

ENOTHE

European Network
of Occupational Therapy
in Higher Education



MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

**SUMMER 2023
ISSUE NO 26**





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BOARD MESSAGE

Dear ENOTHE Community,

Welcome to the ENOTHE Members' Newsletter!

Before we all take time for well-deserved summer break, we would like to share with you ENOTHE developments since the spring newsletter and upcoming activities.

As you might have noticed by now, ENOTHE's marketing and communication strategy is taking form with new information videos, changes in our website and the newsletter, and introduction of promotional items on our website. This strategy is also being shared to COTEC and ROTOS through Occupational Therapy Europe. More changes will soon come, which are intended to make ENOTHE more visible, information more accessible, and communication more contemporary.

Mid-year in the European Year of Skills 2023, the TUNING Taskforce continues strongly in their work over summer in order to finalize the reference frameworks this year. The taskforce is currently implementing a Delphi study, collecting data in July, to further develop the qualification reference framework as well as drafting the assessment reference framework.

Final preparations of the Annual Meeting in Oviedo are also under way. A preliminary program is available on our website. If you have not registered yet, the regular registration period is open now until 30th of September. Materials for the Pre-General Assembly are also in preparation and will be ready for distribution in September. We expect 123 members represented in the General Assembly this October. We are also expecting openings in the Board membership, so please start considering candidates for nomination.

ENOTHE is also active in the preparations for the first Occupational Therapy Europe Congress in 2024. The abstract submission will open in August and close at the end of October.

Wishing you all a pleasant summer!

ENOTHE

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MEMBERS' NEWS



SIMULATION-BASED LEARNING IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



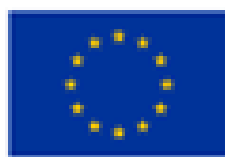
We are very pleased to share news of the **SIMBA (Simulation-Based Learning (SBL) in Occupational Therapy (OT))** project, a three-year Erasmus+ funded project that aims to develop a package of evidence-based resources and tools for the application of SBL and evaluation in all phases of bachelor-level education in OT. The five acting partners are: project coordinator AP University College (Belgium); the University of Applied Health Sciences (Croatia); Turun Ammattikorkeakoulu OY (Finland); Istanbul Medipol Universitesi Vafki (Turkey) and FH Joanneum Gesellschaft MBH (Austria). We are currently in the first year of the project, in which the primary focus is the conduction of literature reviews and focus group studies to gather and validate information about the potential of SBL paradigm as a methodology through which professional competencies can be practiced, acquired, and evaluated during OT education. In the long term, this project aims to increase the quality, safety, and efficiency of OT service provision through the promotion of professional competency development using authentic, inclusive, and innovative simulation methodologies. All project results will be available on an open web platform: <https://simba.turkuamk.fi/>.

Call for SBL-experts – focus group

In this project a unified Framework of professional competencies in OT education and Guidelines for the implementation of SBL in OT education will be developed. To validate this framework/guidelines and to prepare for subsequent phases of the project, focus groups are planned to receive the input of experts in simulation and SBL methodology. They are planned to be held between August and October 2023, will be conducted online and will take about 90 minutes.

We would greatly appreciate if you could participate or recommend a colleague with experience and expertise in planning, designing and/or implementing SBL methods in OT education. Contact annick.vangils@ap.be.

We look forward to hearing from you!



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND OCCUPATIONAL PERFORMANCE LABORATORY



After several years of planning, on December 3rd, 2021, the School of Health Sciences from the Polytechnic of Leiria inaugurated the Assistive Technology and Occupational Performance Laboratory (aTOPlab). A structure that congregates research, training, and community support related to Assistive Technologies and Products. This laboratory is dedicated to the study, assessment, and counselling of assistive products to facilitate the occupational performance and engagement of people with any health condition to participate in their activities of daily living.

