

ENOTHE

European Network
of Occupational Therapy
in Higher Education



MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2026
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BOARD MESSAGE

Dear members and colleagues,

We hope you are well wherever you are joining us from across Europe and beyond.

On behalf of the ENOTHE Board, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued dedication, active engagement and profound commitment to the future of our network.

On 12 and 13 May 2026, many of you joined us — both virtually and in person — for the ENOTHE Representatives Meeting. These two days were dedicated to a cause that we hold dear: shaping our collective future through collaboration. Alongside members, representatives and board members worked diligently on refining ENOTHE's mission, vision and values, and marking significant milestones towards formulating our strategy for 2026–2030.

We were pleased to welcome 71 registered participants, with 33 members attending actively across the two days. Furthermore, over half of the attendees took the time to complete the post-meeting evaluation survey. The feedback received was highly encouraging. A recurring theme was the immense value placed on the collaborative process, specifically the small-group discussions and the opportunity to deliberate with colleagues from different countries and institutions. Attendees also appreciated the assurance that their contributions would inform ENOTHE's strategic direction. This collaborative spirit is precisely what we aimed to foster, and your positive feedback has given the Board great momentum.

Thanks to our members' invaluable contributions, the Mission-Vision-Values statements have been drafted. These will be formally presented for voting at the upcoming ENOTHE General Assembly. You can find details of this process in the Members Area on the ENOTHE website: enothe.eu/mission-vision-values/.

As we keep on working on the new **ENOTHE strategy**, your continued insights are vital. You can participate in the following ways:

- Online contributions: We are currently working on creating a draft summary of the input from the Representative Meeting. This will be published on our website at the end of July, when all members will have the opportunity to provide further comments and feedback.
- Workshops at the Annual Meeting: We will host dedicated strategy workshops during the Annual Meeting in Toulouse. These will provide an excellent opportunity to collaborate in person and finalise our strategic roadmap for the 2026–2030 period.

To gather valuable information about our members' involvement, we are conducting a member survey. This will launch on 23 July at 17:00 CET, when we will hold a short online session to present the survey and answer any questions. Everyone is warmly invited to attend (check you inbox for the link).

We wish you all a restful and refreshing summer break.

We look forward to welcoming many of you to the Annual Meeting in Toulouse and continuing our collaboration in the months ahead.

