

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



ENOTHE

European Network
of Occupational Therapy
in Higher Education

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CONTENTS

NO.34

PAGE 3

BOARD MESSAGE

PAGE 4

MEMBERS' NEWS

PAGE 19

SPOTEUROPE NEWS

PAGE 22

ENOTHE UPDATES

PAGE 27

ADVERTISEMENTS

BOARD MESSAGE

Dear members and colleagues,

In January 2026, the ENOTHE Board met in Bochum (Germany) to plan further activities for the year. This one-and-a-half-day meeting was very intensive and all the inputs and proposals from the General Assembly were discussed and translated into action plans to be implemented in the coming months.

The ENOTHE Board, together with our partners in Switzerland, is inviting ENOTHE representatives to Switzerland on 12th and 13th May 2026 to discuss and further develop the upcoming strategy as well as holding an extraordinary General Assembly as agreed upon in October 2025. This meeting is currently being prepared and ENOTHE representatives have received an invitation to this event. If it should not be possible for you to attend in person, online participation is also available.

In parallel, the webinar series “Occupational Therapy Education in [Country Name]” have continued and will continue into 2026. The webinar about Occupational Therapy Education in Sweden took place on 2 December 2025, and the webinar Occupational Therapy Education in Switzerland on 3 March 2026. Both gave valuable insights and further webinars are planned for the upcoming months, e.g. featuring Occupational Therapy Education in France and Belgium.

Furthermore, preparations for the 29th ENOTHE Annual Meeting, which will take place from 22–24 October 2026 at the Centre de Congrès Pierre Baudis in Toulouse (France) are progressing. Student scholarships will be available again this year and applications are open until 3 May 2026. Also, submission for abstracts is currently open until 31st March.

We very much look forward to your participation in the activities of the upcoming months and your active involvement in shaping the future of ENOTHE.

With warm regards, The ENOTHE Board

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MEMBERS' NEWS

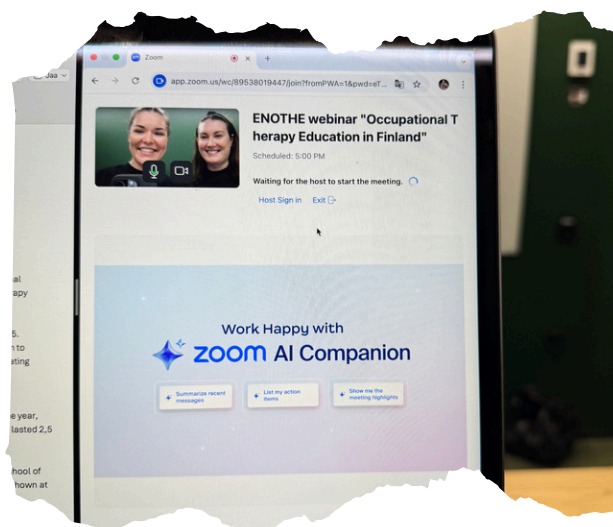


COLLABORATION ACROSS BORDERS - ENOTHE WEBINAR BROUGHT TOGETHER FINNISH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS

The ENOTHE (European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education) webinar provided a unique opportunity for Finnish occupational therapy students to collaborate across educational borders. The blog text was written by Nea Hukkinen and Sofia Terho, students from Turku University of Applied Sciences who participated in the project.

In spring 2025, ENOTHE launched a new webinar series aimed at increasing understanding of education systems in different countries through experiences and perspectives. The first part - Occupational Therapy Education in Finland - kicked off the series, with the next parts covering the education systems of Germany, Spain and Sweden.

The Finnish webinar was a collaboration between three Universities of Applied Sciences: Turku, Jyväskylä and Helsinki. Five occupational therapy students from these institutions designed and implemented the webinar. This was the first time in Finland that occupational therapist students from different Universities of Applied Sciences collaborated nationwide. The event was a historic opening and hopefully an important step towards stronger collaboration.



