

**ENOTHE**

European Network  
of Occupational Therapy  
in Higher Education



# MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023  
ISSUE NO 27





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# BOARD MESSAGE

Dear members and colleagues,

As we approach the end of 2023, we take this opportunity to reflect on the network's achievements so far. Firstly, we extend our gratitude to all who attended the 27th ENOTHE Annual Meeting in Oviedo, Spain, on 26-28th October, where 304 members gathered. Based on the evaluation of the Annual conference (217 responses), we can report that most attendees were very satisfied with the overall event, with an average score of 4.13 out of 5. Satisfaction with the organisation (4.15 out of 5) and the amount of time within the programme to network with all attendees was also high (4.1.4 out of 5). The networking event was regarded as tremendously beneficial in fostering an 'atmosphere of knowledge sharing that contributes to ENOTHE's excellence' (evaluation feedback). Maintaining student engagement and our steadfast commitment to education and international collaboration were also identified as positive aspects that should be preserved in the future.

ENOTHE serves as a facilitator and welcomes applications to host the Annual Meeting in 2026 and 2027. The host team collaborates with ENOTHE to ensure the best possible experience for all attendees based on the host's location and contextual, cultural, linguistic, and historical resources/limitations. No professional or external actors are involved in the organization of meetings, allowing for an atmosphere of exchange and collaboration amongst teachers and students from ENOTHE, SPOTEurope and the host team. Each host institution organizes the Annual Meeting in a manner suitable to their context, resulting in diverse approaches. Let's embrace this diversity by looking forward to the next meeting with openness and genuine curiosity about each other's differences.

Further progress has been achieved in the TUNING process through an open consultation following numerous workshops with a workforce group consisting of members from throughout Europe.

For additional details regarding the TUNING process, please visit <https://enothe.eu/e-c-o-l-e-enothe-center-for-learning-exchange/tuning/>.

Moreover, webinars are coming soon based on the remarks received from the network members, so keep an eye out.

We are pleased to announce the inaugural OT Europe Congress 2024, held in Krakow (<https://ot-europe2024.com/>), in collaboration with ENOTHE, COTEC, and ROTOS. We look forward to meeting you there!

Additionally, we extend heartfelt gratitude to Leoni Friedrich, Vanessa Heinrich, Vanessa 'V Rozalina', and Sigitas Mingaila for their devoted board service and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Meanwhile, we extend a warm welcome to Jasu Forss, Giedre Sasnauskienè, and Katrin Pechstädt as new board members, as well as Angela Lumpert Palacios as the student board member. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with you and eagerly anticipate developing innovative ideas and activities in partnership with the members of the Network. Your voluntary commitment is highly valued. Know more about the new board members here: <https://enothe.eu/home/enothe-board/>

Additionally, we want to extend our thanks to our auditors, Saskia Buschner and Annette Köppenborg, as well as our office coordinator, Marta Figueiredo, for their commendable contributions. Your support has been instrumental in achieving our goals. We look forward to working with you again next year.

In the spirit of appreciation, let us all enjoy the festive season and stay tuned to the updates of the network,

On behalf of the board,

Lisette Farias

# ENOTHE

European Network  
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## MEMBERS' NEWS



# CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN REHABILITATION (CIDERR)



A different practice placement and teaching experience for Occupational Therapy students and staff of Metropolitan College (MC) evolved in Athens. The new Occupational therapy lab at Maroussi Campus is the first ever of this kind in Greece, and the goal is to create new OT teaching, practice and research opportunities.

MC has put into operation the Center for Interdisciplinary Education and Research in Rehabilitation (CIDERR) in Greece. CIDERR operates, in the context of research innovation and clinical utility, implements the long-standing goal of MC to provide education with international recognition based on innovation and excellence. The three main operational axes of CIDERR include High Impact Practices, sustainability in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary practices, and corporate social contribution and responsibility.





The CIDERR covers a 550m<sup>2</sup> space at Maroussi Campus. All the Laboratories are fully equipped, and suitable for practical courses/workshops and practice internships, offering innovative and interactive educational content. It includes the Occupational Therapy Lab, the Physiotherapy Lab, the Speech & Language Therapy Lab, the Gait & Balance Analysis Lab, an Augmented/Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Lab, a Dietetics Lab, a Counselling Centre / Psychologist's office and the Biomedical Sciences Lab.