With our best regards,

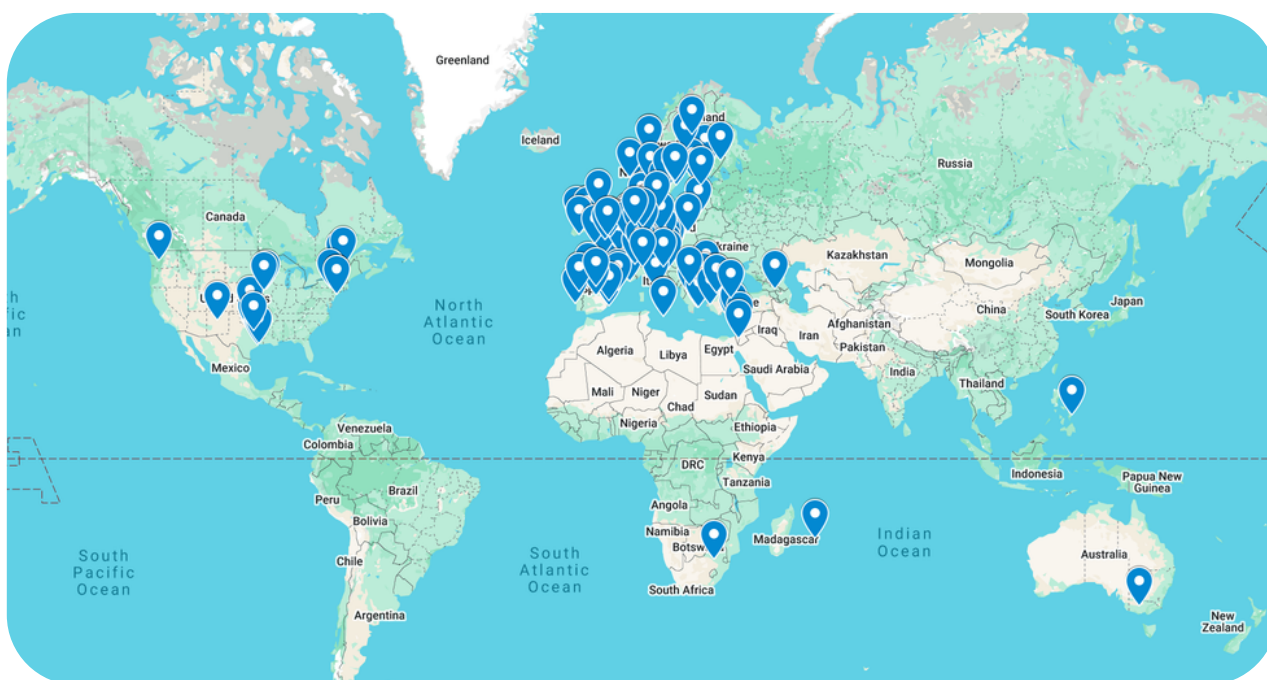
the ENOTHE Board

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MEMBERS' NEWS



CREATIVITY FOR INDEPENDENCE BY OT STUDENTS AT CUT

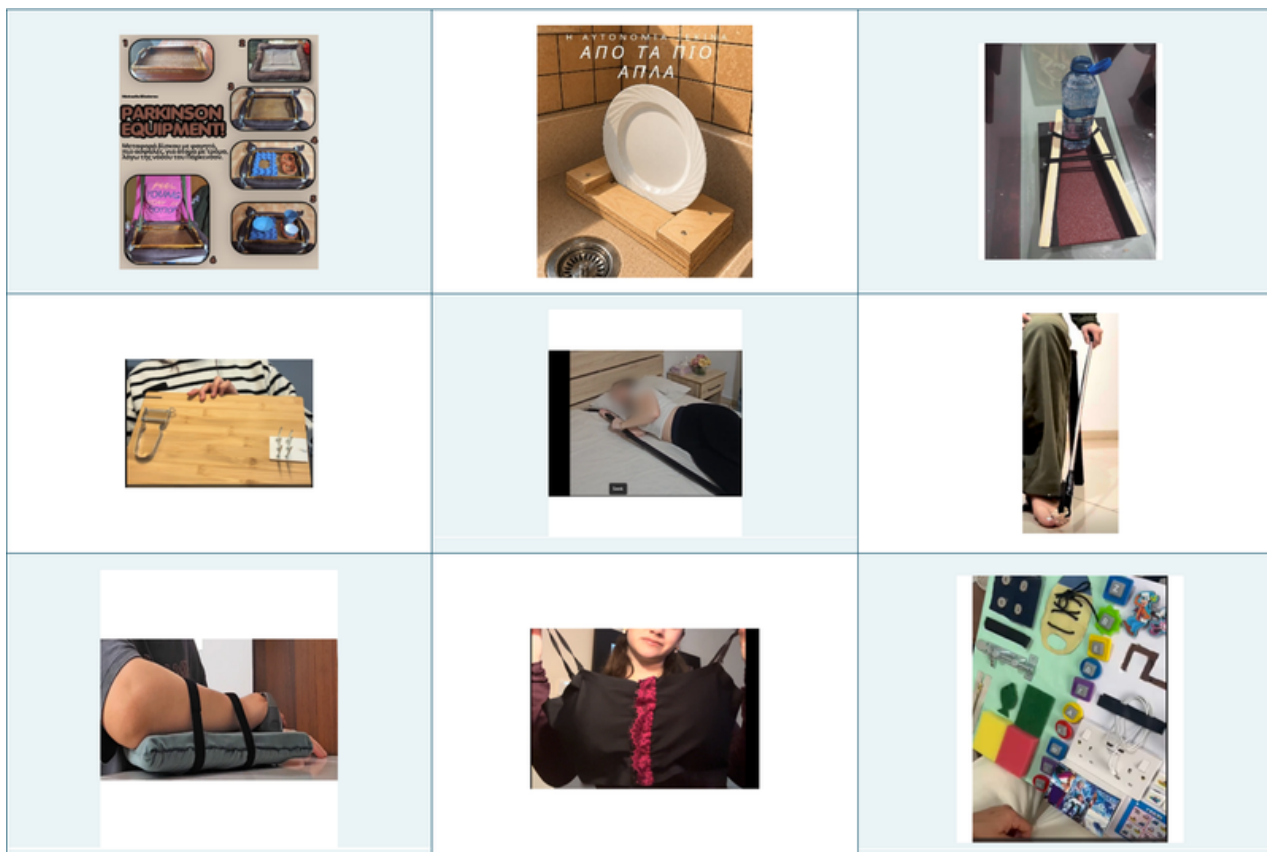
As part of the course “Creativity in Occupational Therapy”, first-year Occupational Therapy students at the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) were challenged to apply an evidence-informed, occupation-based design process to create low-cost assistive devices or OT training equipment addressing real barriers to daily occupation.

