30 Years of ENOTHE: Critically Shaping the Future towards 2050

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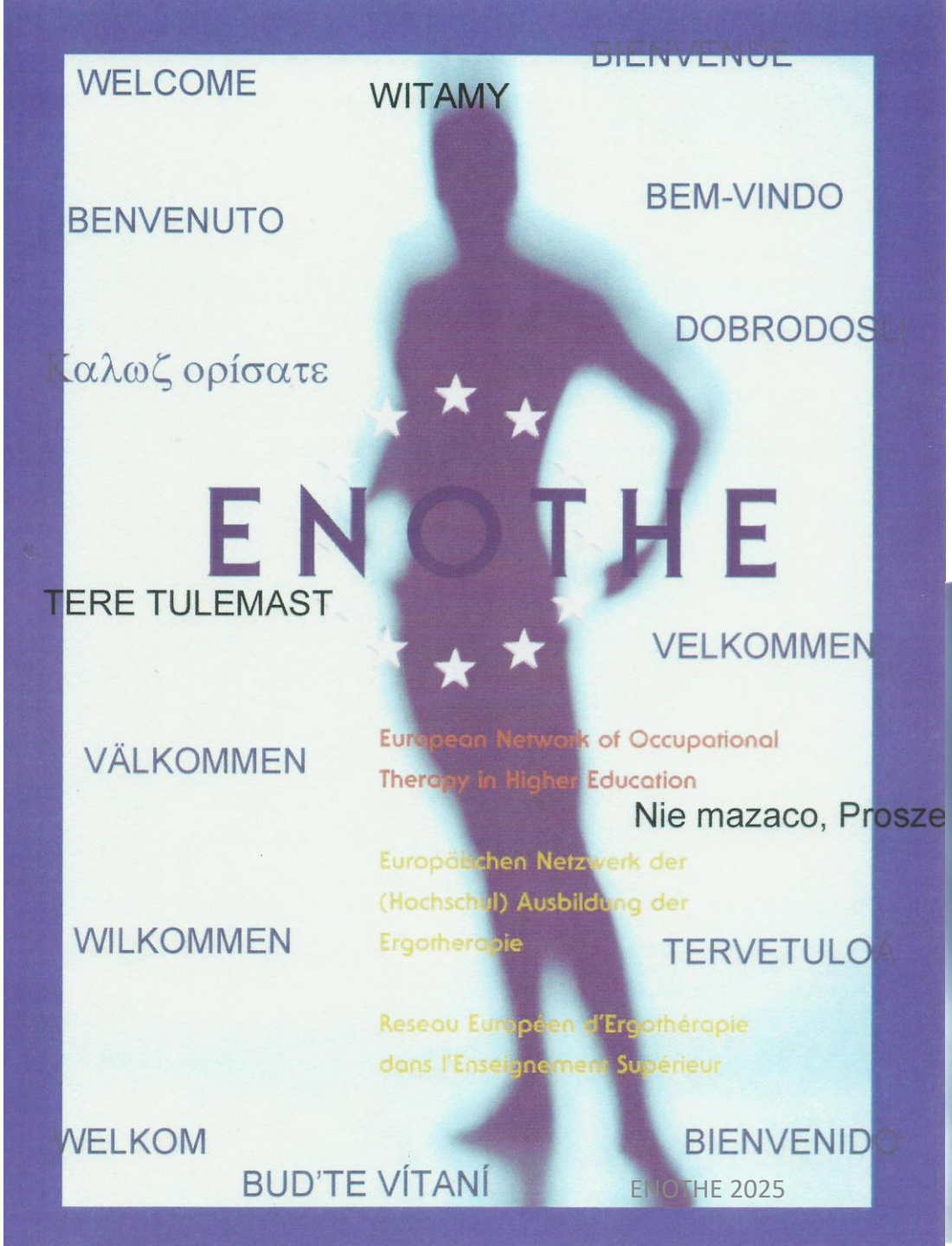
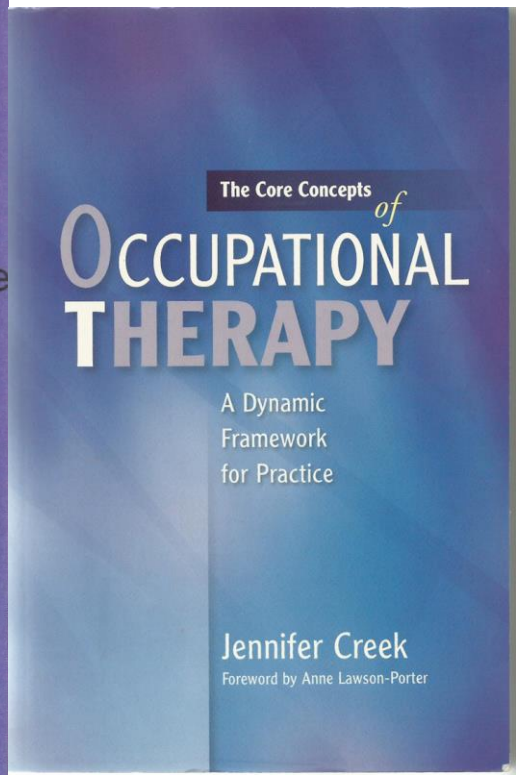


