OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENT'S ROLE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ENOTHE ANNUAL MEETING 2023 – OVIEDO, SPAIN

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ABOUT US



- Occupational Therapist
- Master's Student
- President of SPOTeurope
- President of the Students Association at School of Health Sciences – Polytechnic of Leiria



- Occupational Therapist
- Events Coordinator of SPOTeurope
- Member of ENOTHE Tuning Task Force



1. Students in higher education
2. Survey results
3. Conculsions on the survey
4. Portuguese prespective
5. German prespective
6. Students international representation

“WELCOME TO BECOMING PROTAGONISTS OF CHANGE”

- JUTTA BERDING

STUDENTS ROLE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

"A *partnership goes far beyond the mere* ***consultation, involvement, or representation of students in decision-making processes****. Where a partnership exists,* ***students do not only identify areas that could be enhanced****, but they help to* ***identify ways in which that enhancement can be carried out****, as well as to help facilitate the implementation process wherever possible. Above all, a true partnership means that neither party acts unilaterally but rather that there is an* ***active collaboration*** *between the two. Each party must recognise what the other brings to the table and must* ***value that contribution for the cooperation to work****. In this way, a partnership can be seen as opposed to a transactional or consumerist relationship.* ***Students actively participate in shaping and co-producing their education****, rather than merely receiving it passively. This includes the* ***effort that students put into their learning process in the classroom, but also the work that students are increasingly doing to shape their experience at the course, departmental, institutional and national levels****." – European Student Union*

STUDENTS ENGAGEMENT

Market model

- Viewing students as customers, positioned external to the institution, they 'acquire' education. The student knows best what kind of improvements are needed.

Development model

- Students are partners in a learning community. They possess not just rights, but also obligations, and actively share their knowledge to foster the advancement of their university.

(student participation without borders, 2021)

HIGHER EDUCATION AS A SITE OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

Higher education aims to foster democratic values in students, guiding them to become active democratic citizens within their communities.

HIGHER EDUCATION AS A LEARNING COMMUNITY

Close student-faculty connections boost learning for both, relying on effective feedback for mutual growth. Students actively collaborate in the learning environment.

HIGHER EDUCATION AS A CRITICAL INSTITUTION

Higher education involves not just tackling curriculum-defined problems but also critically analyzing issues that shape society's future. Here, students become critical thinkers.

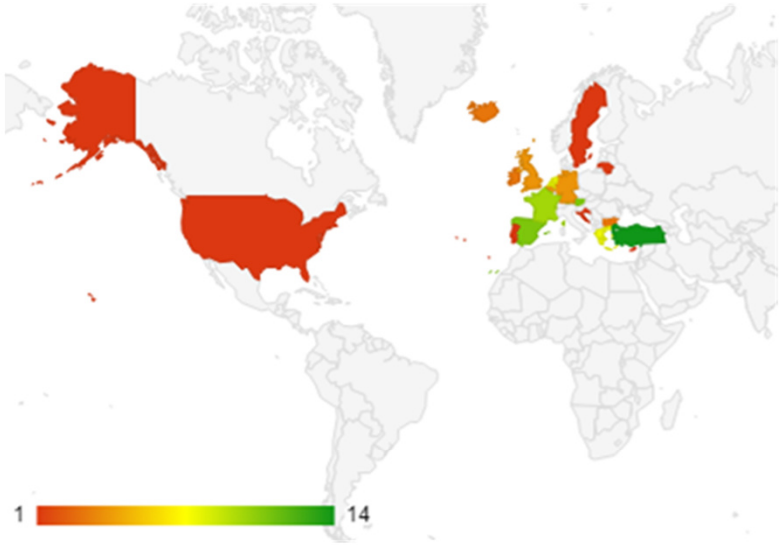
(student participation without borders, 2021)

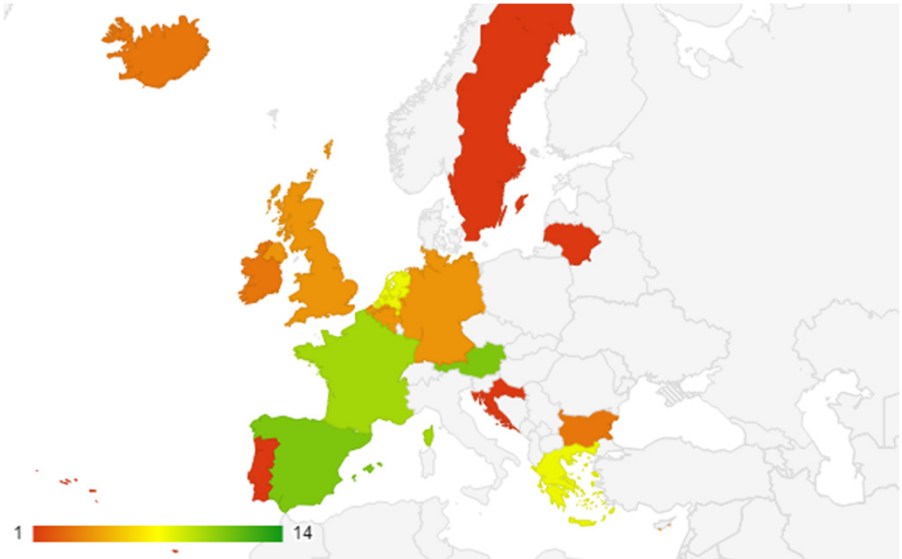
STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – SURVEY RESULTS