The aTOPlab also provides differentiated therapeutic and (re)habilitative interventions using technologies. It has a dedicated area, the “Espaço INCLUI”, supported by Fundação Altice, where it is possible to promote digital equity and access to digital environments (social, leisure, work and educational). With specialised human resources and the latest assistive technologies for digital and communication access, it works on digital capacitation and augmentative and alternative communication.

Equipped with assistive products of the different ISO classes, it has a comprehensive approach and performs holistic assessments of a person's needs in different areas of occupation.

Created to serve the whole community (students, faculty, and researchers from any organic unit) of the Polytechnic of Leiria, it is based on a synergy between the School of Health Sciences and the Center for Innovative Care and Health Technology. Students can have classes in the aTOPlab, using the different assistive aids to train and gain professional competencies. It can be a clinical placement for students from the educational program of Occupational Therapy and allow the students to develop and implement their final research projects using the instruments or software present in the aTOPlab. It establishes a symbiotic relationship combining community support, research, and training. While a person receives therapeutic intervention, they help the students with their professional development and research projects (figure 1).

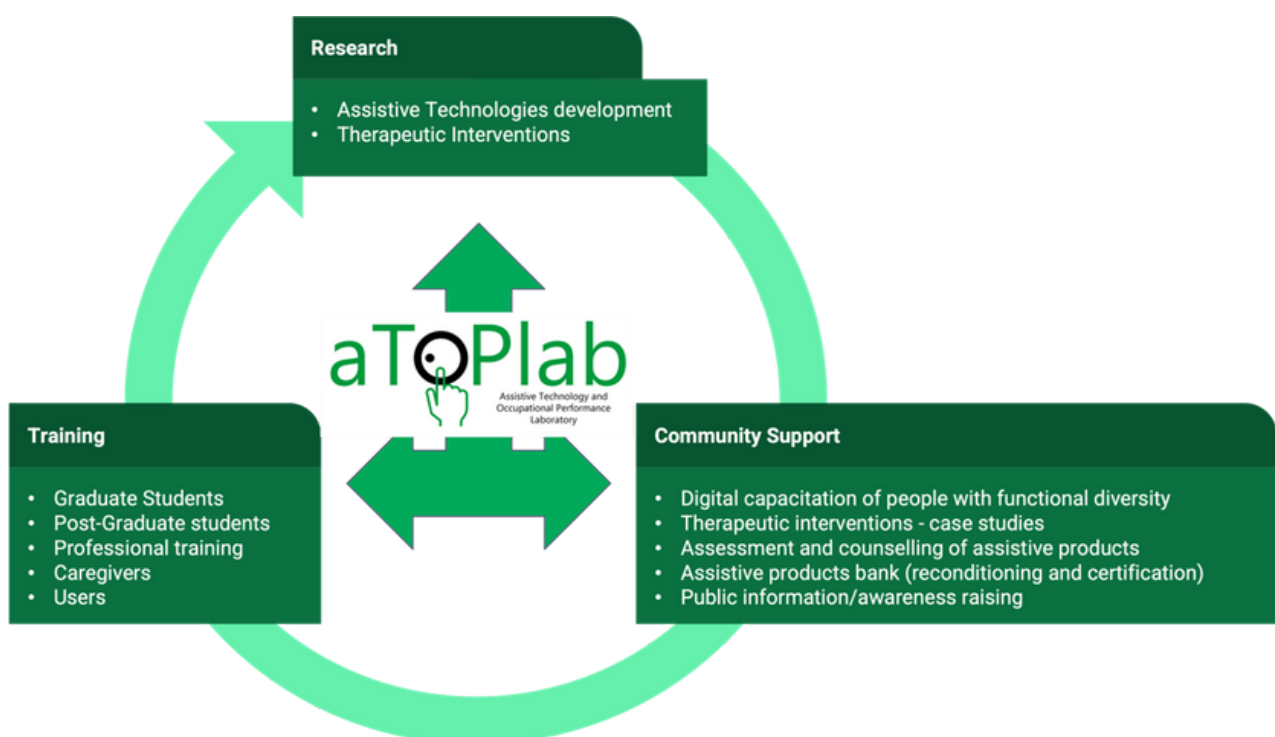


FIGURE 1 - ATOPLAB' SYMBIOTIC WORK AREAS

The aTOPlab counts on the funding and collaboration of assistive products companies and institutions in the community (Fundação Altice, Gameiros, Invacare, Tsimetria and TotalMobility) as a distinctive factor, highlighting the strategic nature of applied research and reinforcing the commitment to the social responsibility of the involved entities. These partners make their equipment and specialised human resources available to take part in the best assessment and advice on assistive products.