Student Voices in Finnish Occupational Therapy Education

The webinar project was initiated by Jaana Ritsilä, an occupational therapy lecturer from Jyväskylä, Finland. The aim was to bring out the students' voice about Finnish occupational therapy education. The participants were Nea Hukkinen and Sofia Terho from Turku University of Applied Sciences, Lotta Alvesalo and Pihla Paakkanen from Helsinki Metropolia and Evita Tedder from Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences. Jasu Forss, an occupational therapist lecturer from Helsinki, helped us during the project. She was involved in the webinar as a board member of Enothe and hosted the event. Anu Kuikkaniemi, an occupational therapy lecturer at Turku University of Applied Sciences, was also involved in the project.

We started our planning by comparing educational structures, experiences and opportunities in different educational institutions. We wanted the webinar to focus on the history of occupational therapy in Finland, the structure of education and the specific features of our education system, such as unpaid education and social support. We also thought it was important to mention what kind of projects and opportunities each institution has to offer their students.

The webinar was conducted online and started with a presentation planned and presented by the students. Participants were from all over Europe. At the end of the presentation, listeners were able to participate by asking questions. The discussion was inspired, and there was an interesting debate with the participants, especially about the traineeship and the students' own experiences.

Learning, Responsibility and Growth

Collaboration with ENOTHE and the teachers involved, was seamless and supportive. At first we were super nervous because English is not our native language. But thanks to the encouragement and support from the whole team, we gained confidence and pushed past our insecurities. In the end, working in English proved to be a great learning experience. The project gave us more confidence, courage and assurance to use English in the future.

Insights from the Webinar Project

We were surprised by how much variation there can be in the structure and emphasis of occupational therapy education, even within Finland. Although all programmes follow the WFOT guidelines, differences exist in the ways the studies are implemented and prioritized. These differences became clear as we prepared and discussed the content for the webinar.

Planning and presenting the webinar was a completely new experience for all of us. The responsibility we carried brought some pressure, but also taught us a lot—both about public speaking and collaboration. We gained confidence, learned to use new tools, and developed skills that will certainly benefit us in our future professional lives. The project also enabled us to build networks beyond our own institutions, which we found especially valuable.

Shared Challenges and Future Possibilities

Despite some institutional differences, the key challenges occupational therapy students face in Finland are strikingly similar. It was reassuring to learn that others experience the same difficulties—for instance, the lack of internship opportunities and the limited paths for specialization. These issues sparked active discussion during the project and highlighted the need for broader cooperation.

In the future, initiatives tackling these common challenges could be developed—possibly in collaboration with the Finnish Association of Occupational Therapists or at least across different universities of applied sciences. Student participation in such efforts would be essential.

We are very grateful to have taken part in this project and would like to thank ENOTHE for the opportunity and support. The experience strengthened our confidence and gave us concrete tools for the future.



It was great to see that our webinar generated interest and brought together participants from different countries. The discussion and shared insights were especially valuable for us. A warm thank you to everyone who was involved in making this a unique experience.

Nea Hukkinen and Sofia Terho,
Occupational therapy students
Turku University of Applied Sciences
Anu Kuikkaniemi,
Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy Education,
Turku University of Applied Sciences



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DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVITY AS A PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE FOR ACCESSIBILITY-FOCUSED THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS: LOW-COST ASSISTIVE PRODUCTS COMPETITION AT LA SALLE UNIVERSITIES

Within the Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy at La Salle University Centre (Madrid, Spain), fourth-year students annually participate in an academic project based on the design, development, and public presentation of low-cost assistive products. The project is integrated as an evaluated activity within the program's subject "Assistive Technology/Technical Aids, Accessibility and Universal Design."

Exhibition-Competition Event/showcase was created with a dual purpose: 1. to foster creativity applied to ergonomic design and 2. to promote functional, accessible, and sustainable solutions for people with disabilities and older adults. The guiding principle is both simple and impactful: to design effective, homemade, low-cost assistive products as alternatives to commercial solutions that are often financially inaccessible or to create those not existing but required.



Each student designs and prototypes a product tailored and fitted to an assigned proposed clinical case. The project includes a technical report describing the product's functionality, materials used, Universal Design criteria, usability considerations, and cost breakdown. Students must also submit a demonstration video showcasing the feasibility and practical application of their design.