ENOTHE is aware of the importance of using appropriate language in Occupational therapy. TERMINOLOGY GROUP

EU has 24 Languages





European Year of Road Safety and Young Drivers

ENOTHE

ENOTHE
European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education

Evolution of the Logo-Human ➡ Symbolic Europe ➡ Abstract



ENOTHE

2025 EUROPEAN YEAR OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Understanding the Foundation of ENOTHE

Based onEuropean Values:

- Respect for Human Dignity
  - Culture and Languages
- Freedom
- Democracy
- Equality
- Solidarity
- Citizen’s rights and justice

(based on UN and EU Charter of Fundamental Rights)



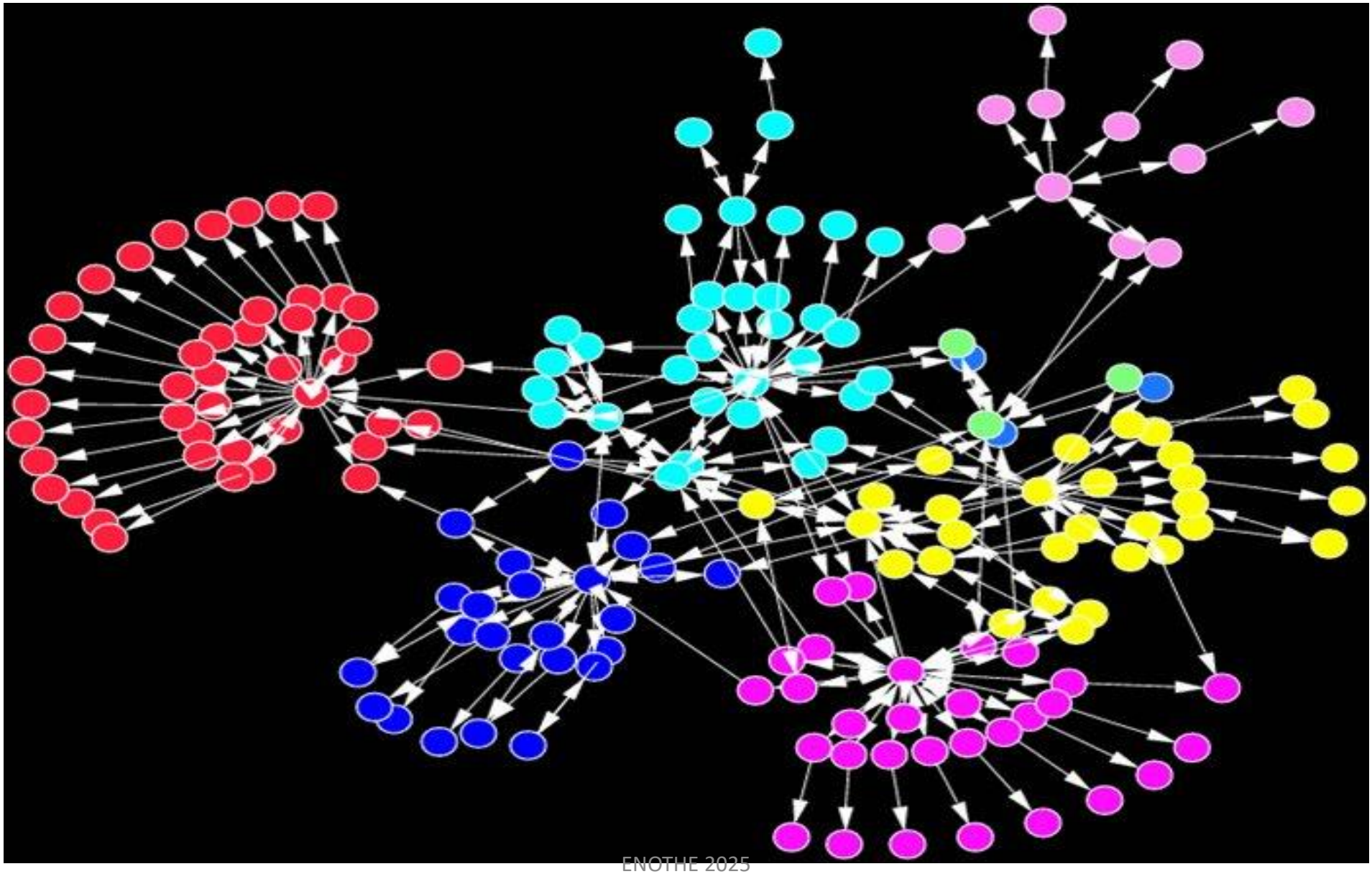
Context matters: the Position of OT in 1995

- Health System
  - Most OT's employed by national or local health authorities
  - Numbers differed from 1 (Italy) to 75 OT's per 100.000 inhabitants in Denmark
- Educational System
  - The majority of the OT education was **NOT** under the higher education system (only in three countries Msc and in two countries PhD education)
  - Small private schools with an annual intake of 20 to university level intake of 100-150 students
- Social System
  - The European **freedom of mobility** within one **unified labour market** had existed for about ten years. Europe was about to enlarge.
  - Communication systems were changing considerably.
  - Vulnerable groups like persons with disabilities, elderly, people with a mental illness, migrants, homeless, and street children were on the rise.
- Technology
  - Technologies in teaching were introduced on a large scale.
  - The European HEART project (1994) concluded that occupational therapists needed to be trained in the latest assistive technology

WHY ENOTHE?