It has a team of experts and collaborators from different areas of knowledge.

We are pleased to invite you to visit us on aTOPlab (ipleiria.pt), and we are open to collaborating in joint research ventures.

Jaime Ribeiro e Elisabete Roldão

<https://pt.linkedin.com/company/atoplab>

<https://www.facebook.com/aTOPlab/>

https://www.instagram.com/atoplab_leiria/

THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC-PRACTICAL STUDENTS CONFERENCE

The Department of Rehabilitation of Kauno Kolegija Higher Education Institution held the 2nd international scientific-practical students conference in 23d of May. The international scientific conference were intended for various study program students who are looking for answers on how to create a quality in healthcare, prevention of diseases, and provide rehabilitation services for people of various ages. We had moderators from University of West Attica, Greece, University Francisco de Vitoria, Spain, University of Health Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey and University of Malaga, Spain also our lecturers from Kauno kolegija. More than 70 research presentations were introduced by students from partner universities and from most of the Lithuanian universities and Higher Education Institutions.



Find more information here: <https://www.kaunokolegija.lt/en/dissemination-of-students-experience-in-research-works-in-the-field-of-rehabilitation-2/>

EMPOWERING PUPPETRY

Milda Gintilienė, the head of the Department of Rehabilitation, Faculty of Medicine, Kaunas College, together with project coordinator Povilas Beseckas, lecturers Aiste Pranskaityte – Bielevičiene and Emilija Strimaityte, and first-year students of the Occupational Therapy program participated in the "Empowering puppetry" project week, which took place this year. on May 24-27.

Teachers and students from Finland, Latvia and Estonia also participated in the project together. During the project, students were introduced to various social risk groups, showing how difficult and complicated the situations and life stories of their clients can be. Creative storytelling through mediators provided students with useful and different knowledge and methodologies on how to approach the client, how to talk to him, how to open up and help solve the most difficult problems.



Participants of the "Empowering puppetry" project communicated with seniors from the Public Institution "Care Center". The goal of the students was to become familiar with the diagnosis of dementia, to reveal the experiences, stories, and condition of individuals. The elders of the Public Institution "Care Center" very willingly got involved in the discussion and conversation. With great motivation, they told the stories of their lives: funny, painful, sad and happy. They willingly got involved in joint activities, contributed to the presentation of the students' final projects, chose the music, and participated in the canine therapy session together.



To read more:

<https://www.kaunokolegija.lt/mf/problemu-sprendimo-budas-igalinant-leles/>

HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM AND AGING IN PLACE IN CANARY ISLANDS

People prefer to grow old at home (Aging in place) (Peek et al, 2016), in a familiar environment and surrounded – as far as possible – by their belongings and loved ones. This desire to grow old at home is not simply a personal preference. The World Health Organization highlights that the place where one ages has important impacts on people's health: doing so in a familiar place increases levels of confidence, independence, and autonomy (WHO, 2015).

The experience in caring for people at home, made us aware of the needs in terms of Accessibility and use of Assistive Technologies that exist in the homes of the older adults, and how these, added to social isolation, generate a significant decrease in people's quality of life.

The Accessible and Functional Home program began in January 2021 at the Association of Caregivers, Family Members and Friends of People with Dependency, Alzheimer's and other Dementias (Acufade) in Tenerife, Spain. This program offers free advice and provides "a hope for aging in place" to older adults in homes, through the practice of Occupational Therapy.