The initiative culminates in a display exhibition open to the university community, where projects are evaluated by a mixed jury composed of expert professionals, other students and visiting attendees. Assessment criteria include originality, usefulness, simplicity, affordability, aesthetics, and the absence of comparable products currently available on the market. Awards include both academic recognition (upgrade subject's marks) and continuing education opportunities, such as access to specialized courses and events on innovation in Assistive technology.

This educational initiative strengthens key professional competencies, including problem-solving, co-creation, ecological thinking/ Ecopation/ Planetary Health, and person-centred design. Moreover, it bridges academic learning with real-world challenges, highlighting the transformative potential of Occupational Therapy through economically accessible and socially inclusive design approaches.

Nuria Rebalderia
Cristina Labrador
Lectures at La Salle University OT Degree
Madrid, Spain.



15TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS (CIETO) AND 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (CITO)

The International Congress of Occupational Therapy Students (CIETO) of the Miguel Hernández University (UMH) has become a leading annual event in Spain and internationally, bringing together students, professionals, and researchers to share innovative educational strategies, clinical experiences, and scientific advances.

In 2011, the absence in Spain of an international congress specifically focused on occupational therapy highlighted the need to create a scientific space that prioritized students' learning and knowledge development, while also fostering professional exchange and the advancement of knowledge in the discipline. In response, UMH organized the first CIETO, establishing a meeting point for education, professional and research development.

Over time, CIETO has successfully held fourteen editions and has become an internationally recognized event, featuring speakers from different countries and areas of specialization. In parallel, since 2014 UMH has also promoted the International Occupational Therapy Congress (CITO), which provides a complementary space where professionals can present research projects, share educational experiences, and actively participate in the scientific and academic community of occupational therapy.

The 15th edition of CIETO and 9th edition of CITO will take place on May 13, 14, and 15, 2026, and will include nationally and internationally recognized speakers. The program will feature five keynote lectures, scientific communications, experience-sharing sessions, and practical workshops on topics such as community intervention, occupational participation, and interventions with older adults.

Among the invited speakers are Jo Adams (University of Southampton), Adriana Ávila Álvarez (Universidade da Coruña), Auriane Lacampagne (Hôpital Raymond-Poincaré, Paris), Cristina Perdomo (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos), and Dominique Van de Velde (Ghent University). Their presentations will address topics such as self-management in musculoskeletal conditions, innovative prosthetic projects, occupational therapy in high-level sporting events, robot-assisted therapy, and return-to-work processes.

With more than 250 expected participants, 30 student communications, and around 70 research projects presented, the congress continues to strengthen occupational therapy as a rapidly expanding discipline.

Registration and more information:

<https://congresoterapiaocupacional.umh.es/>



Gema Moreno-Morente 1*, Paula Peral-Gómez 1,2, Verónica Company Devesa1,2, Paula Fernández Pirés1,2, Cristina Espinosa Sempere1, and Laura-María Compañ-Gabucio 1,2,3,4.

1Department of Pathology and Surgery; Being + Doing & Becoming Occupational Research Group (B+D&b), Miguel Hernández University, 03550.