Occupational Therapy student's role in higher education

STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

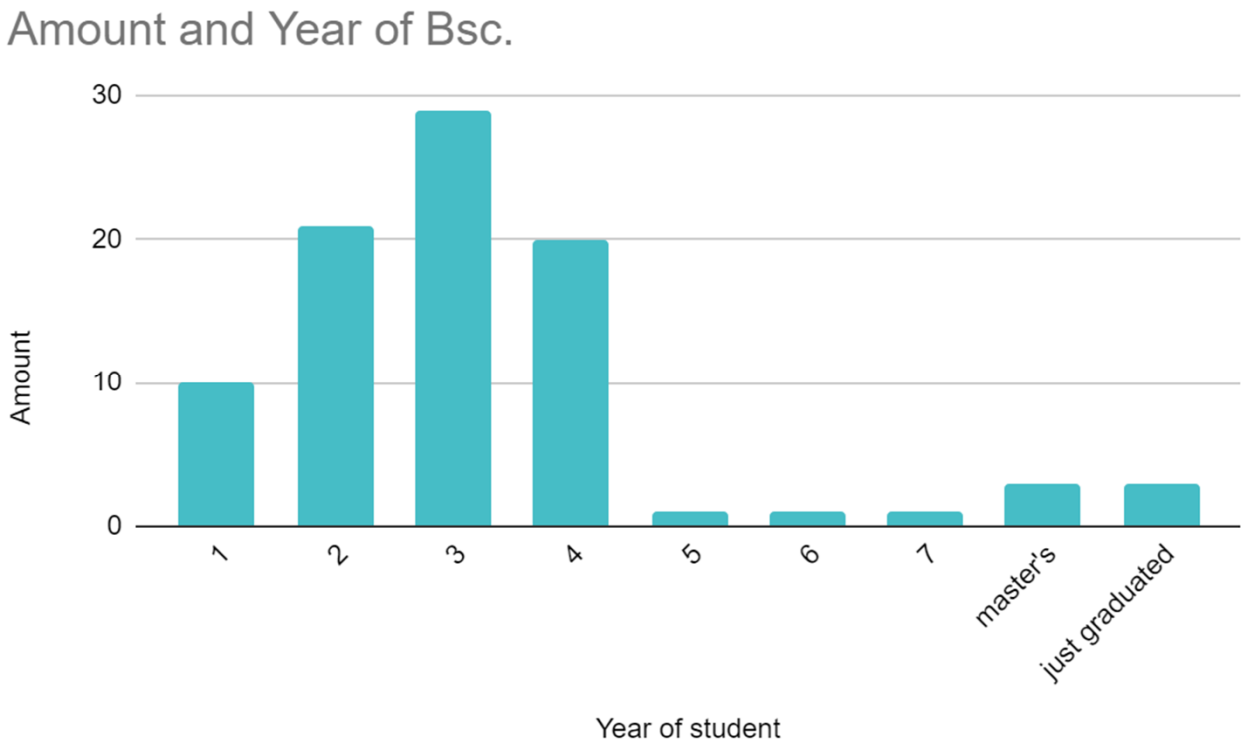
- Online survey
- 89 participants
- 18 countries worldwide (focus on Europe)
- 13 questions, key findings





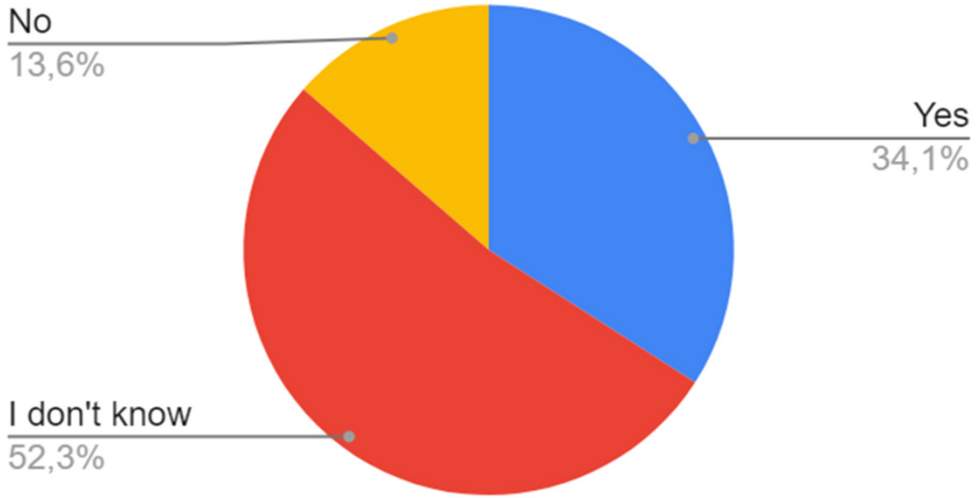
STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