The general objective of the program is to improve the quality of life of people in situations of dependency, their families and caregivers, providing assessment, advice, resources and training in matters of accessibility, home modification and assistive technologies in order to build "homes facilitators" that promote personal autonomy.



The program takes into account the real needs at home of the person in a situation of dependency, their family and caregiver. That is why it offers a complete service, consisting of:

- Assessment of the occupational performance of the person at home.
- Assessment, recommendation and training in the use of Assistive Technologies for the home.
- Assessment and advice on aspects of physical, cognitive and sensory accessibility for home modification.



To date, more than 800 homes of people in a situation of dependency have been attended to on the islands of Tenerife, Gran Canaria and Fuerteventura.

The main team is made up of five occupational therapists and Acufade's social workers. The occupational therapists that are part of the team are: Cristina Perdomo (Project Coordinator), Raquel Duque, Victor Ferreras, Javier Pérez and María Jesús González. It is a committed and excited team that works in a coordinated manner to offer comprehensive care and bring the essence of the program with quality, creativity and professionalism to people's homes.

Older adults, their families and caregivers have stated that thanks to the program they have felt:

- Oriented and informed on assistive technology issues to facilitate occupational performance at home.
- Attended, listened to and helped regarding their accessibility difficulties at home.
- Informed about the support products that they can request from social security and other public institutions.



The program is committed to interprofessional collaboration with occupational therapy, architecture and design professionals, generating collaborative ties during home modifications. The program offers a free, innovative and pioneering service in the Canary Islands, committed to improving accessibility and the use of assistive technologies in the homes of people in a situation of dependency and continues to work to reach all populations that need it.

Cristine Perdomo Delgado

THE UKROTHE PROJECT: JOBSHADOWING



Five participants of the Erasmus+ Ukrothe Project were on jobshadowing in Belgium. This jobshadowing gave the participants the chance to implement their theoretical knowledge they gained in the theoretical courses within the Ukrothe project. Besides they experienced the implementation of occupational therapy in the multidisciplinary approach of people with an occupational question.

The participants were welcome in AZ DELTA Hospital, Covias and BC Spermalie. In AZ Delta they joined the teams on neurological and locomotory rehabilitation. Covias is an organisation focused on people with mental health problems. BC Spermalie is a school for children with special needs, especially multiple visual problems.

For the participants this was a very positive experience. Teachers of the universities gained new ideas on how to teach skills in the occupational therapy education. Participants of the working field took a lot of ideas with them to implement occupational therapy in practice.

The UKROTHE project is a very inspiring project for all participants and offered a large range of learning opportunities, also in the difficult situation in Ukraine on this moment.

"I was very pleased and informative to have an internship in this specialty, because, the staff was very friendly, attentive and professional in their work."

"Here I enriched my knowledge of the material base, learned new assessments that I can now use in my practice (cognitive functions, upper extremity performance assessments, walking test and daily activity questionnaire used here). I got acquainted with keeping documentation, how occupational therapists, together with a multidisciplinary team, set short-term and long-term goals. How teamwork is organized (joint meetings, constant communication between specialists and the patient (relatives)).

Thank you for this opportunity to gain new experience, for openness and honesty, the ability to share, humanity and patience! When I return to Ukraine, I will try to use the acquired knowledge in practice and share it with others."

"UKROTHE is an incredible project that provides Ukrainian occupational therapists with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and expertise from their foreign colleagues, thereby enriching their knowledge and improving the quality of services provided in Ukraine.

During my internship in Covias (Belgium), I gained valuable skills and knowledge that I intend to apply in my work in Ukraine. The methods and practices I learned during my internship in Belgium have inspired me and provided numerous ideas for advancing occupational therapy in Ukraine. I plan to implement these approaches and techniques in my work to ensure high-quality and effective occupational therapy services for our clients. By sharing my knowledge and experience with colleagues, I believe we can improve service quality and positively impact the lives of individuals with mental health conditions."