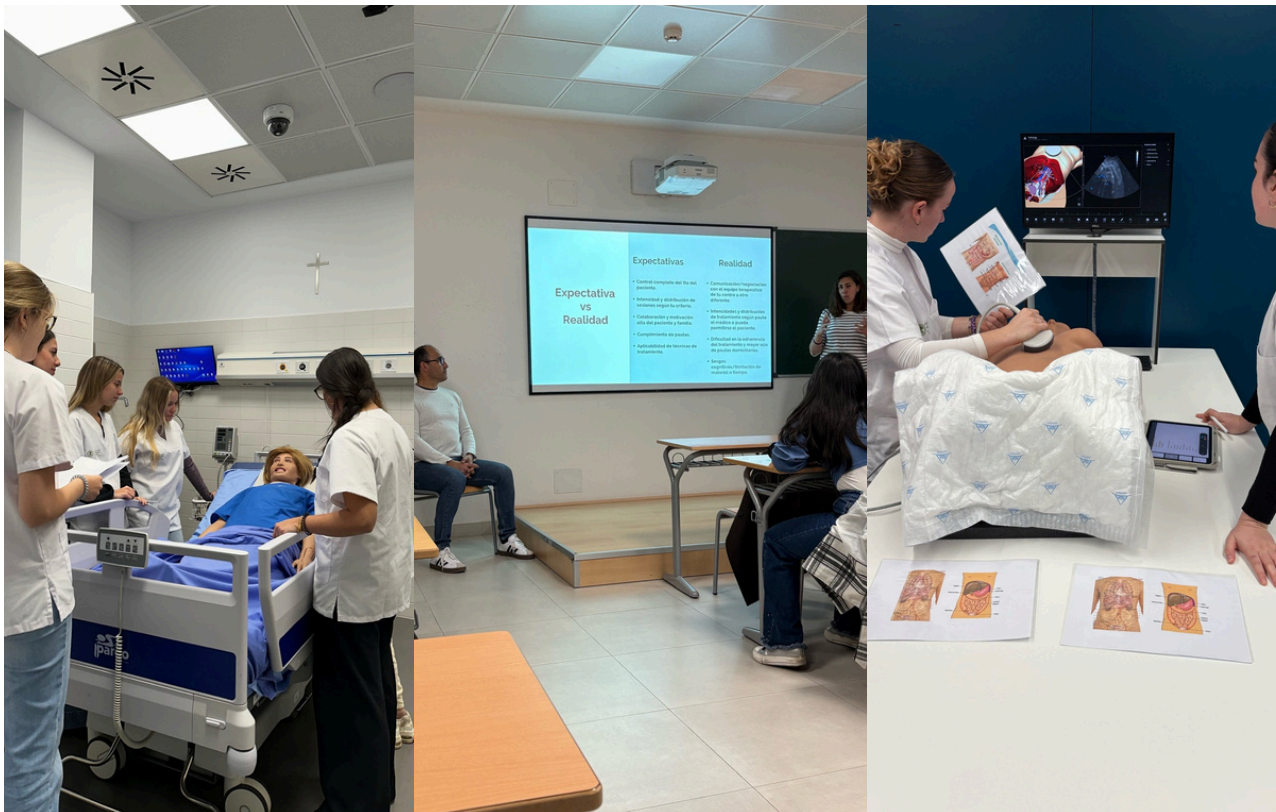
2Alicante Institute for Health and Biomedical Research (ISABIAL), 03010 Alicante, Spain. 3Nutrition Epidemiology Unit, Department of Public Health, History of Science and Gynecology, Miguel Hernández University (UMH), 03550 Alicante, Spain. 4CIBER of Epidemiology and Public Health (CIBERESP), Carlos III Health Institute, 28029 Madrid, Spain.

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ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION: FROM SIMULATION TO COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

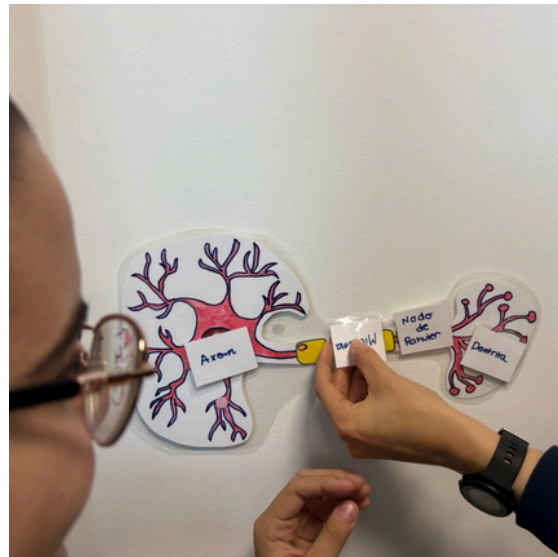
Active learning methodologies are increasingly recognised as key strategies to enhance student engagement, critical thinking, and professional reasoning in occupational therapy education (Freeman et al., 2014). In our programme, several innovative teaching approaches have been integrated to create a more participatory and practice-oriented learning environment.

