

ENOTHE

European Network
of Occupational Therapy
in Higher Education



MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

**NOVEMBER 2024
ISSUE NO 30**





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BOARD MESSAGE

Dear members and colleagues,

Successful OT Europe Congress in Krakow

The OT Europe Congress held in Krakow this October was a resounding success. We were delighted to meet many of our members in person and engage in inspiring discussions about current topics in occupational therapy. These face-to-face interactions remind us of the value of our community's dialogue and collaboration.

Welcome to Our New Board Members!

This year, both the Annual General Assembly and the Extraordinary General Assembly saw the election of new members to the board. The Board is now strengthened and continues its work with renewed energy. We warmly welcome Annette Schüller and Elena Gliki as new Board members! We would also like to express our gratitude to Lisette Farias Vera and Maria Kapanadze for their significant contributions during their time on the Board.

Banking Updates Completed

In November, our President, Treasurer, and Coordinator met in Vienna to update important banking matters. This demonstrates our commitment to keeping our operations smooth and transparent.

Looking Ahead

The board is working in line with our action plan and is preparing for a in-person meeting in Helsinki early next year. Regular online meetings ensure that the board continues to work efficiently, even across geographical distances.

Over the coming year, we will invite members to collaborate with us on refining our mission, vision, and values - stay tuned for more details!

We thank you for your contributions this year and look forward to new opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Wishing everyone a pleasant end of year and a successful 2025 start!

The ENOTHE Board

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MEMBERS' NEWS



WELL-BEING DAYS FOR OLDER ADULTS - MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ UNIVERSITY

Paula Peral-Gómez, pperal@umh.es

Gema Moreno Morente

Paula Fernández-Pires

Cristina Espinosa-Sempere

Verónica Company-Devesa



Demographic ageing is a significant challenge in the 21st century, especially in Spain, where life expectancy is increasing and the birth rate is declining. By 2050, over 35% of the population is expected to be over 65, highlighting the need for actions to improve the well-being and quality of life of older adults.

Occupational therapy plays a vital role in addressing these challenges, using daily life occupations to promote health, well-being, and independent living for older adults. The Degree in Occupational Therapy at Miguel Hernández University (San Juan de Alicante, Spain) has proactively responded to this issue by organizing the "Wellbeing Days for Older Adults" in collaboration with the Mutxamel City Council. The event creates a platform for students and older adults to exchange experiences and knowledge.

The first edition of the event took place on March 17, 2023, with workshops on self-care and health, engaging 120 older adults and 16 students. Building on its success, the second edition was held on April 19, 2024, incorporating a participatory process to gather feedback from students and older adults to ensure the content met community needs.



The events received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with all participants in the latest edition expressing enjoyment and interest in future activities. This demonstrates the effectiveness of these initiatives in promoting older adults' well-being and social participation.

For students, these events provide valuable practical experience, enabling them to apply classroom knowledge, develop transversal skills, and strengthen their social commitment.

The "Wellbeing Days" illustrate how collaboration between academic institutions and local communities can foster a healthier, more active society. Miguel Hernández University's Occupational Therapy program reaffirms its commitment to improving the well-being of older adults and promoting active ageing, ensuring a dignified and fulfilling life for all.

The "Wellbeing Days" exemplify how collaboration between academic institutions and local communities can foster health and active ageing, contributing to a more inclusive society.



GREENTOUCH: XR IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOR THE ECOLOGICAL HANDPRINT

The Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten, future minds, in-scope and the IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems are researching the use of Extended Reality (XR) in occupational therapy to promote climate-friendly action in the FFG project 'GreenTouch'.

The World Health Organisation describes the climate change as the biggest threat to global health and calls for changes at a societal, social and individual level (WHO 2021). This is where the FFG GreenTouch project comes in and offers innovative solutions for the field of occupational therapy: therapists should use Extended Reality (XR) to develop the necessary climate skills themselves and then pass them on to their clients with the help of technology. Occupational therapists act as multipliers of climate-neutral action and therefore promote the ecological handprint.

Occupational therapists support their clients in improving their ability to act in everyday life. In doing so, they can make a decisive contribution to individual occupational adaptations and increasing resilience in dealing with environmental changes. Clients who are restricted in their participation are actively involved in climate protection, which strengthens social participation and promotes health. To do this successfully, they need specific skills, which are taught in the GreenTouch project with the help of low-threshold extended reality (XR).

