

# Strategic Plan 2020-2025

## □ Introduction

SPOTEurope is an international student community for occupational therapy students. It was established at the ENOTHE Annual Meeting 2014 by a group of occupational therapy students who shared their wishes for a student community.

This five year strategy plan outlines the core beliefs as well as our strategic aims and provides a framework for the work of the organisation, which will aid the development of annual action plans covering the period of 2020-2025. This strategy is based on the idea that every occupational therapy student should have the opportunity to internationalisation whether this is abroad or at home.

It is important to emphasize that SPOTEurope is a developing network, hence, it is run by and for students and aims to adapt to the students needs as an ever changing network and keep an open and dynamic mind set. This means that the current mission and vision could change throughout the years and that further adaptation will be required.

## □ Core Beliefs

SPOTEurope believes in the importance of internationalisation as an occupational therapy student to help appreciate and understand the diverse and complex nature of occupation across different cultures and contexts. Accessibility to such opportunities has many benefits and SPOTEurope is passionate in enabling students to experience internationalisation at their home universities. As a student platform, SPOTEurope aspires to create a community of occupational therapy students who are able to exchange their experiences and learn about the occupational therapy profession in many different countries.

Furthermore, SPOTEurope recognises the importance of ensuring students have the opportunity to express their views about their education and believes in the value of involving students to help shape the future of the profession.

## □ Vision

All occupational therapy students in Europe and beyond will have the opportunity to access and experience internationalisation whilst completing their occupational therapy education.

SPOTEurope will be a key platform to enable occupational therapy students to make connections, share experiences about occupational therapy in different countries and develop a truly global mindset.

Occupational therapy students in Europe will be clearly represented and involved in shaping the future of occupational therapy education in close collaboration with 'Occupational Therapy - Europe' and especially 'the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education' (ENOTHE).



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The SPOTeurope community will grow to have mini SPOT's and student representatives within all occupational therapy courses in Europe. Furthermore, International Ambassadors will represent occupational therapy education beyond Europe.

## □ **Strategic Aims**

### **Strategic Aim 1.**

Connect Occupational Therapy students across Europe and beyond, in order to increase internationalisation through sharing opportunities, queries and perspectives.

### **Strategic Aim 2.**

Create long-term, meaningful collaborations between ENOTHE and occupational therapy students in order to include students in the development of occupational therapy education.

## □ **Mission**

**Strategic aim 1.** *Connect occupational therapy students across Europe and beyond, in order to increase internationalisation through sharing opportunities, queries and perspectives.*

With this aim, SPOTeurope aims to connect occupational therapy students to ensure internationalisation is accessible for all. This will be done through:

- A) Use of online platforms for sharing information, such as: website, social media, blogs and an interactive map;
- B) SPOTeurope's presence at events and conferences including, but not limited to ENOTHE;
- C) Establishing a SPOTeurope's community consisting of: mini SPOT's, student representatives and international ambassadors.

The use of multiple online platforms is essential to enable students to connect and exchange their experiences in different ways. Through the website, students are able to access occupational therapy resources including useful links and opportunities, in addition to a 'how to' guide for creating their own mini SPOT. Also on the website are posted monthly blogs, which gives students the chance to share projects and placements in more detail and encourage discussion through the comments section. Communicating through emails and numerous social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram help to ensure SPOTeurope is approachable and accessible to a wide range of students. Weekly posting schedules and interesting content based on students wishes will help to support and encourage student engagement.

In addition to sustaining an online presence, it is important to aim to network and promote SPOTeurope at face to face events and conferences. Meeting other students and lecturers in person and engaging in workshops and discussions about occupational therapy education and internationalisation will function as a gateway between the SPOTeurope board and local students and help to increase the SPOTeurope community.



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**Strategic Aim 2.** *Create long-term, meaningful collaborations between ENOTHE and occupational therapy students in order to include students in the development of occupational therapy education.*

In order to ensure the student voices are heard, a long-term and meaningful collaboration with ENOTHE is necessary. This will be done through:

- A) A student board member in the board of ENOTHE
- B) Equal and sustainable collaboration between lectures and students
- C) Student keynote speakers at ENOTHE Annual Meeting

The role of 'student board member' who is present in both the ENOTHE and SPOTeurope boards, was established to ensure student voices are represented fairly. The student board member will work closely with ENOTHE and SPOTeurope, attending regular meetings and contributing a student perspective towards ENOTHE's ongoing projects. SPOTeurope will aim to gather student perspectives through workshops, surveys and through a 'sounding board' consisting of student representatives from different universities. The student board member will ensure these are communicated to ENOTHE where required.

In general SPOTeurope aims to have an equal and sustainable collaboration between lectures and students. This is done through several ways. First, SPOTeurope promotes and encourages ENOTHE to invite students as one of the keynote speakers during their annual meeting. Not only would this help to reinforce the value of considering the students perspective in the occupational therapy education development. It also ensures the belief that students are the new future and therefore have knowledge which can be shared throughout. Student's contributing to related occasions such as the General Assembly would ensure future ENOTHE meetings remain a joint collaboration between students and lecturers.



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