to promote and develop Occupational Therapy Education. In that way ENOTHE can pro-actively contribute to the wider debate on education, health and social policy. As an educational network, ENOTHE's actions should have an influence on the content and pedagogy in the education of occupational therapy professionals. Essential part of this has been and will be the inclusion of students in the association to ensure to be responsive to their needs. Realisation of a student board member position is a significant step forward. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the world view and implementation and innovation in education. ENOTHE's role and responsibility emphasizes an adapted strategy is needed to keep playing the role the network wants to play. This strategy document will enable members to participate in discussions and development of yearly action plans for the strategic period.

Procedure

During the 25th Annual Meeting in Athens at the Pre-General Assembly workshops the ENOTHE board introduced collected input from members for future strategy (AM October 2019). Since the results were based on minimal participation outcomes of previous survey among members (2016) were compared and reviewed, prioritizing and abstracting topics and items for future action plans with Incorporated EU and Global Health trends prioritized (2020). Ideas and suggestions from members in past Annual Meetings and in continuous board delegation meetings on strategy plan were collected (2018-2020). After the positive voting at the GA in Zagreb 2017 the board proceeded in establishing ENOTHE as a registered association by Austrian law. In January 2018 the Austrian authorities sent in the final note of ENOTHE registered



as a non-profit association. The charter and constitution have been adapted and ENOTHE is currently also officially registered as a charitable organization (2020). These legal reorganizations were necessary to adapt to the (future) development and establishment of the Occupational Therapy Europe Foundation (2020), of which ENOTHE is now a member together with COTEC and ROTOS.

Subsequently, the following steps were taken:

1. Founding of ENOTHE as an association (2017)
2. Founding of OT Europe and ROTOS (April 2019 – August 2020)
3. Establishing of Occupational Therapy Europe's Strategy Plan (February-August 2020)
4. Aligning, creating and disseminating a draft document ENOTHE strategy 2021-2025 and aligning document with prioritized action plan topics (September 2020)
5. Consulting the GA on process and organizing Pre GA workshop (AM October 2020)
6. Sending out a survey to all members to comment on the adapted Strategy plan (November 2020)
7. Finalizing the Strategy plan (July 2021) based on survey
8. Finalizing Draft Action plan 2021-2022 (August 2021)
9. Prioritizing actions with members Pre GA Workshop (October 2021)
10. Present outcome and outline Strategy plan in GA (October 2021)

Background Context

ENOTHE has been established as a network for two decades, during which time it has been engaged in its Annual Meetings and projects, and has been an important arena for occupational therapy educators to meet, share experiences, find inspiration and last but not least establish international partnerships. ENOTHE members and their representatives on the board, value ENOTHE's contribution to developing occupational therapy in Europe by promoting occupational therapy education. We would like to see the network continue to develop as a resource and arena for collaboration. To be fit for purpose ENOTHE needs to address contemporary issues such as trends in health and social care, decentralization of services and multidisciplinary collaboration. Accordingly, ENOTHE is engaging in discussion about its continued relevance and sustainability by ensuring that professional competences comprise and include social and political changes, E-health and entrepreneurship.



Appendix 1: Policies taken in account for strategy 2021-2025

In creating this strategy, the board has discussed several policy issues that are likely to influence the next five years. These are outlined below:

- Changes within ENOTHE and development of OT Europe and ROTOS.
As the association of ENOTHE develops and the network in the ROTOS foundation grows and develops ENOTHE herself can focus more on the core business of Occupational Therapy Education and represent this position in Occupational Therapy Europe. Together with COTEC and ROTOS ENOTHE can contribute to the overarching Occupational Therapy Europe strategy 2020-2025.
- Erasmus Plus 2021-2027¹
For the next generation of the Erasmus+ programme, one of Parliament's main objectives is that more young people take part in the different learning mobility schemes. It therefore proposes a detailed set of measures to lift all economic, social and cultural barriers. ENOTHE needs to inform and anticipate on the new program development.
- The Bologna Process²
The Bologna Process is a collective effort of public authorities, universities, teachers, and students, together with stakeholder associations, employers, quality assurance agencies, international organisations, and institutions, including the European Commission.(1)
The main focus is:
 - the introduction of the three cycle system (bachelor/master/doctorate)
 - strengthened quality assurance and
 - easier recognition of qualifications and periods of studyENOTHE needs to inform and anticipate on the follow-up of the Bologna process which formally ends 2020 and include pro-active steps towards updating Bachelor level Tuning and support initiatives towards Master and PhD Cycle Tuning processes in OT Education.
- European Higher Education Area (EHEA)³
As the main objective of the Bologna Process since its inception in 1999, the EHEA was meant to ensure more comparable, compatible and coherent systems of higher education in Europe. Between 1999 and 2010, all the efforts of the Bologna Process members were targeted to creating the European Higher Education Area, that became reality with the Budapest-Vienna Declaration of March, 2010. The next decade will be aimed at consolidating



the EHEA and thus the current EHEA permanent website will play a key role in this process of intense internal and external communication.

- The World Health Organisation (WHO)⁴

WHO's mission to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable is linked to three bold targets: more people to benefit from universal health coverage, more people better protected from health emergencies and more people enjoying better health and well-being. The WHO Health 2020 Strategy was aimed at strengthening public health through the life course. In particular strategies for mental health, children and adolescents, with continued work on non-communicable diseases (NCD) and the ageing population. The latest Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13) defines WHO's strategy for the five-year period, 2019-2023. It focuses on measurable impacts on people's health at the country level to transform the future of public health. The Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 is primarily aimed at planners and policy-makers of WHO Member States, but its contents are of big value to all relevant stakeholders in the health workforce area, including professional associations, education and training institutions. ENOTHE needs to continue monitoring and promote integration of future WHO strategies and program developments in OT education regarding: Rehabilitation 2030, Technologies, COVID-19, Global disability action plan 2014-2021 and Community Based Rehabilitation.⁵
- United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁶

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030.
- UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.⁷

UNESCO seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. UNESCO's message is about creating holistic policies that are capable of addressing education on human rights and include social, cultural, and political perspectives for a curricular and sustainable development.



- EU policy, strategy and legislation for 2030 environmental, energy and climate targets.⁸

Last but not least, of course, European 2030 targets also form part of the political context in which occupational therapists learn and practice. Whilst these targets at face value may have limited application to Occupational Therapy, there are potential opportunities in research, work and education aimed at health and social care.

- European Commission priorities for 2019-24⁹ are:
 - A European Green Deal: Europe aims to be the first climate-neutral continent by becoming a modern, resource-efficient economy.
 - A Europe fit for the digital age. The EU's digital strategy will empower people with a new generation of technologies.
 - An economy that works for people. The EU must create a more attractive investment environment, and growth that creates quality jobs, especially for young people and small businesses.
 - A stronger Europe in the world. The EU will strengthen its voice in the world by championing multilateralism and a rules-based global order.
 - Promoting our European way of life. Europe must protect the rule of law if it is to stand up for justice and the EU's core values.
 - A new push for European democracy. Europeans need to have a bigger say and protect our democracy from external interference such as disinformation and online hate messages.

The overarching initiatives influencing all the above areas are concerned with public health, health improvement and primary care, as these are seen to be preventative health strategies. They will require personal engagement and responsibility and be more accessible to greater numbers of people. Inequity of access though will continue to be a challenge as many people in society are severely disadvantaged through poverty and lack of social participation opportunities.

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