The focus is on the co-creative process of developing an XR research prototype involving experts, practitioners and clients. The potential of XR technologies to increase climate literacy will be analysed through comprehensive evaluation in terms of applicability, user experience, usability and interaction possibilities. This prototype is intended to facilitate the learning and understanding of complex content through visual, acoustic and haptic elements and thus enable sustainable adaptation to action.

The results of the project should help to support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 4, 12 and 13 in the areas of health, education and climate protection. Practical solutions will be developed and summarised in a didactic concept and a final letter of policy.

The team has expertise and experience in the areas of VR/XR, co-creation, training, climate communication and occupational therapy. IMC Krems is largely involved in the co-creative process and contributes its occupational therapy expertise to the project.

Keywords: Occupational Therapy, Planetary Health, Extended Reality (XR), GreenTouch, sustainability, ecological handprint





NEWS

Dear ENOTHE members,

As we embrace the start of a new study year, we at SPOTeurope have a few exciting updates to share with you. These past few months have been productive, and we're thrilled to provide a look back at our activities, including the celebration of SPOTeurope's 10th anniversary.

In July, SPOTeurope Board members gathered in Germany for an invaluable face-to-face meeting. This gathering was a chance to reflect on the achievements of the past year and discuss future goals in light of our 10 year anniversary. It was inspiring to see the team's dedication, and our conversations have started a change that will happen within SPOTeurope throughout the next year - an example being our planned evaluation and re-organization of tasks including new tasks for future projects. We have set ambitious goals to expand and strengthen our network, ensuring that SPOTeurope remains a platform and safe space for learning, collaboration, and leadership.

One of the year's biggest milestones has been the launch of our new website and logo! The refreshed design reflects SPOTeurope's growth and evolving mission. In line with our mission to foster connection and collaboration among OT students, the new SPOTeurope website now allows students to become official SPOT members! The free membership provides full access to exclusive content, resources, and



networking opportunities. Students can create personal profiles, making it easy to connect with peers, share insights, and build professional relationships across Europe.

With improved navigation and more content, we are proud to share this step forward, as we continue to enhance our platform. While some sections are still under construction, we are actively working to expand the content and features over the coming months.

With the first OT Europe Congress in Krakow this year in October, the board of SPOTeurope was busy throughout summer and autumn, preparing for this inaugural event.

From planning workshops to organizing our booth, the team put in countless hours to ensure SPOTeurope's presence was impactful and engaging for students and professionals alike. Six of our board members had the opportunity to attend the congress. Our participation was a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, showcase our mission, and support the role of OT students in shaping the future of occupational therapy in Europe.

We collaborated with students from the Polish OT Science Club ensuring the inclusion of student-led perspectives at our co-organized student workshop.

The connections we made offer opportunities for exciting student events in the future, so look out for our upcoming SPOTinars!

In addition to representing SPOTeurope, Angela Lumpert Palacios and Kira Hanßmann were actively involved in the ENOTHE Tuning Workshops, both before and during the congress. Angela, serving as the Student Board Member, represented student voices in the ENOTHE and OT Europe General Assemblies, ensuring that our perspectives are heard on key topics affecting OT education.



Lastly, we are excited to announce that SPOTeurope is currently working on a research project inspired by the student keynote Speech at the ENOTHE AM in Oviedo, 2023, about the student's role in higher education. We aim to broaden the understanding of student engagement in occupational therapy education across Europe. We will be launching a survey as a key part of this project, and we welcome participation from OT students, who have been involved in the design of their study program or have ideas on how they would like to be involved. Updates on the survey will be shared via our social media channels soon.

In the upcoming months, we aim to engage even more students and start new initiatives, collaborations, and learning opportunities.

That's all for now! We will be back in the ENOTHE spring newsletter with more updates.

Warm regards, The Board of SPOTeurope

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UPDATES

OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Annette Schüller

What is the main achievement of your career in OT?

Involvement in the national association and now ENOTHE and the opportunity to promote quality in occupational therapy education. Working in education, it is always an achievement for me to accompany students on their journey and to see them become great therapists, who stand up for important issues and shaping the occupational therapy of tomorrow.

What I have to offer to ENOTHE?

My pedagogical and therapeutic knowledge, especially in the field of practice education. My curiosity, enthusiasm for new subjects and willingness to learn something new. Listening to others, taking their ideas and adding to them. And also, my ability to look for practical solutions to any kind of problem.

What are your dreams concerning the future of ENOTHE?

I want ENOTHE to be a strong network that can respond to the different situations and needs of its members. In view of the current political situation in Europe and worldwide, it should be a unifying force that supports occupational therapists in addressing societal issues and changes together.