- School year



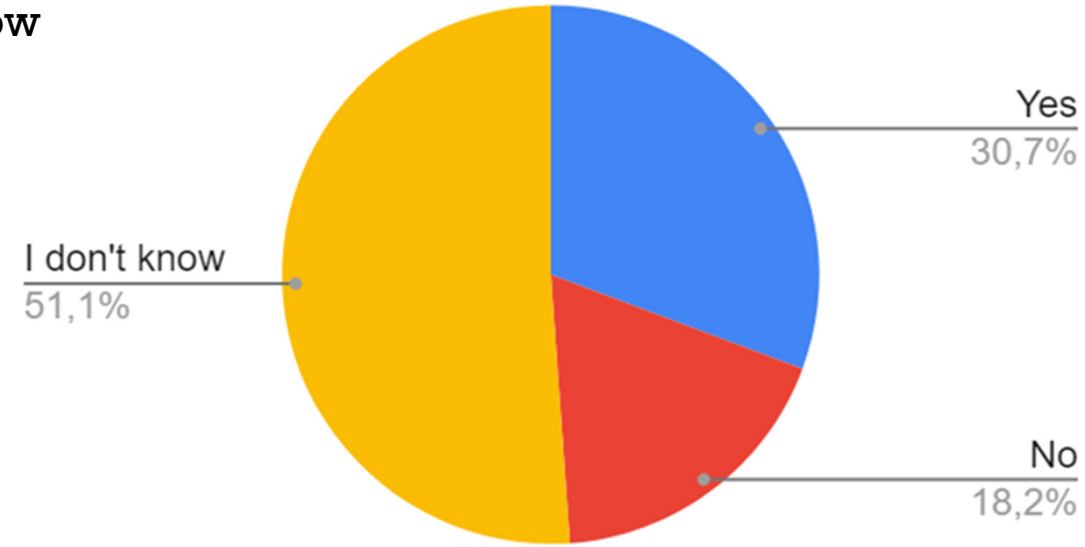
DEGREE COMITTEE

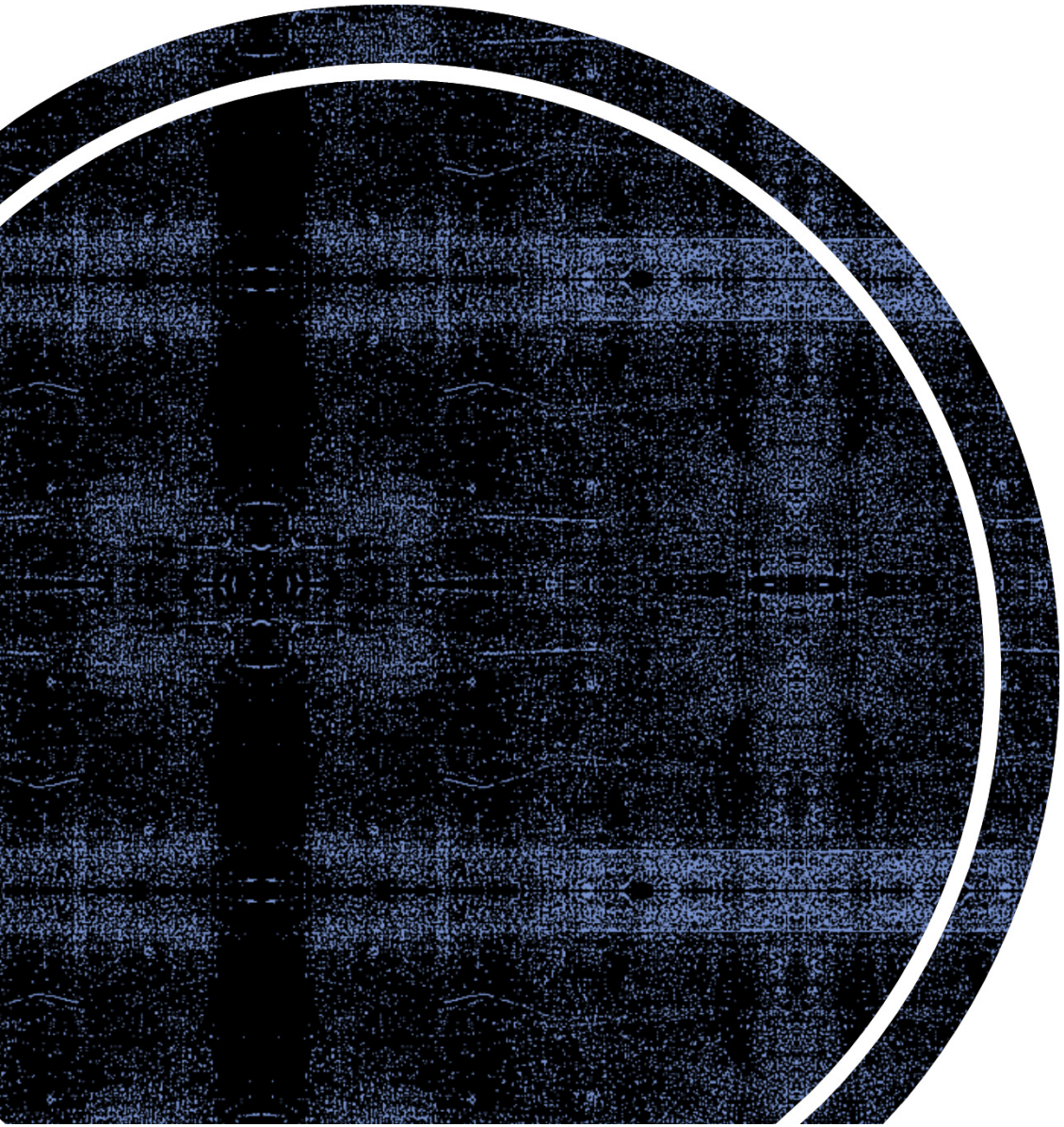
- 34% yes
- 52% I don't know



OTHER COMMITTEES

- 31% yes
- 51% I don't know





IMPROVEMENTS MADE THROUGH OT STUDENTS' IDEAS

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Modification of tasks + deadlines = better coordination of different subjects

cooperation with other societies; congresses and conferences organized by students.

