

Development of a broadly supported new Profile of Occupational Therapy in The Netherlands (2009)

Margo Hartingsveldt van, Astrid Kinébanian, Inka Logister-Proost
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Introduction: The Dutch Profile of Occupational Therapy is regularly revised. The last version was published in 1999. To bring the profile up to date with current developments the Dutch Association of Occupational Therapy installed a project group to compose a new profile.

Objective: To develop a 'state of the art' Profile of Occupational Therapy which is broadly supported by the members of the Dutch Association of Occupational Therapy. Report: Project methodology for guideline development with expert group was used (Grol et al., 2004). The methods used were: literature review (CAOT, 2007; Tuning, 2008), brainstorm with experts, sessions with four feedback groups of experts (occupational therapists, clients, external stakeholders, program leaders occupational therapy schools), monthly informative articles in the Dutch Journal for Occupational Therapists on specific topics, digital feedback round for all members. The whole process was coached by an expert adviser.

Results: 1) An occupation-based, context-based, community-based, client-centered and evidence-based professional profile focusing on social participation, ratified by the general assembly of the Dutch Occupational Therapy Association at the end of 2009. 2) A description of the used methods to revise a profile and to create commitment.

Conclusion: The Members appreciated the new profile and the used methodology which created a stimulating dialogue among the Dutch occupational therapists, resulting in involvement and commitment of the members. During this process, of boundary pushing developments, it became clear that for some persons this developments came too fast, for others not fast enough. The used methodology proved to be helpful for bridging the gap for those two perspectives.

Contribution to practice: The broader perspectives on the profession will give the Dutch occupational therapy new challenges for 'sharing the world of occupation' with clients, stakeholders, practitioners, lecturers and scholars. It will move the profession forward towards the next decade.

CAOT (2007). Profile of Occupational Therapy Practice in Canada. Ottawa, Ontario: CAOT.

Grol, R., Wensing, M., & Eccles, M. (2004). Improving patient care, the implementation of change in clinical practice. Butterworth-Heinemann.

Tuning (2008). Tuning Educational Structures in Europe. Reference points for the design and delivery of degree programmes in occupational therapy. Amsterdam: ENOTHE c/o HVA.