

To:
Rector Ülle Ernits
Tallinn Health University of Applied Sciences

COTEC
Council of Occupational Therapists
for the European Countries



Letter of endorsement

Espoo, 29.9.2025

With this letter I endorse the letter from the Estonian Association of Occupational Therapists, dated September 29, 2025 and signed by Anne-Mari Viikman, President of the Association and Ida Joao-Hussar, Member of the Board of the Association.

COTEC, the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries fully supports our Estonian Member Association and their arguments on why a Master level program of Occupational therapy is needed in Estonia and a sufficient number of students should be admitted.

Occupational therapists have a lead role in primary care in many countries in Europe and the profession should be included in the care and rehabilitation work force in all European countries. Equal access to rehabilitation should be secured throughout your country through an adequate number of occupational therapists. The number of occupational therapists in Estonia already seems to be inadequate, and it is evident that the number of students should meet the future needs of the workforce. The Estonian association has shown evidence that the proposed number of students admitted is not enough and that the number should be increased to 40.

Master level studies in occupational therapy support the research in the field which in turn will lead to better evidence-based knowledge that can be used to develop occupational therapy and rehabilitation services according to local needs. Many studies in Europe show the cost-effectiveness of occupational therapy and home-based rehabilitation in primary care and the profession's impact on public health and well-being should not be underestimated.

COTEC represents over 220,000 Occupational Therapists in Europe through the National Occupational Therapists' Associations. The Estonian Association of Occupational Therapists has been a full member of COTEC since 2012. COTEC and all our Member Associations promote the equal right of clients to occupational therapy, and support the citizens' equal access to occupational therapy services provided by trained occupational therapists.

On behalf of COTEC, the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries

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