The Occupational Therapy Laboratory -"Lina Kostaki"" constituted of a practice area that includes an Activities of Daily Living Lab, the multisensory lab for children and adults and a groupwork area for teaching or practice. The Laboratory can accommodate up to 25 students for lab classes and serves as a practice placement sight supporting free of charge people from the local community. Moreover, facilitates research activity of students and academics by hosting the Institute of Occupational Science and Rehabilitation and the activities of World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) of WHO from the side of Greece.

We invite you to take a visual tour contact us for any enquiries and/or ideas for collaboration. <https://mitropolitiko.vrproductions.gr/kedeea/el/>

"

Elena Gliko, Vicky Gkoraki, Panagiotis Eleftheriou, Occupational Therapy Department, Metropolitan College

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE SYSTEM IN RURAL AREAS

The project has been called “Early Childhood Care system in rural areas”, and is developed at the University Clinic Inypema, of the Faculty Padre Ossó, between the months of January and December 2023. We offer travel of an occupational therapist expert in childhood as close as possible to the child's home to carry out an intervention with the “Caravan of the Senses”, a caravan adapted as an Occupational Therapy room where they can work with children. To be able to participate in the project, the child and his or her family must reside in the rural area of the geography of the Principality of Asturias, Spain, that is, residents of municipalities with less than 30,000 inhabitants or less than 100 inhabitants per square kilometer. We want to equate the care that children in rural areas receive with what can be obtained in large cities, also at no cost to families.

In addition to this, preventive interventions are also carried out, in which we go to associations, town halls, etc. to hold group sessions for children and detect possible problems in development. Also, orientation sessions in which talks are offered for professionals and/or parents to talk about the project, the figure of the occupational therapist and how we can help children, in addition to resolving any doubts that may arise.



50 children and more than 150 family members have participated in the project. More than 100 people attended the orientation sessions, including professionals, parents, and children, so there is a very positive assessment of the project and its reception.



# LIVING LAB - A EUROPEAN PROJECT DEVELOPED BY INYPEMA UNIVERSITY CLINIC



Living Labs (LL) are open innovation ecosystems in real-life environments that use iterative feedback processes along a lifecycle approach of an innovation to create sustainable impact. Living Labs (LL) are open innovation ecosystems in real-life environments that use iterative feedback processes throughout a lifecycle approach of an innovation to create sustainable impact. They focus on co-creation, rapid prototyping and testing, and scaling up innovations and businesses, providing (different types of) joint value to the stakeholders involved. In this context, living labs operate as intermediaries/orchestrators between citizens, research organizations, businesses and government agencies/levels. Within a wide variety of living labs, they all have common characteristics, but multiple different implementations.

The term "Living Lab" was first used in 1999, attributed to Professor William J. Mitchell, who used the term to define a user-centered research method to test, prototype, validate and improve solutions to challenges related to health, energy and creativity in a real context.

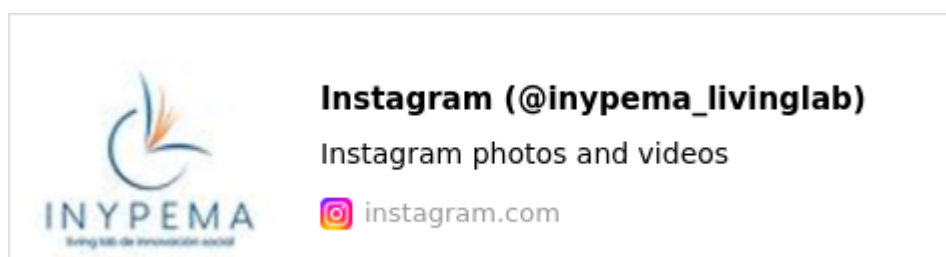
Today, "Living Labs" have evolved significantly, with research in real contexts taking center stage. They involve different actors, such as ordinary citizens, researchers, students or universities, fostering an environment of real co-creation.

Universities present a great opportunity for the implementation of Living Labs, as they have the structures, technologies and trained personnel to implement them correctly. The Padre Ossó Faculty, through its University Clinic INYPEMA, and thanks to an agreement with the Department of Social Rights and Welfare of the Principality of Asturias, through funding from the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Mechanism (RRM), Next Generation funds, has been developing the "Inypema Living Lab for Social Innovation" project for several months.

