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COEHRE Activities

## Coehre Conference

We are happy to announce that the **COEHRE conference 2024** will be co-hosted by [Odisee University of Applied Sciences](#) and [Artevelde University of Applied Sciences](#), both based in Ghent, Belgium. Date and theme will follow soon!

## Hosting Future Conferences or Symposia

Would you like to host an upcoming conference or symposium? We are compiling a list of potential hosts to provide our members with early information about the location of the next conference/symposium.

### Why host a conference/symposium?

Conferences and symposia are an indispensable part of education. Hosting one could be a vital opportunity that is certain to reap a multitude of benefits for yourself, your institution, and your research.

Conferences/symposia provide a rare opportunity for key individuals within your field of specialism to come together collaboratively all over Europe, in the same place, at the same time. An environment such as this provides the perfect platform to network, form partnerships and exchange knowledge and best practices with peers. A prospect such as this is sure to serve you well now and in the future.

### What are the benefits?

- Attract international talent
- Improve knowledge and skillset
- Highlight your institution and raise your profile
- Career development

Interested? [Do let us know](#) and we will happily send you more information!



## DiSI Summer BIP Course

We invite COEHRE members to **apply for approx. 2-4 mobility grants** for student delegations from your institution for **this DiSI (Diversity and Social Inclusion) BIP course**.

The DiSI (Diversity and Social Inclusion) course will take place on **5-9 May 2025** in Linz, Austria and will be hosted by the University of Applied Sciences for Health Professions Upper Austria. The coordinator will be Erich Weiss. Participation will be worth 3 ICTS.

[A course abstract can be found below:](#)

The Diversity and Social Inclusion program focuses on increasing **awareness** of various **social inequalities** that stem from the diverse nature of our contemporary societies. It aims to develop **essential skills** in future educators, healthcare professionals, and social workers through an **interdisciplinary model called ICIC**, which utilizes a **blended learning approach**. This model has the potential to enhance sensitivity towards cultural, socio-economic, and health differences, as well as address the unequal distribution of social resources.

In discussions surrounding minority-majority issues, cultural differences alone do not imply unequal status. However, when cultural differences are viewed through the lens of power dynamics between majority and minority groups, they can result in peripheral status or even segregation. Socio-economic disparities are closely tied to differences in health status and access to healthcare. Vulnerable groups often face the challenge of being "invisible" due to their inability to participate in the dominant discourse language of leading institutions. Additionally, integration itself may not always be the optimal solution in every situation, and deeper reflections on this topic are necessary.

Given these considerations, future professionals in the program play a crucial role in bridging social gaps in their everyday work. Therefore, their training must place a strong emphasis on developing **socio-cultural sensitivity, intercultural communication, and cooperation skills**.

*Please contact your International Office about BIP short mobility grants before the end of February.*

## Future Activities

Do have a look at the activities organized by COEHRE and our members on [our website](#).

Are there any international activities you would like to share with our members, wait no longer and send them in to: [administration.coehre@arteveldehs.be](mailto:administration.coehre@arteveldehs.be)

## Activity in the Picture

A summer course on the **use of art and creative expression in Occupational Therapy** was organized by Filip Dejonckheere and Joke Standaert from Arteveldehogeschool, showcasing the incredible potential of art and creativity.

The course brought together a diverse group of international students who had the opportunity to meet Olga Makarenko, a psychologist from Ukraine with expertise in 'trauma informed care'. Olga, who currently works in Finland with young war refugees from her homeland, shared her valuable knowledge and experiences with the students. Given the prevalence of traumatized refugees, including young children, in the field of occupational therapy, the focus of this summer edition was on 'trauma informed care'. Olga's journey into trauma care began when the war broke out. Initially working as a psychologist with toddlers in a daycare center in Ukraine, she also had a private practice for adults. However, she felt compelled to help those affected by the war and moved to West-Ukraine. There, she volunteered at a center that provided accommodation for children refugees from the war zone in the east.

In addition to relaxation exercises, Olga utilized various creative tools to assist children in processing their emotions. For example, she encouraged them to draw their houses in a way that reflected their current mood or write messages to their hometown, which proved to be cathartic experiences. Recognising that trauma can only be addressed once individuals are no longer in the midst of stressful situation, these creative tools play a crucial role in supporting the children as they cope with the aftermath of the war.

The students were deeply moved when they were shown the drawings and letters created by the children. It brought the reality of the war closer to them and highlighted the immense power of art and creativity as therapeutic mediums.

Currently, Olga continues her work in Finland, assisting war refugees of all ages. She tailors her approach to each individual's interests, whether it be cooking, handicrafts, or music. This holistic approach aims to support the refugees in their healing journey. Many mothers who managed to escape with their children have benefited from Olga's interventions as well. She attentively listens to their needs and, through providing a secure environment and allowing time for them to become acquainted with one another, she gains their trust. Once trust has been established, various activities can commence.

Numerous activities are organized, with one such example being the assembly of aid packages to orphanages. This not only provides these women with an opportunity to contribute to those who have been left behind in Ukraine, but also serves as a platform for them to discuss the war and their personal experiences. It acts as a means for them to cope with the trauma they have endured.

Additionally, a choir was formed some time ago. Ukrainians have a deep appreciation for music and singing, as it brings relaxation to both the body and mind. The choir comprises women, men, teenagers, and children, and they have delighted in performing on more than twenty occasions.

This serves as a remarkable demonstration of the transformative power of art and creativity, which the students will carry with them into their future careers as Occupational Therapists.

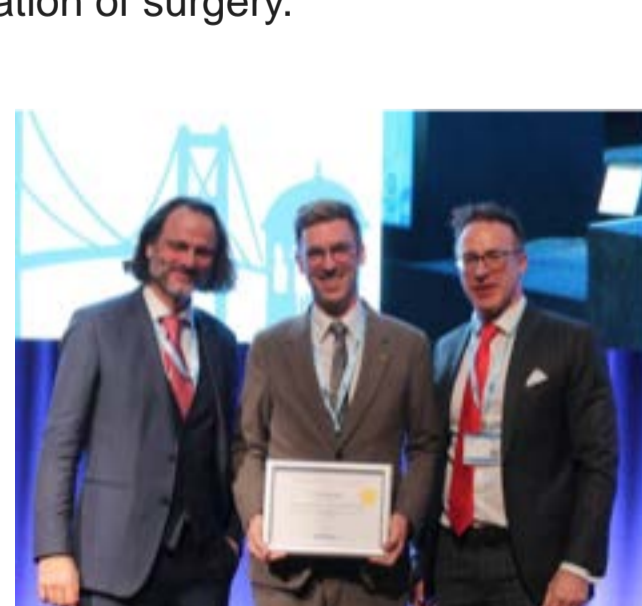
Source: Article featured in the magazine of [Destelheide](#)

*Did you organize an activity for an international public of staff or students that deserves to be in the spotlight? Do let us know! We will feature it in our newsletter.*

## Keynote Speaker Pieter De Backer

Following his keynote at the COEHRE Symposium 2023, we would like to congratulate our speaker, Surgical AI Lead at Orsi Academy, Pieter de Backer as he was honored with the Best Research Award at UROtech24 for his outstanding work in the field.

In December, Pieter was also featured in a newspaper article on the first global Surgical AI Day. A day where almost everyone involved in artificial intelligence in healthcare and image processing in surgery gathered at the Orsi Academy in Melle, Belgium. It was the first global conference on the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in surgery bringing together the crème de la crème. "This is the first step in the automation of surgery."



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