

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **Europe Region of World Physiotherapy**

and

### **Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC)**

The Europe Region of World Physiotherapy and the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries, as partners in this Memorandum of Understanding, affirm their respect for each other's profession and endorse their shared belief that all citizens of Europe are entitled to high quality physiotherapy and occupational therapy services.

Both organisations commit to working in partnership and cooperation on the following issues of mutual interest:

#### **Patients' rights**

- The partners will use their voice to defend the right of every patient to have access to the highest possible quality of physiotherapy and occupational therapy across Europe.
- The partners believe that treatment should enshrine a sound independent evidence-based healthcare.
- Trust and confidentiality, as well as information and consent, must be at the heart of all patient care. The partners commit to ensuring patient data is protected.
- The partners will underline the need for the promotion of health literacy, to facilitate the meaningful empowerment of patients, to support the prevention of ill health and to aid the dissemination of evidence-based health information.

#### **Professional Practice**

- The partners commit to safeguarding the independence of their professions for the benefit of patients' safety and quality of healthcare.
- The partners shall co-operate in calling for the implementation of European legislation and policies and the exchange of best practices in order to promote health workforce recruitment and retention.
- The partners recognise the close interprofessional collaboration between physiotherapists and occupational therapists in the field of rehabilitation. The partners shall cooperate in advocating for better access and quality of rehabilitation services in Europe
- The partners believe that health technologies should be incorporated at best evidence with new insights.

#### **Education and continuing professional development (CPD)**

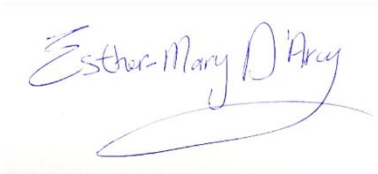
- The partners believe that education and training are pivotal to high quality healthcare and must be supported at all levels in line with the scientific, professional and technological progress and continuing professional development (CPD).
- The physiotherapy and occupational therapy education should meet the future societal needs in order to improve population health. CPD is needed and aims to enhance the quality of the service that patients receive whilst striving for professional excellence and ensuring safety to the public.

The partners believe that joint actions enhance communication, promote a comprehensive approach and optimise resources. In this regard the partners commit to exploring the following possibilities (non-exhaustive list):

- Arranging joint in-person and online events on the topics reflected in this document as well as on other shared priorities (e.g. cancer, mental health, etc.);
- Extending an invitation to attend the European congresses of both professions
- Inviting the other partner to consider endorsing any document that might be of mutual interest to both organisations;
- Collaborating in the advocacy, communication and promotion of relevant actions carried out by the other partner;

The date of this Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the last date of signing, as below, by both signatories on behalf of the respective partners.

Brussels on 31 January of 2025.



Esther-Mary D'Arcy  
Chairperson  
Europe Region of World Physiotherapy



Anu Söderström  
President  
COTEC