



Greetings everyone,

We are officially announcing the publication of our very first newsletter!

The reason behind it is mostly our need to share all of the amazing and productive things that have happened in the past year.

A need created by the massive growth of our platform!

- Word from the President

Dear SPOTEurope members,

It is with great pleasure to welcome our first newsletter! This has been an idea of SPOTEurope for such a long time and I am proud to finally present this to you. We will be publishing twice a year and sharing with you all the amazing things that have happened in the meantime. With this newsletter, we hope to give you an insight on the developments we have made so far and are still creating.

We are aware that 2020 is a very challenging year for everyone but it also provided us with opportunities; opportunities that brought us all together and the insight that we want to do this more often. A way to share these opportunities with the world is this newsletter.

We will share outcomes of Student Session, updates on (new) mini SPOT's, input from the student board member and promotion for our upcoming events. I wish you all a great pleasure while reading this.

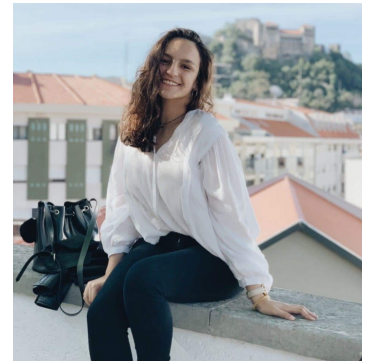
*Best wishes,
Cassandra President of SPOTEurope*



- Changes in the board

We would love to introduce to you our newest members and the changes we had inside the board:

Bruna Bastos, who is now our new social media lead



Julie Valckx, who is currently shaping the role of the event coordinator



Our previous social media lead, Emma Rodrigues, became our outreach coordinator after Emma Schlinquer stepped down



- A bit of an insight

“ I helped two fellow OT students who wanted to make an OT podcast on Spotify by sending a recording of myself talking about OT in Greece, such a cool experience!

” - Blogger

“ In my role as the social media lead, I was able to help some OT students connect from different countries, for an assignment of an OT student from England. It was such a great experience!

”

- Social Media

“ What I love about being in the SPOTeurope and ENOTHE board is, of course, bringing in the students' perspective and enhancing the collaboration between both boards.

”

- SBM



• Student Session

As many of you know we had a student session on the 14th of October where we informed you about our annual progress and requested feedback on many different subjects. Apart from us, SPOTEurope, and all of you who joined we also had a special guest, Lisette Farias as ENOTHE's representative.

After we finished the presentation we talked about the 4 most important subjects we wanted feedback on: SBM, Mini SPOTs, newsletter/blogs and SPOTEurope's general development. In order to discuss all of them we were divided in break out rooms and the feedback was collected through the platform "Padlet".

The results were the following:

- 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 student's opinion? How and on which topic would you like to receive updates?



A: The most common answer was that someone applies and is then voted to become the SBM and must meet the following guidelines: at least one year of studies completed representative of a Student Group e.g. miniSPOT. You then suggested having "town hall" meetings in order to collect responses etc, or through events, surveys, social media, mini SPOT meetings, polls and magazines. Last but not least you wanted to receive updates on: conferences, scientific news/research, how to get in contact, day to day work (maybe through newsletter), (e-)mail, social media, conferences, articles etc.

-Mini SPOTs

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

A: Many of you were still new to the whole "miniSPOTs" project so lack of knowledge about it was sure a barrier. Furthermore, you stated that not knowing how to effectively communicate, motivate students and find the time and courage to set it up were also barriers to setting up a miniSPOT. But you suggested that getting to know SPOTEurope, other students and different background motivates would be of much help and of course



school should be a facilitator that introduces SPOT to students.

Newsletter/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?

A: You seemed to have a lot to say about the blogs, which is really great for us to hear, since you have been interacting a lot with them. You requested to read about new topics such as recommended articles, new studies, exchange programs, virtual placements, research topics etc. (apart from the ones we already write about) on a more frequent basis. You suggested that we should promote the blogs more and request for a specific topic for you to write about. As long as the newsletter is concerned you seem really interested in reading about research, updates, studying opportunities, events, bachelor's diplomas etc.

SPOTEurope development

Q: 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?



A: Generally, you expressed that you appreciate the transparency and openness about SPOT and that you would love to get involved. However, you also commented on 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. We should do more advertising but also have a streamlined way to communicate. Students suggested to use social media and regular meetings to get to know each other and the miniSPOTs. Moreover a more personal quick and dynamic communication would be appreciated.

All of the following are sure taken into consideration and we will be making progress regarding the four subjects discussed. We really want to thank all of you for being a part of the student session and for helping us improve by communicating your needs!



- MiniSPOTs /
representatives

Mini SPOT Nijmegen

Mini Spot Nijmegen has introduced their successful 'SPOTcasts'! It is a podcast in which experts are invited to talk about internationalisation and diversity. The recordings have been recorded in Dutch in order to involve as many students as possible in their school. The SPOT cast might be interesting for occupational therapy students in other schools in the Netherlands. If it blows up, the team is thinking about changing the language to English to involve more international students

– please let us know if you would like to be involved!

Mini SPOT HvA

Mini SPOT HvA hosted an online event for World Occupational Therapy Day on October 27th. The online event included different OT's from around the world who talked about the following topic: 'Occupational therapy in an interdisciplinary team, an international perspective.' "How does occupational therapy distinguish itself?"



Upcoming Mini SPOTs

We are pleased to announce that three Mini SPOTs are on their way: Mini SPOT ESSLei, Mini SPOT Flanders and Mini SPOT HR (Rotterdam)

International Ambassador Groups

We are also very excited to announce that we have welcomed our first International Ambassadors!