From left to right:

Nataliia Zdebska (Caritas Drohobych), Dmytro Duzhyi & Juri Rogala (Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University), Olha Konakova (Prydniprovsk State Academy of Physical culture and Sport) and Veronika Tokmakova (RC Modrychi).

EUROPEAN MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – FIRST TIME EVER IN SPAIN!

In June 2023, 20 students of the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy were welcomed at University of A Coruña – the first time ever that the module “Socio-cultural perspectives of human occupation - Scientific and theoretical argumentation” was delivered in Spain!

The European MSc in Occupational Therapy consists of six modules, five of which are delivered by one of the five partner institutions that form the OT-EuroMaster consortium: Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, NL (AUAS); University of Brighton, UK (UoB); Karolinska Institutet, SWE (KI); Zurich University of Applied Sciences, CH (ZHAW) and since autumn 2022, University of A Coruña, ES (UDC). Students spend one to two weeks at each of the partner institutions for intensive classwork. The fourth module, focusing on socio-cultural perspectives of human occupation, has now been hosted by the team A Coruña for the first time. Natalia Rivas Quarneti (module coordinator), Inés Viana Moldes (Board member), Lisette Farias and Lilian Magalhães are the new module core team. Their expertise in the field of social-cultural aspects of occupation and social transformation within OT fits perfectly to the scope of the module and enriches the multitude of perspectives within the international staff team.

At UDC, students explored Occupational Therapy and/or Occupational Science concepts and theoretical frameworks that illustrate the situated nature of occupation within socio-political contexts and cultural conditions. And consistently, the module supported their development of critical and reflexive skills related to scientific and theoretical argumentation and enabled them to position their practice and/or research within European and international contexts.

During the module, students had the chance to explore the local community with the NGO EcosdoSur and discuss with some very renowned guest lecturers: Hanneke van Bruggen, Denise Gastaldo, Antía Pérez Caramés, Salvador Simó and Inda Zango!

Want to know more about this truly international, research oriented programme?

Meet us at the market place at ENOTHE conference 2023 in Oviedo, participate in one of our [online-info-events](#) or visit www.ot-euromaster.nl



Pic: The new Team at UDC: Lisette Farias, Ines Viana Moldes, Natalia Rivas Quarneti, Lilian Magalhães



NEWS

Dear ENOTHE members,

Summer is here, and we have some updates from SPOT about what has been occurring during the past few months.

First of all, we are looking forward to the ENOTHE Annual Meeting, whose preparations are ongoing, and where our president Bruna Bastos and events coordinator Kira Hanßmann will also present in the "The role of OT students in higher education" student keynote. Currently, we are continuing preparations for the workshop that we run in partnership with students from the Faculty Padre Ossó. Thus we are continuing the preparations for the SPOT pitch, in which we will be talking and explaining more about SPOTEurope.

Also, we have been communicating more with OT student associations recently. For instance, in recent times, we have been connecting with UNAEE from France and BLV from Germany to continue to engage with connect our boards to promote each other's events and projects, to exchange our current and future ideas, and to promote internationalization. With this, we believe that this partnership will bring many benefits to both organizations and we are excited for the upcoming meetings.