Elena Gliko

What is the main achievement of your career in OT?

My main achievements in my career in OT, is building rapport between OT practitioners and the OT Programme I work at, building and advancing the curriculum of the programme via the re-validation procedure and establishing the placement network with stakeholders for the OT programme.

What I have to offer to ENOTHE?

I am a hard-working and enthusiastic person, with a lot of ideas and dreams for the OT profession and the OT community. My involvement and focus in OT education for the last eleven years has given me experiences that I'd love to share with colleagues across Europe. I'm also a team-player, therefore I love the idea of have to work in a team of excellent colleagues from different backgrounds.

What are your dreams concerning the future of ENOTHE?

Being elected as a board member of ENOTHE is an honour for me. My dream for the future of ENOTHE is to foster stronger collaboration among occupational therapy educators, researchers, and practitioners across Europe, ensuring that our field remains innovative, inclusive, and impactful. I envision ENOTHE as a leader in promoting educational excellence and advancing occupational justice, empowering the next generation of therapists to meet the diverse needs of our communities.

ENOTHE WEBINARS COMING UP!

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TUESDAY
03.12.2024
4:00-5:00PM CET
@ZOOM

KNOW
MORE AND
REGISTER
HERE

Our Journey Through the Developing Nervous System as We Rewire Our Perceptions of Discipline

ENOTHE Webinars are open to all:
free for members
fee for non-members

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TUESDAY
21.01.2025
4:00-5:00PM CET
@ZOOM

Occupational Therapy in the analysis of Contextual Factors

2024 TUNING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPETENCES

2024 TUNING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPETENCES: BSC LEVEL INTENSIVE COURSE

For who:

Occupational Therapy colleagues who currently deliver BSc programmes or who seek to develop such programmes going forward

Course aim:

Identify, share insights and good practices for Occupational Therapy BSc programme development

Content outline

- Overview of BSc vision for Europe and TUNING Calohee project/ Exploration of current provision of BSc for OS and OT ENOTHE
- Examination of core programme design and curriculum
- Assessment strategies and progress monitoring
- Supervision and matchmaking
- Framework overview for a comprehensive understanding of OT education structures

Calohee Topical Issues will be incorporated into each session (e.g. issues of sustainability, ethics)



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Facilitators:



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Inés Viana-Moldes,
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Coruña, Spain



Liliya Todorova, PhD
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Dept Public Health, Faculty
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Vanessa Rozalina, BSc
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Researcher, Lecturer, Prof.
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group OT; Bachelor program
in OT at Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences, Faculty of
Health, The Netherlands



@Teams



10 contact hours
5 sessions of 2h each



Schedule
17-19:00 CET



Dates

Thursdays

Option 1:
7, 14, 21, 28 November 2024
6 December 2024

Option 2:
6, 13, 20, 27 March 2025
3 April 2025

Option 3:
4, 11, 18, 25 September 2025
2 October 2025

Limited places. Course opens if minimal cost coverage is secured

Access all information and register **HERE:**

Next Dates:

Option 2: 6, 13, 20, 27 March 2025 3 April 2025

Option 3: 4, 11, 18, 25 September 2025 2 October 2025

2024 TUNING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPETENCES

2024 TUNING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPETENCES: MSc LEVEL

INTENSIVE COURSE

For who:

Occupational Therapy colleagues who currently deliver MSc programmes or who seek to develop such programmes going forward

Course aim:

Identify, share insights and good practices for Occupational Therapy MSc programme development

Content outline

- Overview of MSc vision for Europe and TUNING Calohee project/ Exploration of current provision of MSc for OS and OT ENOTHE
- Examination of core programme design and curriculum
- Assessment strategies and progress monitoring
- Supervision and matchmaking
- Framework overview for a comprehensive understanding of OT education structures

Calohee Topical Issues will be incorporated into each session (e.g. issues of sustainability, ethics)



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Facilitators:



Sofia Vikström PhD
Senior Lecturer, Dept Head of Educational Coordination, Dept of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden



Caroline Fischl, PhD
Assistant Professor and Programme Manager for the Swedish and International master programmes in OT at the School of Health and Welfare, Jönköping University, Sweden.