- Enormous Risk for the Profession: With more than three quarters of the occupational therapy education not functioning at a higher education level, ministers could easily decide that the profession in the whole of Europe could be at vocational level and that should be much cheaper.
- The future goal in Europe was/is: Free circulation of goods and people and it was/is reasonable to hope that, one day, people also would be able to circulate freely to universities anywhere in Europe.
- ‘groups of Universities’, such as those cooperating in the new Erasmus+ European Universities alliances, (Joint degrees) ‘automatic recognition
- Lifelong learning may no longer be a kind of extra, but rather the core business of higher education institutions, or at least an important part of it

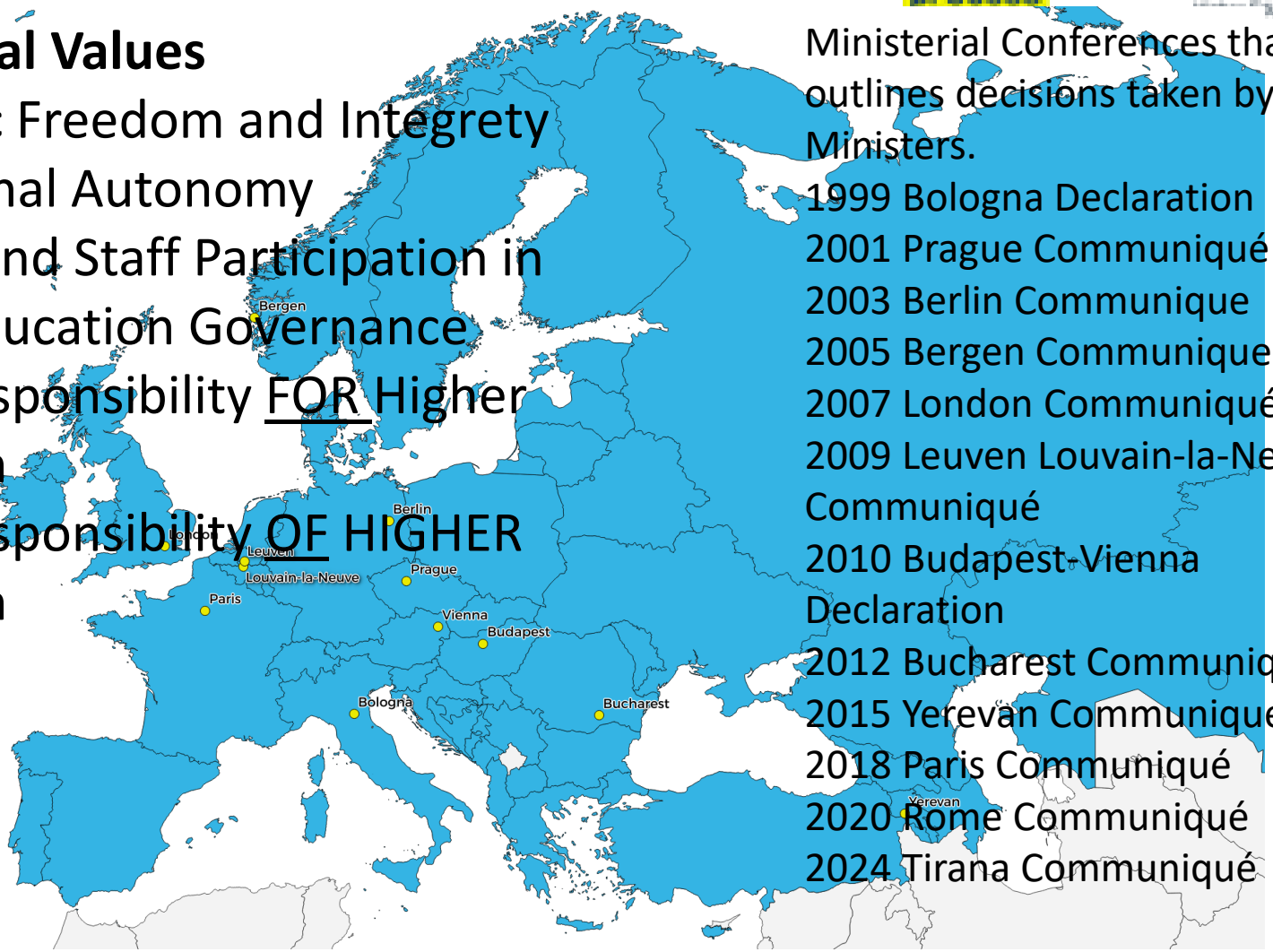
The Power of Communities in Complex Networks



European Education Area

Fundamental Values

- Academic Freedom and Integrety
- Institutional Autonomy
- Student and Staff Participation in Higher Education Governance
- Public Responsibility FOR Higher Education
- Public Responsibility OF HIGHER Education