This project is divided into two areas of intervention, one focused on the elderly and the other on early childhood, both of which coincide in their contextualization in rural Asturias.

In relation to the elderly, the University Clinic INYPEMA is testing new methodologies related to the promotion of healthy living and new technologies, through peer mentoring, or what is the same, older people who train their peers in the use of new technologies and active aging. On the other hand, in the early childhood axis, a Teleintervention Software is being developed, which has specific material that will allow families to perform tasks with the children supervised by a professional, thus increasing the intensity and dosage of the treatment being carried out.

Both axes have a research team, a technical team, and more than 300 participants (elderly people, families and children). The results will be published at the end of the year and we will be able to measure, with objective data, the impact of these new methodologies on these populations.



# **UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENT PROJECT: IMPROVING SOCIAL PARTICIPATION USING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN HOME SETTINGS**

Currently, around 1.3 billion people worldwide have a disability, with a projection that this number will increase (World Health Organization [WHO], 2023a). Specifically, in 2017, 3.9 percent of Canadians reported having a learning disability, which is a type of cognitive disability (CD) (Learning Disabilities Association of Canada, 2021). In the United States, 12.8% of the current population has a CD (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2023). The WHO found that “globally, more than 2.5 billion people need one or more assistive products, and by 2050, more than 3.5 billion people will be needing two or more” (2023b, p.1). For people living with a CD, assistive technology (AT) provides assistance for completion of activities of daily living (ADL) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADL). Consequently, there is a need to understand the experience and perspectives of individuals with a CD and their caregivers regarding AT, and the usability patterns and factors that affect implementation of technology within the home.

**This team of occupational therapy students from the College of Rehabilitation Sciences - University of Manitoba, Canada (Michelle Conan, Cassandra Bosc, Liezl Ocon, and Sierra Sutherland)** is investigating the use of assistive technology in the home environment of people with cognitive disabilities with the support of **Dr. Jacquie Ripat** (Professor of the Department of Occupational Therapy and Vice Dean of Academic Affairs) and **Dr. Cristina Perdomo Delgado** (Postdoctoral Researcher of the Department of Occupational Therapy)



The team of occupational therapy students conducted a literature review on the ways that adults with cognitive disability use assistive technology (AT) to perform activities within their homes. Our team considered AT to include smart technology to support the achievement of tasks and environmental monitoring within the home. "Home" refers to any residence, including group homes or institutional facilities. Utilizing AT has the potential to connect loved ones and societal roles, boost independence and lessen reliance on caregivers (Oyesanya et al., 2021). Their findings highlighted how AT's benefits may not only empower users but may also reduce government costs associated with hiring caretakers.

The students' research aim is to identify the needs of older adults in using AT for the home and to create a toolkit to educate older adults about the use of AT within their homes, promoting participation and inclusion in social activities in and beyond their residences.

To carry out the research, the occupational therapy students will use a high-tech “smart suite” model apartment developed by the College of Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Manitoba. The smart suite is equipped with easy-to-use AT and flexible equipment, helping to educate and empower students to improve the autonomy and well-being of older adults and people with disabilities.



The results obtained from this research will assist occupational therapists, older adults, caregivers, families, and others with cognitive difficulties in understanding the usability of assistive technologies for the home and accessing toolkit that supports learning to use AT.

The results of this study are expected by the end of June 2024. Occupational therapy students can respond to questions from other occupational therapy students and engage in discussion about using assistive technologies in the home among older adults.

For more information, contact Dr. Jacquie Ripat at email [jacquie.ripat@umanitoba.ca](mailto:jacquie.ripat@umanitoba.ca) or student Cassandra Bosc at email [boscc345@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:boscc345@myumanitoba.ca)

# INTERNATIONAL PARTNER PROGRAMME

The future of Occupational Therapy (OT) demands a future-proof higher education that prepares professionals for global society and evolving policies. The Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS), Karolinska Institutet (KI), and Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) have collaboratively established the International Partner Programme (IPP) to enhance internationalization in education. This initiative fosters a culturally sensitive attitude among future OTs and encourages them to engage in international activities to cultivate global connections and to gain intercultural competencies. The IPP comprises three online activities and the possibility to write a bachelor's thesis at one of the partner universities. The topics covered by the online activity are: "Being an OT student", "Community Exploration" and "Internship". The first activity focuses on comparative discussions related to occupation and OT across diverse countries, aiming to instill an awareness of the profession's diversity and its cultural contexts. The second activity aims to gain insight into working with communities by exploring together the physical, political, and social context in a community. The third activity serves to share internship experiences with international OT students in order to learn from each other.