Different methodologies are combined throughout the academic year. Case-based learning and problem-based learning are used to analyse clinical situations and support professional reasoning. Students work collaboratively to discuss assessment strategies and intervention planning, strengthening their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real occupational therapy contexts.



Simulation-based learning also plays an important role in our programme. Through activities in a virtual hospital environment, students participate in simulated clinical situations that allow them to practice decision-making and communication skills in a safe learning space. These experiences are complemented with structured debriefing sessions where students reflect on their performance and learning process (Fanning & Gaba, 2007).

Other collaborative methodologies have also been implemented. Escape rooms and academic tournaments are used as gamified learning activities to review key concepts and encourage teamwork and problem solving. In addition, interactive tools such as Wooclap support real-time participation during lectures, promoting discussion and immediate feedback.



Students also participate in seminars with occupational therapy professionals and service users, which enrich learning by connecting theoretical knowledge with real-life experiences and professional practice.

By integrating these methodologies—simulation, collaborative learning, gamification, and digital participation tools—our programme aims to create a dynamic learning environment that prepares students for the complexity of occupational therapy practice while fostering active and meaningful learning.

Julia Argente Tormo (julia.argente@ucv.es)
Nazaret Hernández Espeso

5TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC-PRACTICAL CONFERENCE “APPLIED RESEARCH WORKS OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN REHABILITATION 2026”

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you and your students to participate in the 5th International Scientific-Practical Conference titled “Applied Research Works of Young Researchers in Rehabilitation”, hosted by Kauno kolegija, Lithuania, and University of Health Sciences, Istanbul, Türkiye on May 21, 2026.

This International Scientific-Practical Conference offers a platform for young researchers from diverse study fields to present their work, share experiences, and contribute to the ongoing discussions on quality healthcare, disease prevention, and rehabilitation.

Conference language: English
Conference format: Virtual

5th International Scientific - Practical Conference

KAUNO KOLEGIJA
Higher Education Institution

SAĞLIK BİLİMLERİ ÜNİVERSİTESİ

APPLIED RESEARCH WORKS OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN REHABILITATION 2026
21.05.2026

The International Scientific-Practical Conference offers a platform for young researchers from diverse study fields to present their work, share experiences, and contribute to the ongoing discussions on quality healthcare, disease prevention, and rehabilitation.

Conference topics:

- Professional and educational activities of rehabilitation specialists.
- Biopsychosocial functions across different age groups.
- Advanced methods and Artificial Intelligent based technologies in rehabilitation.
- Physical activity and its impact on quality of life.
- Alternative treatment methods in healthcare.
- Universal perspectives to human centered approaches

Conference will be held online, using ZOOM platform. The links will be provided in the conference program.
Start of the conference 1 p.m. (GMT +3 time zone)

Important dates:

- By 11th May 2026 - online registration of participants [here](#).
- By 15th May 2026 - announcement of the conference program.
- By 29th May 2026 - abstract submission, [information here](#).

Language of the conference – English.
Conference participant fee:
• free before 26/04/2026;
• 20 euros after 27/04/2026

If there are few co-authors, certificates will be issued for everyone who have paid participant' fee.
Information for the presenters: recommended duration of presentation up to 10 minutes.

Strategic partner: Partners:

Eglės sanatorija Lietuvos ergoterapeutų draugija LIETUVOS KINEZITERAPEUTŲ DRAUGIJA ENOTHE ENPHE

Important dates:

- By May 11, 2026 – online registration of participants (registration link [here](#))
- By May 15, 2026 – announcement of the conference program
- By May 29, 2026 – abstract submission (submission [information here](#))

More information is available on our [official website](#).

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at ke.katedra@go.kauko.it

Warm regards,

Organizing Committee

SIMULATION-BASED LEARNING IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (SIMBA): SIMOT TOOLKIT AS A RESULT FROM A THREE-YEAR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT

At the end of November 2025, the Erasmus+ funded project Simulation-based Learning in Occupational Therapy (SIMBA) successfully concluded. Over the past three years, our consortium of five partner institutions, AP Hogeschool Antwerpen (Antwerp, Belgium); the University of Applied Health Sciences (Zagreb, Croatia); Turku University of Applied Sciences (Turku, Finland); Istanbul Medipol University (Istanbul, Turkey); and FH JOANNEUM (Graz, Austria) collaborated to advance simulation-based learning in occupational therapy. Together, we developed, implemented, and disseminated evidence-based simulation resources designed to support all phases of undergraduate occupational therapy education.