more hours for practice, more places for interships

Nothing due to external restrictions

Less final exams more group projects

IMPROVEMENTS MADE THROUGH OT STUDENTS' IDEAS



Lessons: way of teaching, order and content



Better distribution of workload and exams, more voluntary courses



Increase the amount of OTs as professors instead of other medical professionals



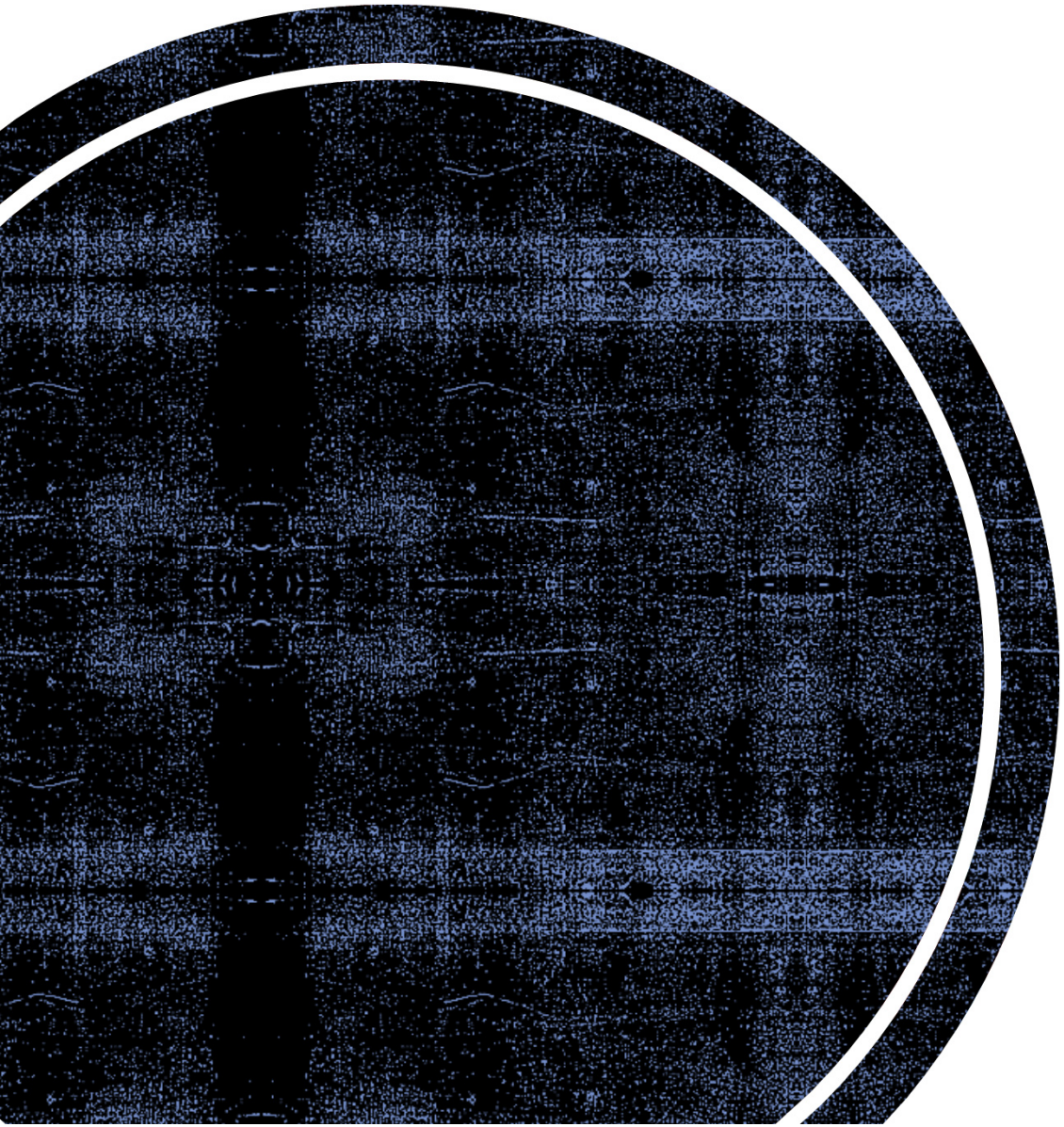
Payment for internships



Enabling students to complete their studies in 5 years



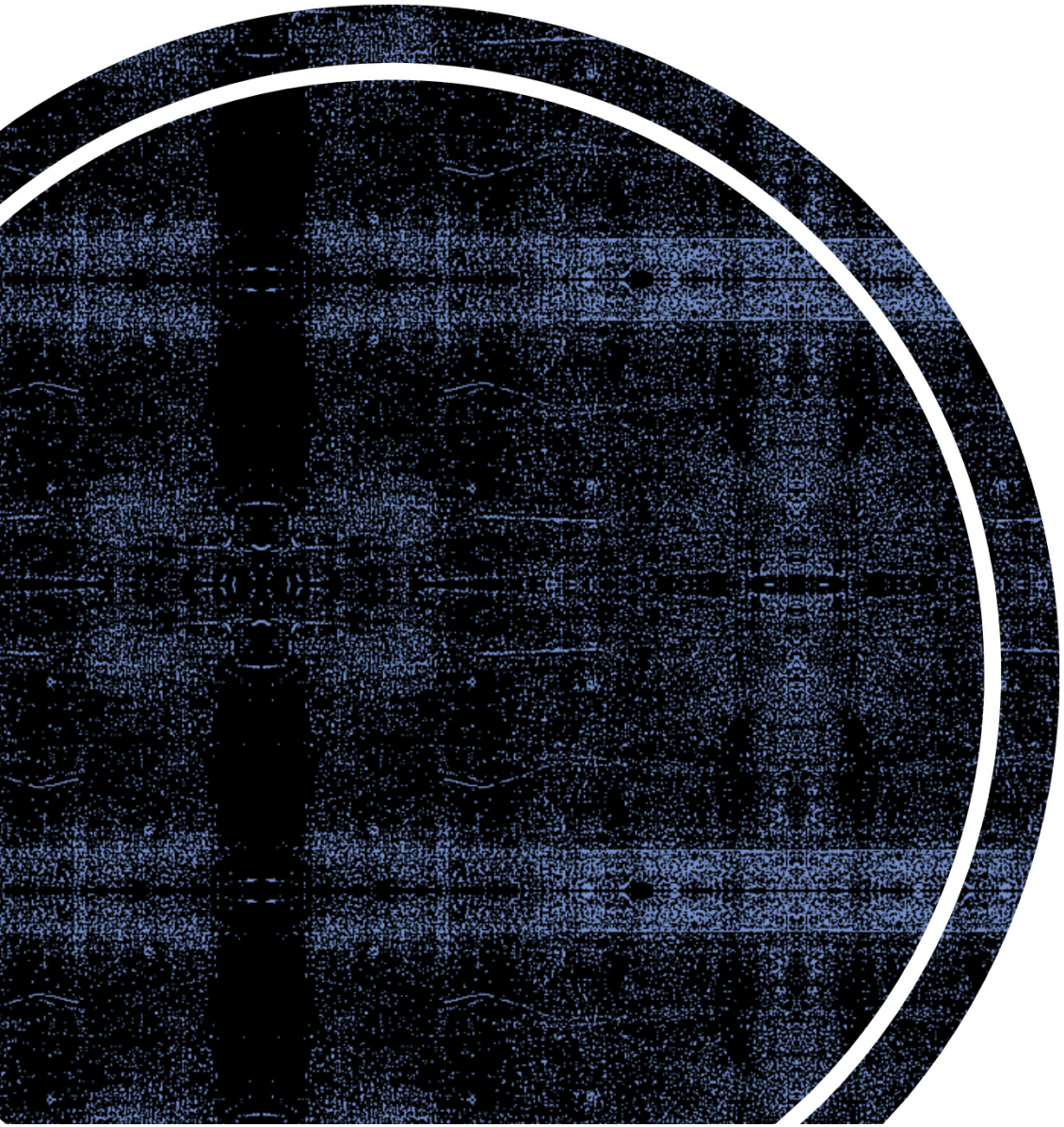
representing and promoting occupational therapy in France