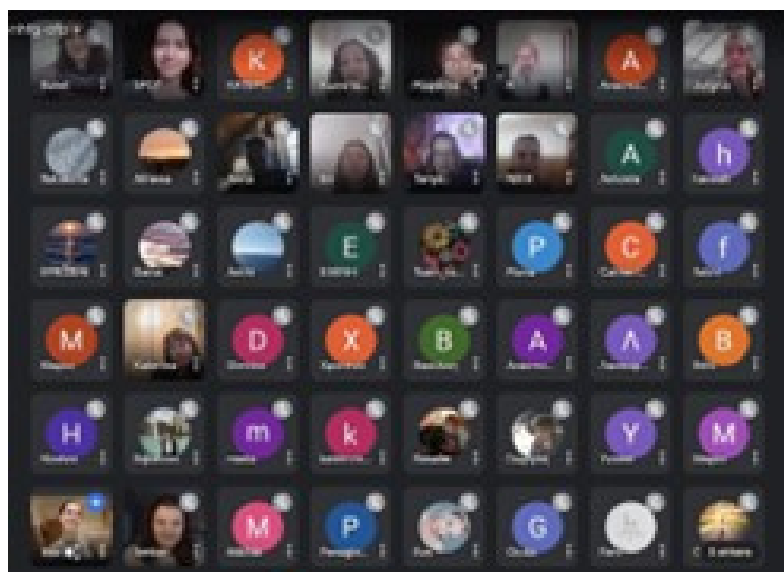
We were invited to attend the first meeting as part of the external committee of the SIMBA project, which aims to develop a toolbox that allows organizations to apply simulation-based learning (SBL) and SBL assessment at all stages of occupational therapy training. An initial meeting was held about the process, the guidelines and the course of the project, and the expectations of the two parties from each other. As SPOTEurope, we are very happy to take part in the meetings to be held every 6 months, where the negotiations on the targeted stages will continue.

In April, we made our SPOT introduction presentation for students in Postdam, Germany. Their teacher Patric Duletzki, who was also involved in ENOTHE, reached out to explain to students the history of SPOTEurope, our missions, and visions, the activities and projects we have done and plan to do, and much more. In conclusion, it was a great meeting, and we look forward to meeting again in the future.

We also had our 1st journal club in April, expecting many more people to join and discuss more about the article we bring in. In any case, we had a productive meeting. We are looking to engage more people in the future and create a dynamic environment to discuss the topics we bring in. We believe that through our journal clubs, we can foster collaboration and learning among participants.

In addition, we have reached and continue to reach students and occupational therapists with blogs on OT education, internationalization, and exchange knowledge. In this context, 4 blogs on different topics were published by 4 guest bloggers in the past months, you can visit our website to examine the blogs in detail. We believe that these blogs provide valuable insight and information to students and occupational therapists alike and are always looking for new guest bloggers to keep our content collaborative and engaging.

In these months we also hosted 2 different SPOTinars, one in February about "Global Challenges, Local Occupational Solutions " in by OT Hanneke van Bruggen, thus you can also find a detailed summary on our website, and the other one in April, which we planned on the basis of Autism Awareness Day on April 2, "Autism & OT " by OT Richard Furbush, a pediatrics Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR) based in California. We had a significant response to both of our SPOTinars and it was great to see how OTs and OT students from all around the world came together to discuss and learn about these important topics. We are looking forward to our future SPOTinars and the wonderful discussions they will bring.



As an Occupational Therapy student platform, we want to portray different aspects of the OT profession, especially considering Autism Acceptance and OT Month were happening during the same time.

From a social media standpoint, we shared our April blog post titled "A student perspective: how history leads us to neurodiversity-affirming OT practice" by our social media coordinator, Angela Palacios.

Also, we shared content and worked towards collaboration with SPOT Americas throughout this month.

Continued to post #MemeMondays, #MidWeekMotivation, some #ADayInTheLifeOf, and #SelfCareSunday, among other stories. Finally ended the month with a reel compilation of OT students across Europe answering the question "What does OT mean to you?". That video can be accessed on our Instagram account ([@spoteurope](https://www.instagram.com/spoteurope)).



Furthermore, we are continuing our preparations and we are very excited for SPOTweek, which we plan to hold between the 24th and 28th of July, thus we will have one activity per day with different goals hosted by SPOT board members, board members from ENOTHE and miniSPOTs/Sounding board members. The aim will be to focus on the goals that SPOT has been wanting to achieve throughout the years, specifically facilitating communication between OT students by promoting this platform.

Please save the dates and look for the information about the activities soon. We look forward to meeting you on those days!

That is all we have to report for the moment. We will be back with a new update in the ENOTHE winter newsletter.