Working from an identified difficulty through to a working prototype built with accessible, often repurposed materials, students designed solutions such as a padded tray stabilizing food and drink for people with tremor, a one-handed bottle-opening board for people with hemiplegia, a bra with easy one-handed fastenings, an arm skateboard promoting upper-limb training, an adapted cutting board with an integrated stabilizing clip, an one-handed dish-washing aid, sensory manipulation board for practicing fine-motor skills through play, a long-handled nail-care aid for people unable to reach their feet, and a strap-based aid supporting independent rolling and repositioning in a standard double bed.

Beyond the practical outcome, the assignment is grounded in an academic rationale: students justify each design against occupational therapy theory and client needs, developing early research and professional reasoning skills alongside their making skills. The consistent use of low-cost, reused, and recyclable materials also reflects WFOT's Sustainability Matters (2018), embedding environmental responsibility into entry-level curricula from the first year of study. The assignment also addresses the CALOHEE Tuning competences for Occupational Therapy on innovation and sustainability (K/S/C6_4.3), preparing students to innovate and practice sustainably within their future professional contexts.

For the ENOTHE community, the assignment offers a transferable teaching model that links creativity, evidence-based reasoning, and sustainability within a single authentic learning task, an example that CUT is glad to share and discuss with other member programs seeking to strengthen these dimensions of their own curricula.

STUDENT PROJECT GALLERY



Marianna Tsiakoulia, Special Teaching Staff & Clinical Supervisor,
Occupational Therapy Program, Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)

FOSTERING EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: THE FIRST-YEAR JOURNEY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE IN GREECE

The Department of Occupational Therapy at Democritus University of Thrace, Greece, was established in 2024 and welcomed its first cohort of students in October 2025. Located in Komotini, the Department represents an important addition to occupational therapy education in Greece and an emerging contributor to the European occupational therapy community. Founded on the principles of innovation, inclusion, evidence-based practice, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the Department aims to educate future occupational therapists capable of responding to contemporary health and societal challenges.



During its inaugural year, with more than 100 undergraduate students, the Department has focused on developing a strong foundation in education, research, and international engagement. A key achievement has been the establishment of the University Laboratory of Occupational Therapy, Occupational Science and Quality of Life, which promotes research and interdisciplinary collaboration in the fields of occupation, participation, wellbeing, inclusion, quality of life, and emerging technologies. The Department has also demonstrated its commitment to research excellence by initiating doctoral education, with four PhD candidates beginning their studies during its first year of operation.

Internationalization has been a strategic priority from the outset. Through Erasmus+ initiatives, academic partnerships, international networking, and the implementation of Mini SPOT, the Department actively promotes intercultural learning and collaboration with occupational therapy programs across Europe. This commitment was further strengthened through the visit of Professor Gail Whiteford, one of the most influential scholars in international occupational therapy, who engaged with students and enriched their learning experience through discussion and knowledge exchange.



A defining milestone of the Department's first year was the successful organization of the 1st International Congress of Occupational Therapy: Science and Innovation in Practice (ICOTH). The congress brought together internationally recognised academics, practitioners, researchers, students, and other professionals from different countries, creating a dynamic platform for scientific exchange, interdisciplinary dialogue, and international networking. Following its successful launch, ICOTH has been established as a biennial international event, reflecting the Department's commitment to fostering collaboration, promoting innovation, and supporting the advancement of occupational therapy education and practice.

Through these initiatives, the Department is building a strong foundation for future growth and contributing to the development of occupational therapy education, research, and international collaboration in Greece and Europe.



Useful Links

 Department of Occupational Therapy, Democritus University of Thrace

 <https://ot.duth.gr/>

 ICOTH – International Congress of Occupational Therapy: Science and Innovation in Practice

 <https://www.icoth.gr/>

 Follow us on Facebook

 <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581353411559>

 Mini SPOT DUTH

 <https://www.instagram.com/minispotduth/>

 ENOTHE Representative: Dr. Panagiotis Siaperas

 psiapera@ot.duth.gr



NEWS

Dear ENOTHE members,

Warm greetings from the SPOTeurope board! As we enter the summer season, we want to wish our entire community a refreshing and inspired break. For SPOTeurope, this time of year is a vital launchpad to refine our vision and gear up for the future. We've put together a few exciting highlights and student initiatives from the past quarter that we can't wait to share with you below!