We are pleased to present the SimOT Toolkit, a comprehensive set of resources supporting the integration of simulation-based learning into occupational therapy curricula. The Toolkit includes:

- Competency Framework and Implementation Guidelines (e-book)
- Scenario template for developing and implementing OT simulation scenarios
- Teacher manual to support educators in applying the scenario template
- 30 examples of occupational therapy simulation scenarios
- SimOT Compass and manual, a formative and summative competency assessment tool.

Currently, all resources -except for the Competency Framework and Implementation Guidelines- are available in English, Croatian, Dutch, Finnish, German, and Turkish. All materials from the SimOT Toolkit are freely accessible through our project website available at: <https://simba-arkisto.turkuamk.fi/arkisto/index.html>.

Importantly, the complete SimOT Toolkit is now also available on the ENOTHE website, ensuring long-term accessibility beyond the formal end of the project. We sincerely thank ENOTHE for supporting the continued dissemination and long-term availability of the Toolkit, thereby promoting the further development and implementation of simulation-based education in occupational therapy.

To support future research and educational innovation, we warmly welcome collaboration and knowledge exchange. If you would like to stay informed about new developments, engage in collaborative initiatives, or share your own best practices, we invite you to connect with us via the LinkedIn community: Simulation in Occupational Therapy, accessible at: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/15471012/>. We hope to see you there!

The SIMBA team

Kuni Vergauwen, AP Hogeschool Antwerpen, kuni.vergauwen@ap.be





S P O T europe

NEWS

Dear ENOTHE members,

Warm greetings from the SPOTEurope board! As the season changes, we want to wish our entire community a productive and inspiring spring.

This is a pivotal time of year for all of us to recharge, take on new challenges, and gear up for the final months of the academic calendar. We've been working hard on several new milestones and student initiatives that we are excited to share with you in this update!

Board Updates and Transitions

We have several exciting changes to share regarding our board leadership:

- **President:** We are honored to announce that Katerina Tsanaktsi has transitioned into the role of President. Having spent five years with SPOTEurope—starting on the Support Team—she brings a deep understanding of our structures and a strong commitment to student representation.
- **Outreach Coordinator:** Katia Pappa, previously our General Board Member, is stepping up as our new Outreach Coordinator. Her creative energy will be vital in bringing fresh perspectives to our network expansion.
- **Events Coordinator:** We are thrilled to welcome Yasmin Hameed to the team. With her passion for bringing people together, she is already adding vibrant energy to our upcoming calendar.
- **Social Media Lead:** A warm welcome to Rinesa Brajshori, who has joined us to lead our digital strategy and find new ways to engage with our community online.

Inspiring SPOTinar

In February, we hosted a thought-provoking SPOTinar titled "Making Sense of Neurodiversity: From Theory to Practice," featuring guest speakers from Thallo Minds. Attended by over 40 students, the session reframed neurological differences as natural variations rather than deficits.

Key takeaways included the importance of Total Communication (valuing all forms of expression like AAC and body language), Environmental Support (adapting sensory factors), and Agency, centered on the principle: "Nothing about us without us".

Global Partnerships & Support Team

Our Support Team remains the backbone of SPOTEurope, consisting of passionate OT students from across the globe. Currently, they are hard at work on OTION, the official forum for the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). This fantastic partnership allows our students to gain international experience while helping to shape the global future of Occupational Therapy.

Expanding our miniSPOT Network

We are "over the moon" to announce the establishment of two new miniSPOTs! Students in Cyprus and Greece have officially joined our community following recent promotional presentations.

Additionally, our existing miniSPOTs stayed active this semester through the "Let's Be Active" project. This initiative fostered cross-border communication through online meetings where members exchanged success stories and brainstormed ways to promote internationalization in OT.

Join Our Team!

