

SPOTeurope student session

Summary 14/10/2020

On the 14th October, we had a student session to tell students about SPOTeurope and to collect the students' opinion on the further development of the platform. Many students got familiar with it through their university/school, social media, ENOTHE or mini SPOTs.

After a welcome from the board and Lisette Farias as ENOTHE representative, the SPOTeurope board was presenting what has been done the last year and what everyone in the board is currently working on.

In order to represent the students' opinion and improve over the next years, the topics Student Board Member, Mini SPOTs, newsletter/blog and SPOTeurope's development in general have been discussed in break out rooms and outcomes were collected on Padlets. This input will be used for further meetings and taken into consideration when approaching the next steps. Underneath is a brief overview on the main input:

Student Board Member (SBM)

Q: Who should be the SBM? How should the procedure of (s)election be? What should be stated in the guidelines for the SBM? (term, criteria, etc.)? How can/should the SBM collect the students' opinion? How and on which topic would you like to receive updates?

There are several discussions and ways regarding the procedure to find a SBM - from voting (e.g. by miniSPOTs), general application procedure or to apply and then vote.

Those procedures should be stated in guidelines and students agree that at least one year of studies should be completed to be able to represent students. Furthermore, there should be experience within SPOTeurope or working as a representative of a student group, therefore e.g. members of a miniSPOT could be possible candidates.

In order to enable an exchange between SBM and students, "Town Hall meetings" were suggested as a way to share and collect responses. Beside such events, the newsletter, surveys/polls, social media or miniSPOT meetings would provide an opportunity for interaction. Next to updates about e.g. conferences (which will be done by SPOTeurope in general), a topic students would be interested in, is the regular day to day work within ENOTHE, to be better able to bring in their opinion.



Email: info@spoteurope.eu

Website: www.spoteurope.eu

Mini SPOTs

Q: What are barriers to setting up a mini SPOT? What would encourage you to set up a mini SPOT? How can barriers be overcome? And how can SPOTEurope help with this?

Mentioned barriers to set up a mini SPOT were knowledge about SPOTEurope, but also the ways to communicate, how to motivate and encourage other students and the time expenditure. In order to overcome those, there needs to be more time to get to know SPOTEurope, and also that SPOTEurope gets to know other students and different backgrounds that motivate them to engage in SPOTEurope. But also to co-operate with universities that students know SPOTEurope and also are encouraged in their engagement.

Newsletter and blogs

Q: What would be a good frequency for both newsletter and blog? What would encourage you to be a guest writer for our blog? What would you like to read about on our blog? What would you like to read about in our newsletter?

There seems to be a huge interest into both, newsletter and blog. The mentioned topics and frequencies variate a lot from weekly, to twice a year. However, it seems that students are interested in getting an insight into perspectives from students all over the world and what is going on in SPOTEurope and miniSPOTs, but also about general occupational therapy input.

SPOTEurope development

Do you have ideas on how all students could stay connected with each other? What things do you think we could improve on? What's your general impression about SPOTEurope?

Generally, students gave feedback that they appreciate the transparency and openness about SPOTEurope and that they would love to get involved. However, they also think that we can work more on our visibility and also be careful to be accessible regarding language, since English can be difficult for some. Further, it was suggested to put "get-to-know-each other" into the sessions, to have more personal quick and dynamic communication. Moreover, we should do more advertising but also have a streamlined way to communicate. Students suggested using social media and regular meetings to know about each other. Furthermore, miniSPOTs might provide an opportunity for communication.



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We hope that this is representing your feedback within the sessions. In case there is anything, that you think we should think about when planning out milestones for this academic year, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would like to say a warm thank you to everyone who took the time to participate and to share their thoughts. Hopefully, next year at the COTEC-ENOTHE congress in Prague this can also be done face to face and celebrated afterwards with some dancing.



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