IDEAS FOR INVOLVEMENT IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

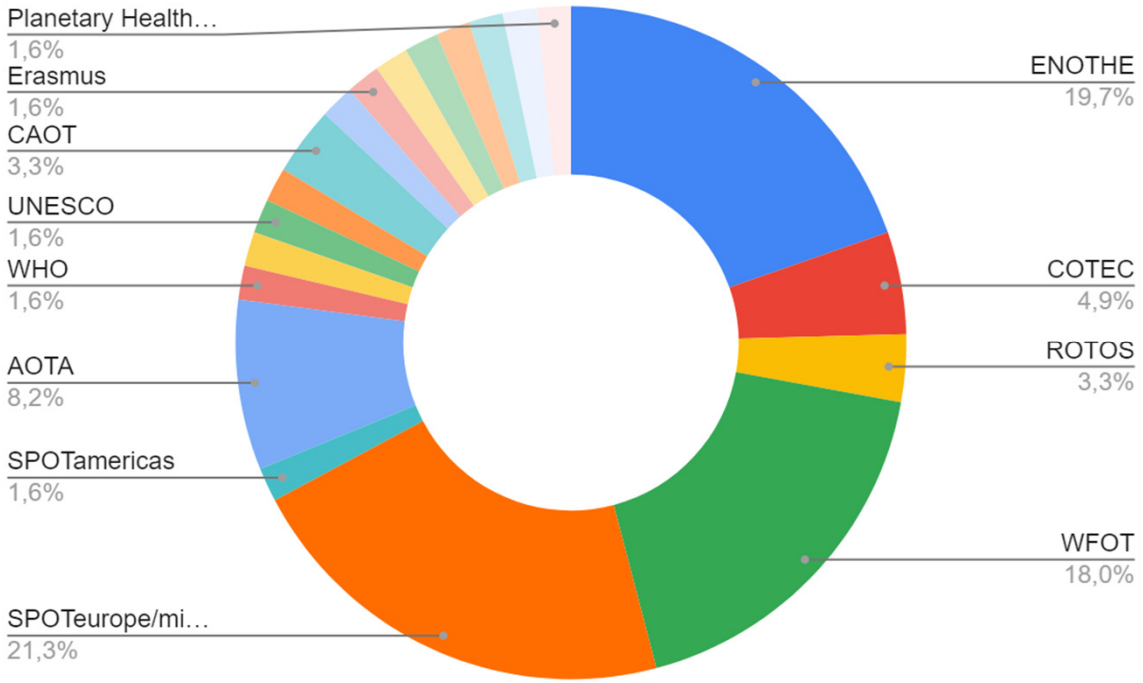
72% of students would like to be involved

- Advocacy
- Social Networking
- Feedback on the Curriculum/ Decision-making concerning the curriculum
- Surveys
- Joining a committee
- Participation in events