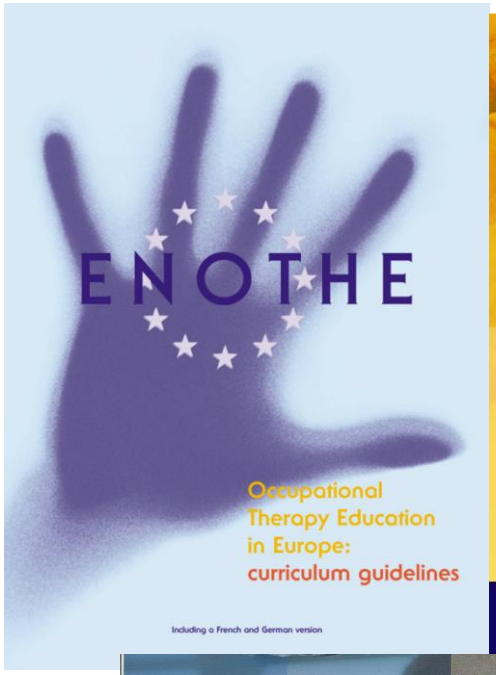
Ministerial Conferences that outlines decisions taken by the Ministers.

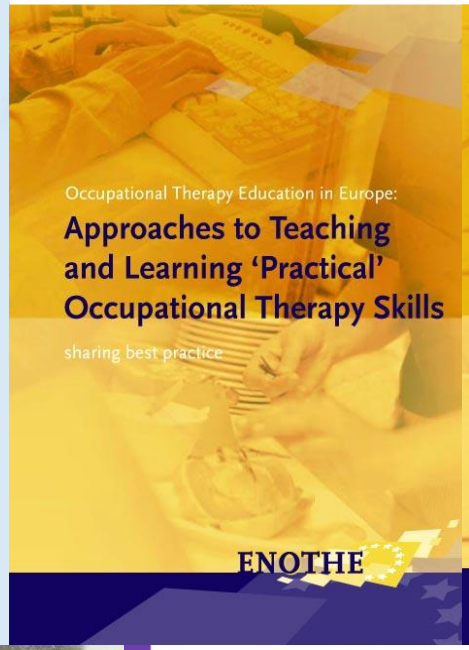
1999 Bologna Declaration
2001 Prague Communiqué
2003 Berlin Communique
2005 Bergen Communique
2007 London Communiqué
2009 Leuven Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué
2010 Budapest-Vienna Declaration
2012 Bucharest Communiqué
2015 Yerevan Communiqué
2018 Paris Communiqué
2020 Rome Communiqué
2024 Tirana Communiqué

Historical milestones

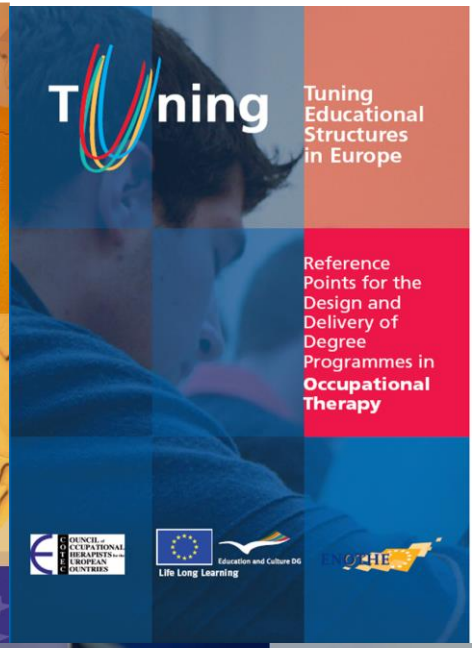
- The creation of European Network (Granted by EC)
- (Pre) Tuning/ CALOHEE process
  - Creating Common Curriculum Reference points (disciplinary, multi disciplinary social sciences, poverty reduction)
  - Attention for Terminology in different languages
  - Encouraging (applying grants) the EU Masters and serving as an Advisory and Dissemination Partner in the Play4Play Project
- Developing several modules, guidelines around the European Dimension
- Strengthening the involvement of students
  - Developing together products
  - Established of SPOT(s)
- Enlargement projects/ promoting social rights (granted by the EC)
  - Tjech-Republic
  - Georgia/ Armenia
  - Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria
  - Poland
  - Mongolia
- Belonging to and being active member of the Human Archipelago
- Honouring the European years: 2003, 2005, 2007,2008, 2009, 2012
- Contributing to relevant EU policies, white papers, public consultations

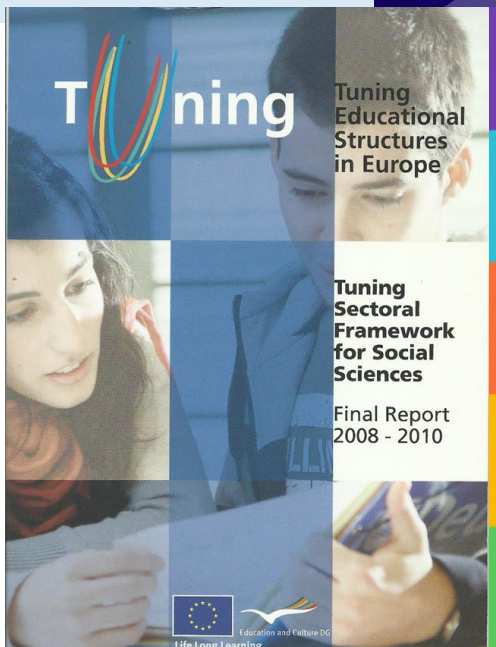
Publications Around Curriculum Guidelines