Greetings,
The board of SPOTeurope

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UPDATES

ENOTHE WEBINAR

Open for registrations!

Know more about the presenters
and the webinar at our website

(<https://enoth.eu/e-c-o-l-e-enoth-center-for-learning-exchange/webinars/>)

A graphic for an ENOTHE webinar. It features the ENOTHE logo (European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education) at the top right. Below it is a circular image of three children running in a grassy field. To the left of the circle, the text reads: "TUESDAY 19.09.2023 6:00-7:00PM CET @ZOOM". Below the circle, the title of the webinar is displayed: "Are children deprived of play? Problematising, reflecting and expanding ideas of occupational deprivation." The graphic is decorated with various geometric shapes like dots and lines.

Annual Meeting 2023 is at full steam!

- Preliminary programme is out; Registrations are open;
- Meet the keynote speakers;
- Meet the Hanneke van Bruggen Lecture recipient;
- Apply for a market place;
- Know all about Oviedo and how to get there;
- Gear up with ENOTHE Merchandising!



27th ENOTHE Annual Meeting
26-28 October 2023

Oviedo, Spain
Facultad Padre Ossó
(centro adscrito a la Universidad de Oviedo)



Visit the webpage

(<https://enoth.eu/annual-meeting/oviedo-spain-23/>)



BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

We are looking for 3 people who would like to contribute with their engagement and ideas in our board!

Apply now to work together in an international team or recommend this position to a colleague!

[more info here](#)

PRE-GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS

October 10th, 2023

- **ENOTHE Strategy** (16:00-16:30 CET)
- **ENOTHE Marketing and Economic Sustainability** (16:45-17:15 CET)
- **Occupational Therapy in Higher Education Reports - ENOTHE Journal/Magazine** (17:30-18:00 CET)

Save the date!



CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING HOSTS



Interested in hosting an ENOTHE Annual Meeting?

Bids are now open for the **2026 Annual Meeting** and the **2027 Annual Meeting**.

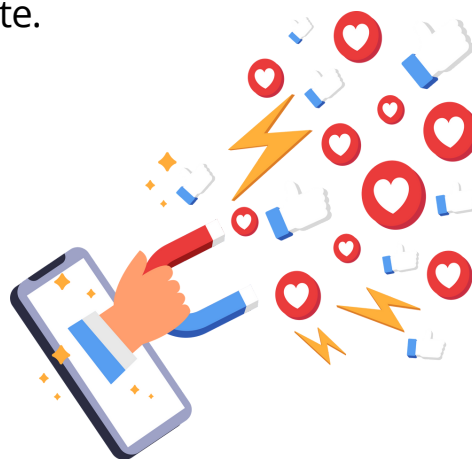
Explore the Annual Meeting host protocol and the Bid Form [here](#).

Did you know that you can **Advertise with ENOTHE**?

- Choose between the newsletter or the website.
- Fees for members and non-members.

Reach all ENOTHE community effortlessly!

[more info here](#)



A **social media strategy** has been developed within ENOTHE with the aim to use the potential of various platforms to share information to our members but also to attract new one. This involved looking at our current profiles (LinkedIn, FB, Twitter, IG, YouTube) and identify further opportunities. This is an ongoing process and our main focus had been on Instagram. We have developed templates and guidelines to have a more accessible and professional appearance that will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

Within this process we have also exchanged within the OT-Europe umbrella to be recognizable as sister organisations. We want to deal consciously with stimuli on the images, alternative texts as descriptions for the images and we looked at which script and size on which colours are best to read. When it comes to movies or audiotapes, we will make use of transcripts ensuring the exact same words as within the spoken texts.



1st Occupational Therapy Europe Congress

Future-Proofing Occupational Therapy

15-19 October 2024, Kraków

<https://ot-europe2024.com/>

Stay tuned for abstract submission opening!

**Holzmeistergasse 7-9 2/1 | A-1210 Vienna |
Austria Central Association Register ZVR: 1929 378541**



www.enothe.eu



info@enothe.eu



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