Kira Hanßmann, BSc
Student representative from University of Applied Sciences Osnabrueck in OT, Germany
SPOTEurope Board member



Ursula M. Costa, PhD, MA
Professor, OT, OS, Public Health at the Health University of Applied Sciences Tyrol, Austria; Head of Institute, Bachelors and Masters programme in OT and OS



Soemilro Poerbodipoero, MSc
Researcher, Lecturer, Prof. Doc. Candidate Research group OT; Bachelor program in OT at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Health, The Netherlands



@Teams



Dates



10 contact hours

5 sessions of 2h each



Schedule

17-19:00 CET

Thursdays

Option 1:
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 January 2025

Option 2:
10, 17, 24 April 2025
1, 8 May 2025

Limited places; Course opens if minimal cost coverage is secured

Access all information and register **HERE:**

Next Dates:

Option 1: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 January 2025

Option 2: 10, 17, 24 April 2025 1, 8 May 2025

2024 TUNING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPETENCES

2024 TUNING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPETENCES: PHD LEVEL INTENSIVE COURSE

For who:

Occupational Therapy colleagues who currently deliver PhD programmes or who seek to develop such programmes going forward

Course aim:

Identify, share insights and good practices for Occupational Therapy PhD programme development

Content outline

- Overview of PhD vision for Europe and TUNING Calohee project/ Exploration of current provision of PhD for OS and OT ENOTHE
- Examination of core programme design and curriculum
- Assessment strategies and progress monitoring
- Supervision and matchmaking
- Framework overview for a comprehensive understanding of OT education structures

Calohee Topical Issues will be incorporated into each session (e.g. issues of sustainability, ethics)



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Facilitators:



Helen Lynch, PhD
Senior Lecturer at Dept of OS and OT, University College Cork, Ireland



Maria Kapanadze, PhD
Research Professor
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Prof. Dr. Elke Kraus PhD
Professor for OT, Head of PT / OT Study Program, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, Berlin, Germany



@Teams



10 contact hours

5 sessions of 2h each



Schedule

17-19:00 CET



Dates

Thursdays

15, 22, 29 May 2025
5, 12 June 2025

Limited places, Course opens if minimal cost coverage is secured

Access all information and register **HERE:**

Next Dates:

15, 22, 29 May 2025 5, 12 June 2025

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28th Annual Meeting 23-25 October 2025

Leiria, Portugal



**Polytechnic of Leiria
School of Health Sciences**
39°44'15.1"N 8°48'40.8"W

"Occupational Therapy Education: fostering global citizenship and partnerships"

Human variation and diversity competence; Curriculum designs for social action and planetary health; Technology for bridging gaps

Abstract Call

Submission: 1st January - 31st March 2025

Review period*: 1 - 15th April 2025

*call for reviewers is open

Results: 18th April 2025

Hanneke van Bruggen Lecture

Nominations open



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28th Annual Meeting 23-25 October 2025

Leiria, Portugal



**Polytechnic of Leiria
School of Health Sciences**
39°44'15.1"N 8°48'40.8"W

ENOTHE Annual Meetings are open to Occupational Therapy educators, researchers, students, clinicians and other occupational therapy interested persons

- **"Annual Meeting Fan" Registration**

(1 November 2024 - 28 February 2025)

- **Early Bird Registration**

(1 March 2025 - 31 May 2025)

- **Regular Registration**

(1 June 2025 - 31 July 2025)

- **Last Call Registration**

(1 August- 30 September 2025)



BECOME AN ENOTHE MEMBER IN 2025!

- Universities / Institutions with an Occupational Therapy programme,
- Organisations related with Occupational Therapy
- or Individuals related with Occupational Therapy,

become an ENOTHE member in 2025!

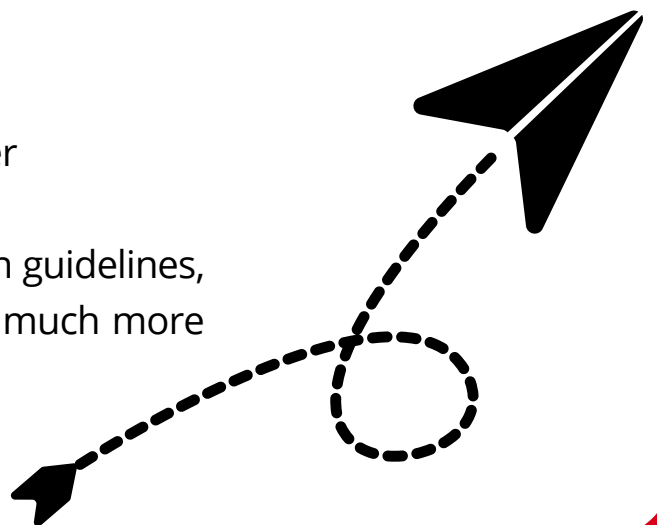
Know more here: <https://forms.office.com/e/Xqrp0H0nc4>



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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