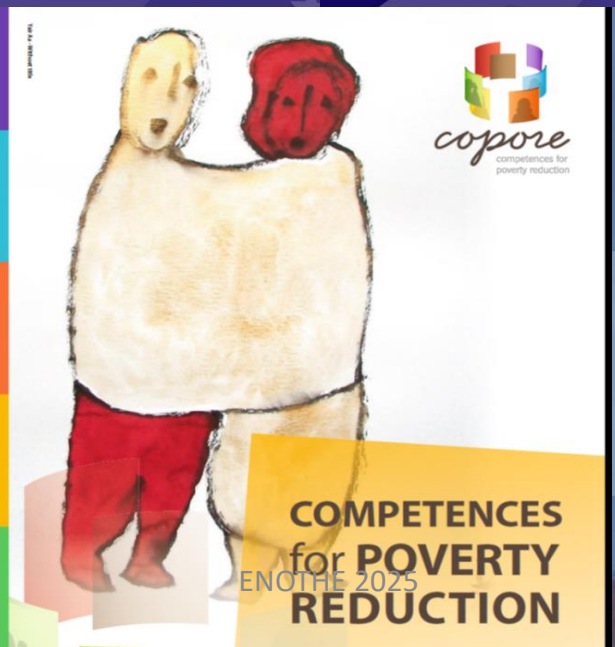














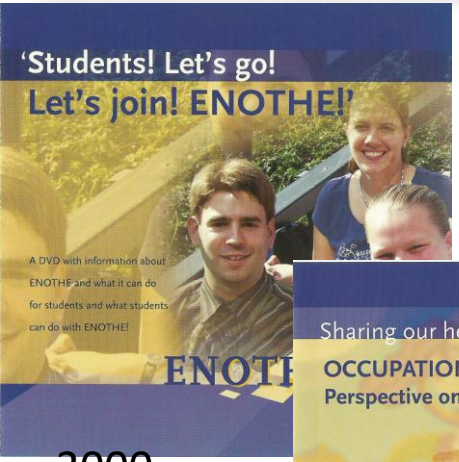
Student involvement



1997



1998



2000



2004



SPOT Europe

Student Platform Occupational Therapy

SPOTeurope is a platform created to encourage and increase the connection between OT students from all over Europe. (2014) SPOTeurope is run by students for students with the financial support of ENOTHE!

Extension of Occupational Therapy Education after 1995 Following the EHEA



Facilitating Occupational Therapy Education in an Enlarged Europe



- Organising regional conferences on curriculum development following the European curriculum guidelines (Prague 1999, Warsaw 2000,Oradea 2002, Vilnius 2003)
- Support in applying for grants and carrying out specific projects such as:
  - TEMPUS project Prague with the aim developing the Bachelor ´s degree course in occupational therapy at Charles University to EU standards (1996)
  - TEMPUS project with the aim facilitation and participation of persons with disabilities in Armenia and Georgia; 2 schools established
  - Joint Action (Socrates, Leonardo)project with the aim facilitation and participation of (young)persons with disabilities in an enlarged Europe (Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary); 2schools established
  - ESF projects (teacher training projects)in Poland and Romania

    Teacher training for 4 universities in each country and 3 OT schools in each country established
  - ENOTHE Seed project Mongolia(Ulaanbaatar), “Co-creation of sustainable and culturally relevant high quality OT education in Mongolia”

The European Archipelago of Humanistic Thematic Networks



The Humanistic Arts and Sciences was playing a central role in building a European future. Together 20 Thematic Networks were working to their full potential

Why European Years?

To raise awareness of certain topics, encourage debate and change attitudes

2018 – European Year of Cultural Heritage

2015 - European Year for Development

2013-2014 - European year of citizens

2012 - European year for active ageing

2011 - European year of volunteering

2010 - European year for combating poverty & social exclusion

2009 - European year of creativity & innovation

2008 - European year of intercultural dialogue

2007 - European year of equal opportunities for all

2006 - European year of workers' mobility

2005 - European year of citizenship through education

2004 - European year of education through sport

2003 - European year of people with disabilities

Creativity and Innovation in Curriculum Design and Occupational Therapy Education and Practice