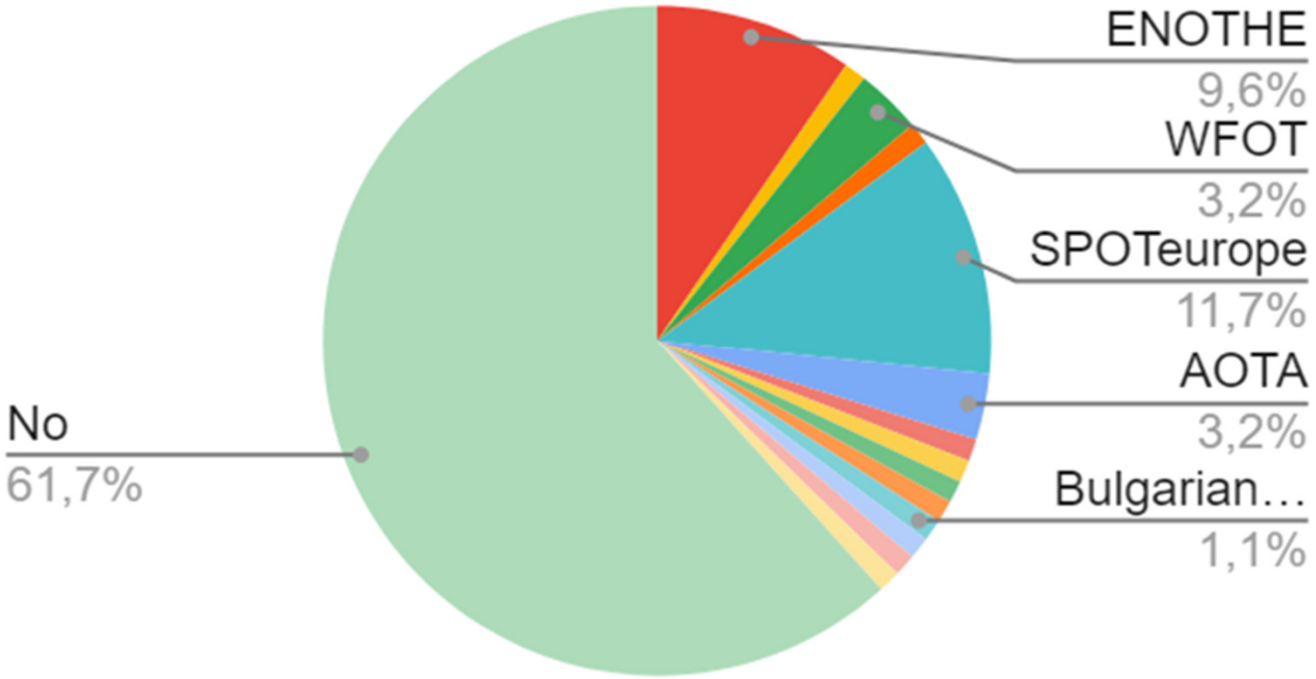


TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR OT STUDENTS





ROLE OF STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

"Actively participate in the design of the curriculum based on the shortcomings encountered during internships."

"To ensure the education meets quality standards and it's accurate based on the challenges and the market that awaits them after graduation."

"Bring diversity of culture, experience and ideas to high education."

"The role […] is to learn and transform educators within the foundations of learning and occupational therapy and in turn improve the quality and quantity of higher education."

"I think that many students underestimate their own ideas and opinions […]."

"I know that the society needs us very much and our biggest goal should be to bring occupational therapy awareness to the society."

CONCLUSION OF THE SURVEY



Knowledge of committee participation (30% yes)



Involvement in international organizations is necessary



Little knowledge of international organizations



Most students want to be involved + have concrete ideas

A PORTUGUESE PERSPECTIVE

Occupational Therapy student's role in higher education

OT STUDY PROGRAMME IN PORTUGAL



5 universities;