Are you an enthusiastic OT student? We are currently looking for a General Board Member to join our board. If you have fresh ideas and a passion for the international OT community, we would love to hear from you. Please send your application to info@spoteurope.eu.

That's all from us for now! We look forward to continuing our work with professionalism and a common purpose.

Warm regards,

The Board of SPOTEurope

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UPDATES

“OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION IN [COUNTRY NAME]” WEBINAR SERIES

ENOTHE is currently developing together with its ordinary members (universities/institutions with an Occupational Therapy programme) this webinar series. Webinars open to registration are:



KNOW MORE AND REGISTER [HERE](#)



29th ENOTHE Annual Meeting

22-24 October 2026

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CENTRE DE CONGRÈS
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TOULOUSE

Centre de Congrès Pierre Baudis
11 Esplanade Compans Caffarelli
31000 Toulouse, France

[HTTPS://ENOTHE.EU/ANNUAL-MEETING/FRANCE-26/](https://enothe.eu/annual-meeting/france-26/)

Registration

Early Bird: 1 February - 31 May 2026

Regular: 1 June - 31 July 2026

Last Call: 1 August - 30 September 2026

Abstracts and Review

Submission: 1 January - 31 March 2026

Review: 1 April - 15 April 2026

Announcement of results: 20 April 2026

Student Scholarship for Participation in the Annual Meeting 2026

Deadline for applications: 3 May 2026

Announcement of results: 15 May 2026

Hanneke van Bruggen Lecture Nominations

Deadline for Annual Meeting 2026 nominations: 15 April 2026

<https://enothe.eu/annual-meeting/hvb-lecture/>



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European Magazine of
Occupational Therapy in
Higher Education

A publication of the European Network of
Occupational Therapy in Higher Education

www.emothe.eu

The magazine is an official publication of the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE), with free access to ENOTHE members and paid access to non-ENOTHE members.

The aim of the European Magazine of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education is to advance knowledge in occupational therapy education, within Europe and the rest of the world, through the publication of scientific studies, scholarly reports and theoretical papers.

EMOTHE accepts the following submission types:

- Development work article (Articles should be instructional in nature and should be written in a style that readers outside the area of specialty could understand);
- Research article (Articles should be scientific in nature and should be follow scientific writing);
- Student article (Reports not submitted as original development research article);
- Resource reviews (Review of books/resources that can be used in teaching or learning);
- Letters to the editor.

BECOME AN ENOTHE MEMBER IN 2026!

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

become an ENOTHE member in 2026!

Know more here:

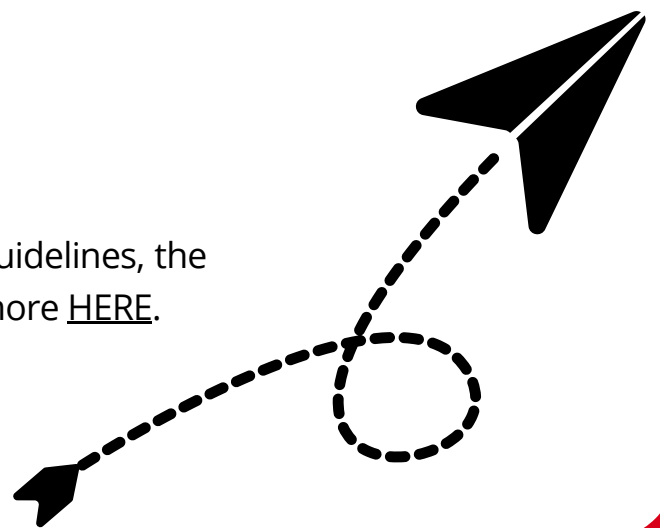
<https://enothe.eu/membership/become-a-member/>



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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ADVERTISEMENTS

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Advertisements on the following topics are possible:

- job advertisements from Occupational Therapy Universities/Schools
- courses/continuing education for Occupational Therapists
- cooperation requests, which are within the scope of the ENOTHE

Options:

Newsletter: 1/4, 1/2, 1 page ; Website: quarterly button

Open to ENOTHE Members and Non-members

Know more [here](#).



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