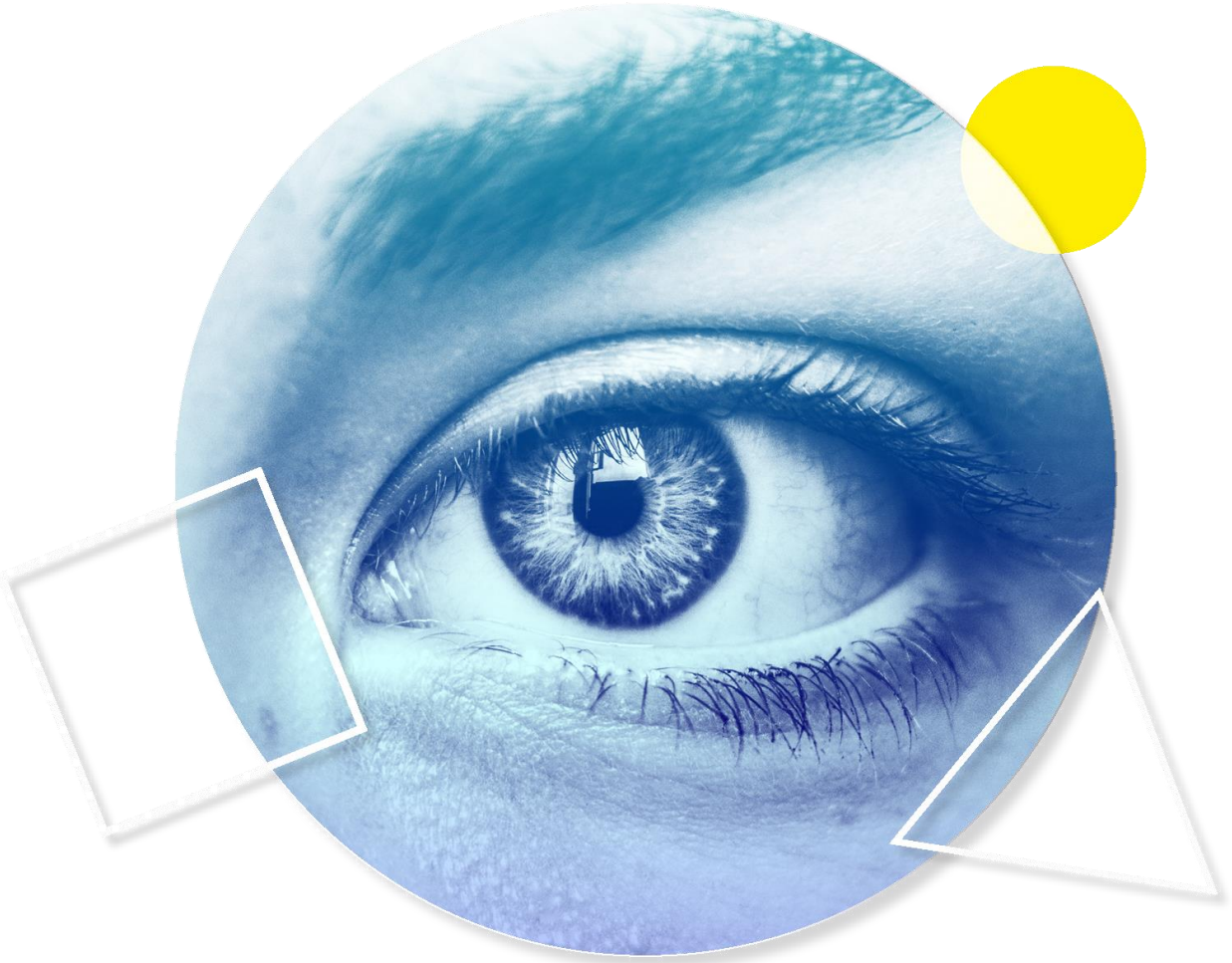
Creativity and Innovation
European Year 2009

15.10.09 – 17.10.2009 **This conference is addressing the value of creative activities in occupational therapy education and practice**

Occupational therapist should be able to hear the voices of artists and artworks, the 'cultural traces' of past, present and future, if we want to develop a truly relevant Occupational Therapy. In this conference occupational therapists, students and lecturers will explore the value of creativity in occupational therapy education and practice as a media and a goal in practice, education and research. Occupational Therapy students have worked during the whole 2009 on innovative projects which will be exchanged in La Coruña, Spain.

www.enothe.hva.nl

Towards 2050





The Shadow of Unfreedom: A New Authoritarianism Grips the Globe

A harsh, right-wing authoritarianism is rising, casting a shadow of unfreedom as classic conservatism fades.(Misik 2025)

Terminology

Who is this occupier???