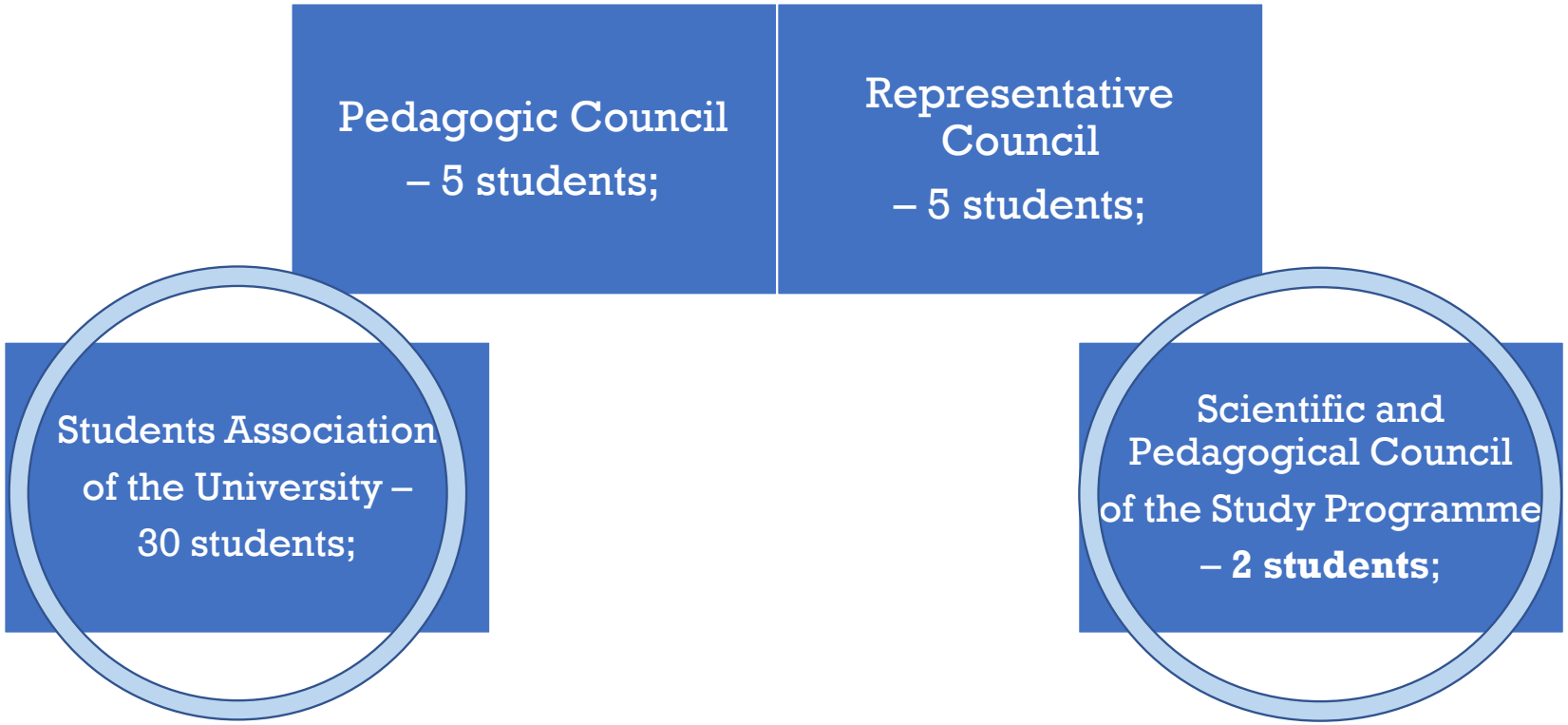


4 years study programme;



School of Health Sciences, Leiria.

REALITY OF STUDENTS INVOLVMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION – SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN LEIRIA



REALITY OF STUDENTS INVOLVMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION – SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN LEIRIA

General Council –	Academic Council –	Social Services Council –
5 students;	5 students;	2 students;

A GERMAN PERSPECTIVE

Occupational Therapy student's role in higher education

OT STUDY PROGRAMME IN GERMANY

- Academization in process
- Divided OT community (192 vocational schools, ~10 universities)
- 3% of OTs have studied



HOCHSCHULE OSNABRÜCK
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

- Diploma + B.Sc.
- Small cohorts
- Involvement in accreditation process
- Feedback at the end of each module
- Student representatives

STUDENTS INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Involvement through ENOTHE

- TUNING
- Annual Meetings
- WFOT congress
- SIMBA project

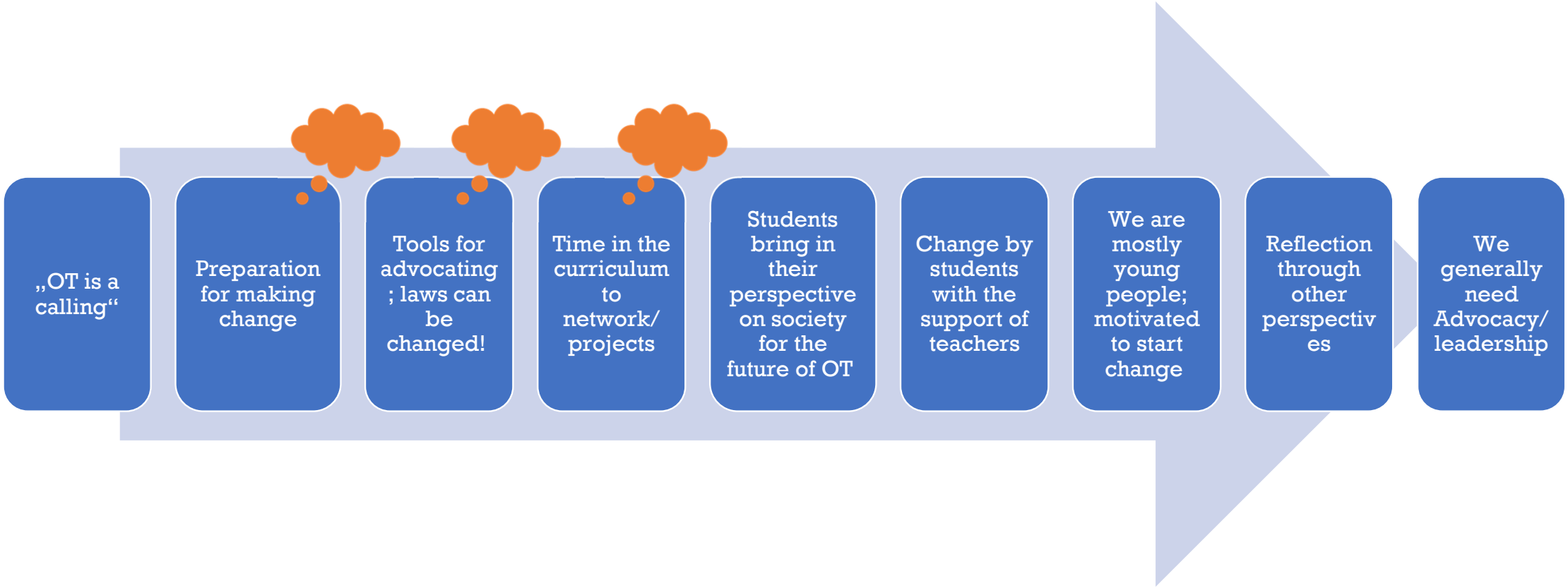
SPOTeurope

- Free webinars;
- Journal Club;
- Collaborations



CONCLUSION + OUR IDEAS

CONCLUSION + OUR IDEAS



SPOT Europe
Student Platform Occupational Therapy

ENOTHE
European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE ROLE OF STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION?