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28 August 2006

Subject: "área de conocimiento" for occupational therapy

Dear Prof. Pérez de Heredia Torres

On behalf of the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE) we strongly like to support the position statement of the National Conference of Occupational Therapy Directors (CNDEUTO) that Occupational Therapy educational programs have their own unique body of knowledge and provide their graduates with specific Occupational Therapy Competences. Furthermore we like to stress that the occupational therapy core subjects should be taught by qualified occupational therapists.

In line with the joint declaration of the European Ministers of Education, convened in Bologna (June 1999) ENOTHE has developed curriculum guidelines which have embedded the principles of harmonisation, focusing on comparable degree systems, transferability of credits and the promotion of criteria for quality assessment and assurance within occupational therapy education (ENOTHE, 2000). As a follow up of this process, ENOTHE has developed within the European TUNING project, European specific competences and level descriptors for occupational therapy, which have been approved by national and European academic and professional organisations of occupational therapists. (See attachment a, b)

We will stress that in Europe occupational therapy is a regulated profession (within the terms of the General Directive (89/48/EEC) and recognised as academic profession/discipline at BA-level by the different ministries of education. Within the European Union the purpose of the General Directive (89/48/EEC) is to facilitate the recognition of regulated professions in other European member states.

Occupational Therapy is one of the fastest growing professions (a growth of 50% over the last 5 years) The number of occupational therapists in Europe is now 110.000. This shows that the profesión has very valuable and distinctive contribution to make to society.



Since 1997 ENOTHE is supported by the European Comisi3n within the framework of ERASMUS to strive for one European Area of Occupational Therapy Education, where the learning outcomes and principles of compatibility, transferability and quality assessment are assured.

In accordance with the policy of ENOTHE the core subjects in occupational therapy (practical and theoretical) should be taught by qualified occupational therapists, what isa t this moment the case in most European countries.

In case you need more information, you can contact the co-ordinating office of ENOTHE.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hanneke van Bruggen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hanneke van Bruggen