In November 2023, 140 first-year OT students worldwide were welcomed within the first activity. Students engaged in discussions related to occupation and OT across diverse countries, to instill an awareness of the profession's diversity, intercultural exchange, and networking. Hereby, students developed adaptability, creativity in problem-solving, and the ability to make decisions together.

Opening the first activity to a global OT student audience, issues around inclusivity about technological challenges and the importance of collaborative personal and professional reflection became clear.



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# PROMOTING THE ADQUISITION OF TRANSVERSAL COMPETENCIES OF FUTURE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS DURING THEIR TRAINING PERIOD

Transversal competencies endow students with versatile and practical skills that prepare them to face future work challenges, enhance their employability and enable them to contribute substantially to society from the student stage. Specifically, at the Occupational Therapy program at Miguel Hernández University (Alicante, Spain), in 2023, numerous activities were implemented to enable their acquisition:

- **"I Wellness Conference for Seniors"** aimed to promote health and active aging among older adults. The organization involved collaboration with the Elderly Care Service of the Mutxamel City Council. Sixteen students developed workshops and informational stations about active strategies for self-care and health empowerment, attending to 120 people.



- **"III Intercampus Multidisciplinary Conference"**. The objectives were to promote collaboration between students of Health Sciences (Podiatry, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Medicine and Pharmacy) and to encourage joint projects. Thus, students gave talks about their respective degrees, areas of work and initiatives to 86 listeners, who were also students.



- **"VI Solidarity Race of the Faculty of Medicine"**. The main objective was the normalization of people with disabilities in sport, as well as giving visibility and support to local associations. It was organised by the students of the Occupational Therapy degree in collaboration with other programmes, in Sant Joan d'Alacant, with 745 participants.

- **"XII International Congress of Occupational Therapy Students and VII International Congress of Occupational Therapy"**. With the purpose of exchanging knowledge about the profession, this double event is held annually by and for students and biannually for professionals. Attendees (approximately 300) participate in an extensive program of conferences, workshops and activities.



- **Outreach and awareness workshops:** This initiative aimed to publish the role of occupational therapists and raise awareness among younger population about handicaps and the social barriers encountered by people with disabilities. Thus, students conducted workshops in variuos schools, high schools, and events.



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# NEWS

Dear ENOTHE members,

As winter approaches, SPOT has some updates about what has been happening.



First of all, we would like to share with you what a great pleasure it was for us to take part in the ENOTHE Annual Meeting. Our president, Bruna Bastos, and event coordinator, Kira Hanßmann, took the role in presenting the student keynote titled "The role of OT students in higher education".

During the Annual Meeting, the completion of the collaborative workshop conducted jointly with Padre Ossó Faculty students was a great experience. We were happy to share that this event provided opportunities for knowledge exchange, skill development, and networking, fostering a sense of community within the occupational therapy field.

Moreover, the SPOT Pitch took place by the end of this event, where we had the chance to share our mission and vision in detail. This introduction likely helped others understand the purpose, goals, and values that SPOT represents, contributing to the organization's visibility and potential for future collaborations.



We would also like to share that our social media coordinator Angela Lumpert Palacios has recently made a new start by taking over the role of student board member. At the same time, a new board member will soon be joining us as social media coordinator. As part of this transition, we would like to thank former student board member Vanessa Rozalina for the contributions she made during her time in the board in this period of time.





We would like to share with excitement that we currently have three mini SPOTs, HvA, AMÜ and EUC, from Amsterdam, Turkey and Cyprus. Hopefully many more soon are in the process of being established. It's always so exciting to expand to new locations providing opportunities for increased collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the promotion of occupational therapy in different communities.