Welcoming our new board members

We are so excited to share that we have two new board members joining our team! Margarida Magalhães has stepped into the role of General Board Member, and Riga Raci is our new Social Media Lead. Both bring fresh ideas and new perspectives, and we are confident that their passion for Occupational Therapy will support SPOT in achieving each and every one of its goals.

SPOTinar Recap: Agaponio Project · Age, Embraced

We recently hosted a truly inspiring webinar featuring guest speakers from the Agaponio Project. The session focused on the theme of playfulness in older adulthood, introducing us to the beautiful concept of agaponia—a custom Greek word translating to "a particle of love," used to describe the elderly individuals at the heart of their work. Together with the students who joined us, we explored how playfulness is not just an activity, but a fundamental way of living that keeps older adults active, healthy, and deeply engaged with the world around them.

Our Support Team's engagement

Our Support Team is keeping up the wonderful work! Staying true to SPOT's mission and vision, they have continued their series with a second post focusing on Occupational Therapy in different countries. SPOTeurope deeply values diverse cultural backgrounds and their impact on Occupational Therapy education and practice. Broadening our horizons regarding international OT settings is incredibly meaningful to us, so we strongly encourage you to follow us on social media and stay tuned for everything that's coming!

Our miniSPOTs

We are incredibly proud of our exceptional network of miniSPOTs all across Europe. This past semester has been highly active and engaging, and we couldn't be happier. The "Let's be active" project has brought pairs of miniSPOTs closer together, fostering meaningful discussions, fun collaborations, and a true sharing of knowledge. At its core, this is exactly what SPOT is all about: sharing experiences, bridging geographical gaps, and making lasting connections.

It was SPOTweek time!

It was finally that time of the year again, and we were thrilled to invite you to our July special week: SPOTweek! From July 6th to 10th, we celebrated Occupational Therapy with a special blog entry, an impactful SPOTinar, a fun introduction to our board members, and much more. Internationalization, student voices, powerful lived experiences, and scientific knowledge came together to create a week dedicated to OT—offering a breath of fresh air during this hot summer!

Wishing you all a wonderful, restful summer filled with meaningful occupations!

Warm regards,
The Board of SPOTeurope

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UPDATES

“ENOTHE PROJECT DIALOGUES” WEBINAR SERIES

The ENOTHE Project Dialogues series will provide a space to revisit these valuable projects, highlight their outcomes, and explore their ongoing relevance for teaching, research, and collaboration across the ENOTHE network.

Each webinar will offer insights into areas such as the project rationale, collaborative processes, key outputs, lessons learned, educational innovations, and implications for occupational therapy education.



“ENOTHE Project Dialogues” Webinar series



KNOW MORE AND REGISTER [HERE](#)



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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

Regular: 1 June - 31 July 2026

Last Call: 1 August - 30 September 2026

Preliminary Programme is out!

Across three days, the programme offers 83 oral presentations, 27 workshops, meet-ups / symposia, 14 pitched posters and 54 posters: 178 opportunities to learn, connect and help shape what comes next.

Keynote speakers



Ángela Lumpert Palacios
Miguel Hernández University of Elche, Spain



Lisbeth Charret
IFE ADERE, Paris, France



Nadine Blankvoort
(PhD MOT Msc. GH)
Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands



European Magazine of
Occupational Therapy in
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A publication of the European Network of
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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:

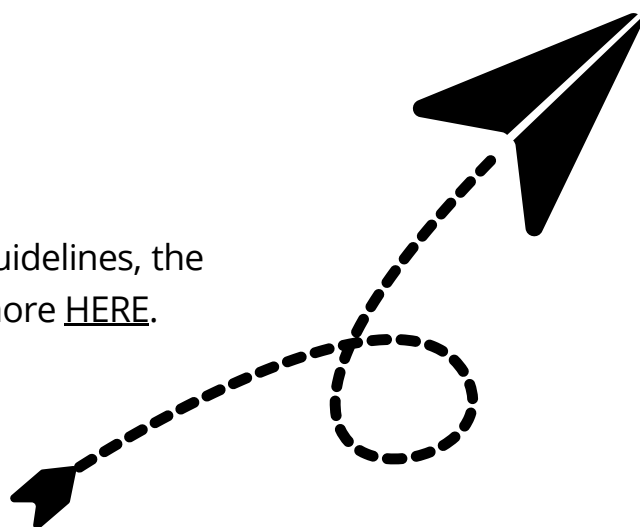
<https://enothe.eu/membership/become-a-member/>



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

ADVERTISE WITH US!

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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