The Western University Canada were dedicated to become our International Ambassadors who are responsible of engaging with SPOTEurope and sharing/organizing events. They have created an international club that plans to organize virtual "networking" -type sessions.

The Federal University of Espírito Santo and Pará State University (Brazil) have also joined forces to promote internationalisation and SPOTEurope around other Brazilian Universities and are planning to branch out to South America.



Sounding Board

Our sounding board member, Anya (from the UK) is hoping to organise an online book club! Stay tuned for more information about this topic.

We would love to have you as a part of our sounding board, so please feel free to send an email at info@spoteurope.eu if you are interested!

All of the above are just highlights of some of the things our mini SPOTs, student representatives, sounding board members and international ambassadors are getting up to! We want to thank you all for your commitment and help to enable SPOTEurope to grow!



- Renewed Strategic plan

Thinking back to where we started from we noticed quite a remarkable growth in our community. We got to meet a lot of new and different people experiencing and sharing different thoughts and beliefs based on their different learning environments. Knowing that being different is a key factor for internationalisation we paused and thought about whether or not we still followed our initial Strategic Plan; which was all about students having the change to internationalisation no matter their background. We did not want to get carried away due to all these fascinating changes. So, after a lot of brainstorming, we came to the conclusion that even though this had been our goal all along, we still had to make a few changes to cope with our rapid growth. Thus, we worked hard to present you our renewed strategic plan.

Since we value internationalisation as one of the most useful tools we, OTs, use to deeply understand the concept of diversity we want to offer to every student in Europe the opportunity to be a part of it.



Our vision will always be for us to provide each and every student this chance and we will always care for their voices to be heard and their suggestions to be implemented in the evolution of the occupational therapy's education via our closed collaboration with the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE). Furthermore, we aim to broaden our community by having mini SPOT's and student representatives all over Europe, and International Ambassadors to represent occupational therapy education outside of Europe.

In order to provide the chance to internationalisation we will be using online resources, such as: our website, social media, blogs and an interactive map. We will also be attending conferences as a board including but not limited to ENOTHE's Annual Meeting and we will assure to establish our community via the creation of mini SPOT's and by recruiting student representatives and international ambassadors. As long as the representation part is concerned we are and will continue having a student board member in the board of ENOTHE and we will keep on establishing an equal and sustainable collaboration between teachers and lectures. Last but not least we will be present at ENOTHE Annual Meetings where we host student session and aim for student Keynote speakers.



Student's contributing to related occasions such as the General Assembly would ensure future ENOTHE meetings remain a joint collaboration between students and lecturers

If you want to know more detailed information feel free to email us at: info@spoteurope.eu or view our strategic plan document at: <https://www.spoteurope.eu/mission-vision/>

• #StayHome Campaign

As some of you may know, during quarantine, we took the initiative to help out students who were having a difficult time with online classes or with no classes at all. Being students, we knew that we had to act to help them study more easily and help them acquire new knowledge. Thus, we started our #StayHome campaign. We were having online discussions on a weekly basis where we talked about a range of topics including:

1. Being an OT student during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Dementia care and the use of CMOP-E
3. Autism
4. Displaced persons
5. Self-management in stroke rehabilitation
6. Power of occupation
7. Occupational science



We used a lot of different learning styles knowing how different each and every one of you is. In the hopes of approaching your learning interest we utilized means such as case studies with questionnaires, videos, online discussions and shared relevant literature.

Nevertheless, running a campaign was a difficult task which required a lot of work from almost all of us. Thankfully it did not take long for teachers and OTs to be recruited on our task force! We want to thank Nadine Blankvoort, Lisette Vera Farias, Mike Jarrey, Ton Satink and Bill Wong for taking part in this action and for being very friendly and ready for discussion!

Last but not least, we want to thank every one of you who showed your support or even assisted us for the implementation of this campaign.

You can always learn more about our campaign by visiting our site via this link:

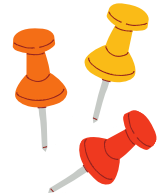
<https://www.spoteurope.eu/stayhome-campaign/>



- Save the date

Dates in 2020

November 11th - Online event SPOTEurope



Dates in 2021

January 12th - Start of the mobility week Winterthür

January 13th - Online event SPOTEurope

April 14th - Online event SPOTEurope

May 3rd - Start of the mobility week Stockholm

If you want to know more about one or more events you can either visit our websiter via this link: <https://www.spoteurope.eu/events/> or by emailing our events coordinator at: events@spoteurope.eu



- Stay in touch

We always love to hear from you, so if you have any questions, information about local events or personal experiences that you would like to share, we are more than excited to receive your email. You can contact us by emailing us at these addresses:

General: info@spoteurope.eu

President: president@spoteurope.eu

Vice president: vicepresident@spoteurope.eu

Outreach Coordinator: outreach@spoteurope.eu

SBM: studentboardmember@spoteurope.eu

Event Coordinator: events@spoteurope.eu

Social Media: socialmedia@spoteurope.eu

Blogger: blogger@spoteurope.eu



- Be a part of our community

You can always be a part of SPOTEurope by becoming a student representative, creating a mini SPOT on your campus or becoming an international ambassador. For more information on how to do so, feel free to email our Outreach Coordinator (outreach@spoteurope.eu), Emma, who is more than happy to help you out!

- Further notes

We will be publishing our Newsletter twice a year. The next publication date is the 3rd of May.



Thank you for being a part,
The board of SPOTEurope