We have established a new mini SPOT Guideline in September that considers a few details. According to this new structure, we discussed the necessity to distinguish a mini SPOT that represents the university, with a group of students working in this setting; a mini SPOT of the city, in which englobes more than one university but from the same city; as well as a SPOT that represents the country, having the participation of a group of mini SPOTs from these cities in the same country. The consideration of having these different groups to represent each country is a strategic decision that can provide a unified and cohesive representation for each location.

The emphasis on ensuring that mini SPOT's logos do not resemble the SPOTEurope logo underlines the importance of maintaining distinct identities while fostering a sense of unity, and that the logos should remain faithful to an original structure.

Furthermore, we are planning to organize a forthcoming MiniSpot gathering, demonstrating a commitment to engaging members in comprehensive discussions about the current status, future aspirations, challenges, and potential solutions. The meeting serves as a vital platform for fostering communication and collaboration among MiniSpot members, providing an opportunity to share insights and collectively strategize for the future.

Face to Face meeting of SPOTEurope held in Alicante, hosted by the Social Media Coordinator, Angela, in August marked an occasion where the President, Events Coordinator, Social Media Coordinator, and Outreach Coordinator had the valuable opportunity to meet in person. While physical attendance wasn't possible for all members, the Board facilitated online meetings throughout the process to ensure widespread participation. This face-to-face interaction allowed the Board to have in-depth discussions about the current situation and meticulously plan for the organization's future. The positive experience and discussions during this F2F meeting have generated excitement for the next year's gathering, highlighting the value of such in-person engagements for the Board of SPOTEurope.



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

Greetings,  
The board of SPOTEurope

ENOTHE

European Network  
of Occupational Therapy  
in Higher Education



# UPDATES

# ANNUAL MEETING 2023

ENOTHE

European Network  
of Occupational Therapy  
in Higher Education



27th ENOTHE Annual Meeting  
26-28 October 2023

Oviedo, Spain  
Facultad Padre Ossó

(centro adscrito a la Universidad de Oviedo)



**Book of Abstracts** is now available for consultation!  
**Keynote speeches** support documentation is also available!  
Visit the webpage [here](#)

## CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING HOSTS

2026



2027



Interested in hosting an ENOTHE Annual Meeting?  
Explore the Annual Meeting host protocol and apply online - visit [HERE](#) .



# 1<sup>st</sup> Occupational Therapy Europe Congress

*Future-Proofing Occupational Therapy*

15-19 October 2024, Kraków

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



Registration opens December 2023!

Know more [HERE](#)

# HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

# #OTEUROPE2024

# MAKING IT EASIER TO BECOME AN ENOTHE MEMBER!

Know any Universities / Institutions with an Occupational Therapy programme, Organisations related with Occupational Therapy or Individuals within and/or related with Occupational Therapy, who would benefit to become an ENOTHE Member?

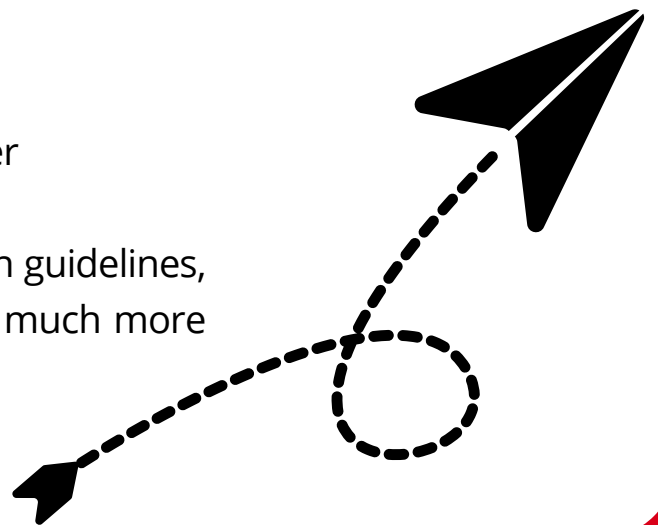


Share this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Xqrp0H0nc4>

## SUBMIT TO THIS NEWSLETTER ALL YEAR ROUND

3 publications a year: Spring, Summer, Winter

Know more about the newsletter submission guidelines, the online submission form, disclosure and much more [HERE](#).





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## PLANNING AHEAD?



To be elected at the 2024 ENOTHE General Assembly, there will be **2 new Board positions**.

If you want to plan ahead and are want to consider this possibility, take a look at all information [HERE](#)!

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