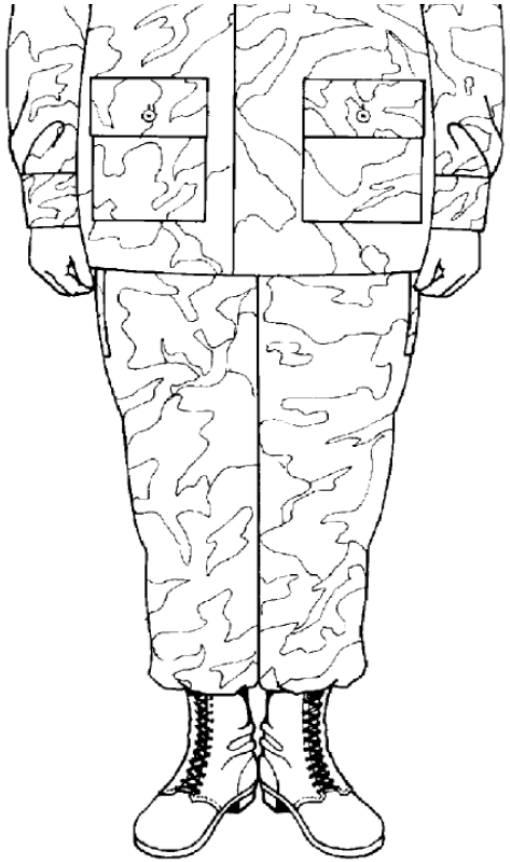


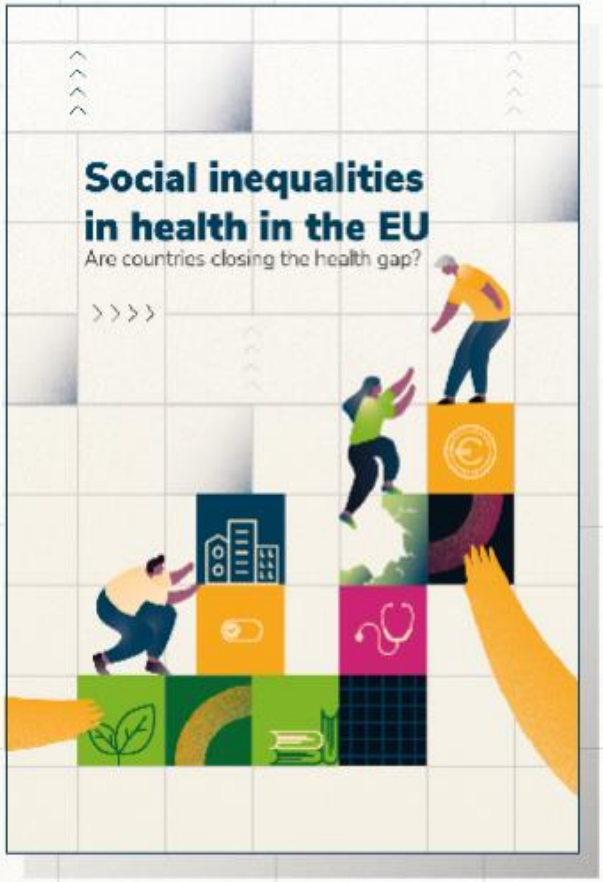
Figure 4–1. Maternity work uniform





War In Ukraine

“No progress on social inequalities in health over last decade”, says new data



EuroHealthNet CHAIN

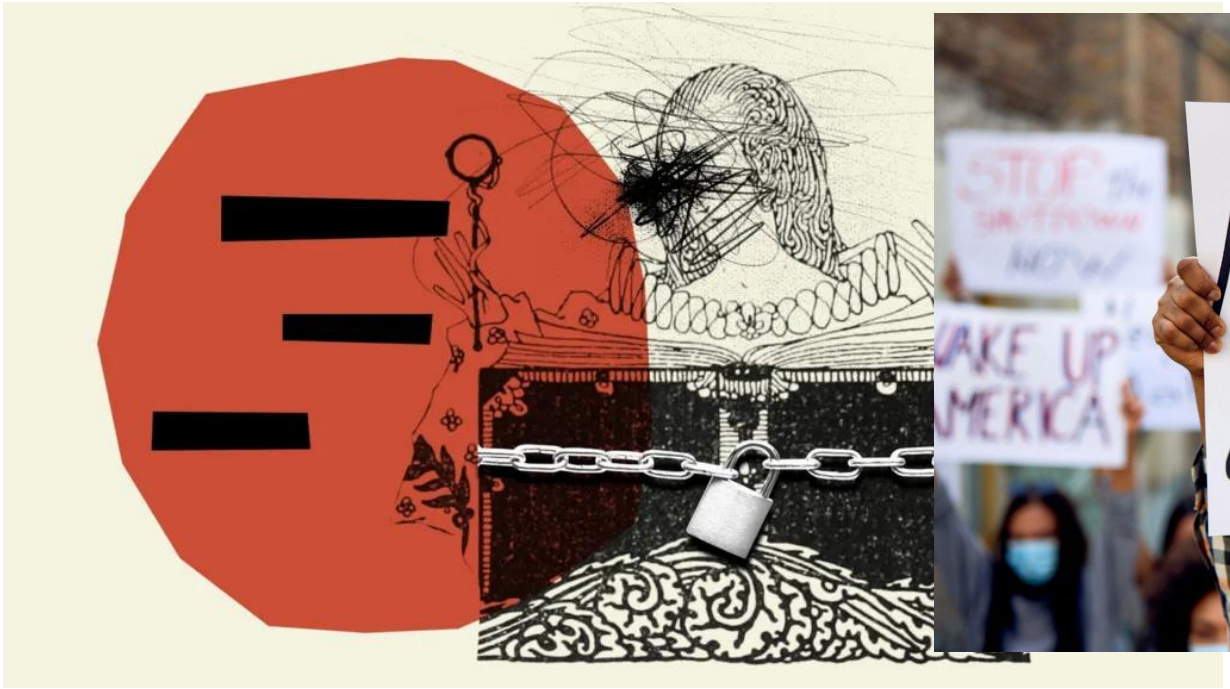
Social Europe
Kate Pickett 28th April 2025

The False Economy of Cutting Disability Benefits



Financial insecurity destroys lives. Slashing disability benefits isn’t reform—it’s wrongheaded cost-saving.

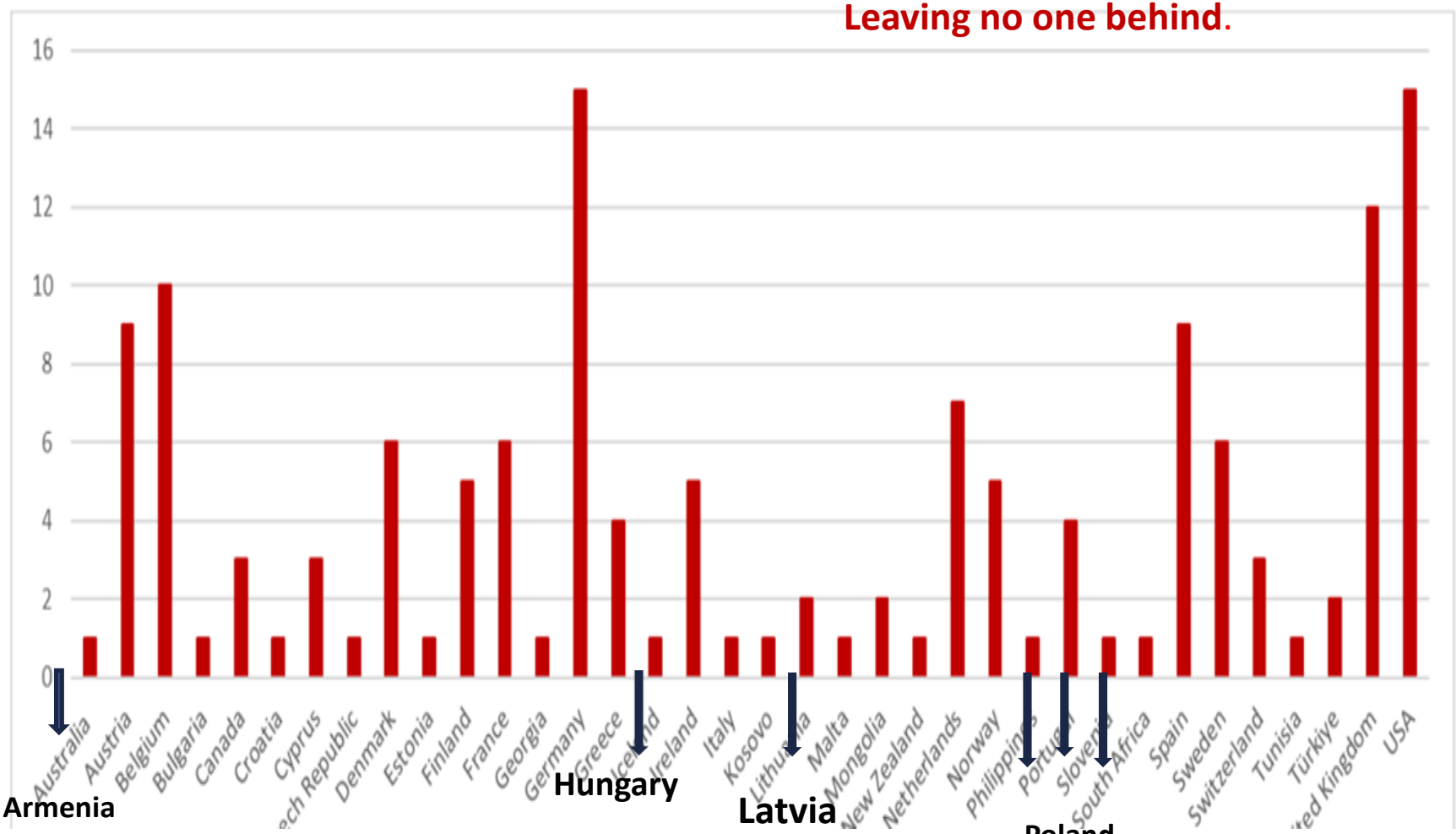
Free speech is being threatened at EU/ Global universities





The 2025 ENOTHE membership reaches 36 countries. The country distribution of the combined categories of membership is shown in Graph 2.

Leaving no one behind.



The Urgent Need for Action

- Respect the Fundamental Values and principles of the EHEA
- We must critically confront and acknowledge the **Western centeredness** of International Relations, challenging its assumptions and frameworks.
- ENOTHE and Curricula should contribute to the **green and digital transitions** as well as to **social fairness and resilience**
- **Student diversity** must be addressed to meet healthcare needs of diverse communities, reduce disparities and prepare a workforce reflective of the communities served.
- **Strategic approach to legal migration**, oriented towards upskilling better attracting and keeping talent
- **Have your say** in Relevant Public National and EU Consultations and Feedback
- Be **visionary and courageous**



Survey on

Academic Freedom, Institutional Autonomy and Academic Integrity

from a Student Perspective

“Curricula should contribute to the **green and digital transitions** as well as to **social fairness and resilience**”. (European pillar of Social Rights).



Upskilling, do not loose talent







SALTO INCLUSION EDUCATION

Participation of students, shared power in a wider Student platform

And helping build an inclusive society that celebrates diversity

SPOT Europe

Student Platform Occupational Therapy

ESU EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION

Vision

ENOTHE envisions a Europe where occupational therapy education is a pro-active catalyst for social change—one that not only embraces critically digital and AI-driven learning tools but also actively dismantles power structures, that marginalize communities.

Our vision is to create a transformative (eco)-education-system in which academic excellence, critical inquiry and ethical leadership converges with occupational justice, ensuring that the field remains relevant, responsive, and influential in addressing the complex health, social-economic, and environmental challenges of our time.

Do You Think

- I do not mind? It will not make any difference?
- What about all these ideas around social transformation through occupation?
- Do we leave the transformation just to a few activists?

Finally

- Let’s make co-creation our method.
- Let’s make justice our standard.
- Let’s make joy our fuel.

Enjoy



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Thank you for your attention

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