



**Osteopathy**  
Europe



**Osteopathy Europe**  
**Strategic Plan 2026-28**

# Osteopathy Europe

## Strategic Plan 2026–28

### Introduction

The Osteopathy Europe (OE) Strategic Plan for the three year period 2026-8 was developed by the OE Board to follow from the 2023-6 plan.

In the previous plan period, the following advances were made in support of the membership, and towards the long term goal of universal recognition of and access to osteopathy across Europe, with universal regulation and harmonisation of standards and right to practice across borders.

### Evidence informed practice

- OE Research Committee established and working well, focussed on supporting member associations across a range of needs
- Collaboration opened up with COME
- Europe wide PROMs platform used by many members
- Generated a range of clinical CPD webinars, online meetings and Social Media (SOME) content to support members' communities

### Education

- OE Education Policy developed, outlining principles of good education
- Engaged with international stakeholders, such as OsEAN, to collaborate on quality development
- OE representative now embedded in Danish regulator (PSA)
- Driven scope and approach to CEN review 2026/7

### Communications

- Dynamic social media campaigns focussed on benefits of conformity in regulation of osteopathy, supporting the OE Mission, Vision and role of the OE
- Improved web platform supporting members' needs

### Community

- OE Community has strengthened, with stronger engagement through committees, Board support, and increasing contact between members. The value of membership lies in the strength of the community we have become
- Committees have become a key asset to community collaboration, with better developed agendas and leadership

- Strong and responsive Board engagement with members
- Two annual conferences supplemented by regular online Member Network Meetings add to frequency of contact and mutual commitment
- Membership continues to grow, with members also outside Europe finding the OE community beneficial to join
- Osteopathy Europe rebrand has worked well
- OE liaison with OIA stronger, with three OE Board members on the OIA Board

## The OE Mission and Vision

The OE Mission and Vision remain unchanged in this new strategic plan period.

### The OE Mission

The mission (purpose) of Osteopathy Europe is to act as the unified voice of osteopathy in Europe, supporting the regulation, recognition and integration of the profession as primary healthcare providers within health services and patient care.

We do this by:

- supporting members with guidance and advice across key areas of promotion, regulatory recognition, evidence and research, education and practice standards, and governance and organisation development
- promoting and developing high standards of education and practice
- acting as a strong network of engaged member associations

### The OE Vision

The long term objective (Vision) of Osteopathy Europe is the universal recognition of and access to osteopathy by society, regulation of the profession across all countries in Europe, and harmonisation of standards and right to practice across borders.

## Strategic Priorities 2026–28

The strategic priorities provide the framework around which the work of the OE, the OE Committees and the members can be coordinated.

These key priorities were identified as key pieces of work to address particular areas of challenge for the profession in Europe, and for the OE as an organisation of associations of professional osteopaths.

The key priorities are:

### I. Strengthen alignment (standards, education, regulation)

Standards of many areas of osteopathy vary from country to country depending on local practice, state of regulation and recognition, and the relationship with the national health system. We seek to ensure that the quality of osteopathic education and care continues to develop consistently across Europe.

The CEN Review will be supported by an in-depth study into osteopathic identity, and a more detailed Education statement defining the principles of education that delivers good and safe osteopaths. We will seek to work with other interested international parties, such as the OIA, the WHO, and other health professions. We will also look to providing improved support to members working towards regulation by a more detailed focus on types of regulation, and the many different approaches to gaining (and retaining) regulation.

### II. Support and promote best practice

The gathering and use of evidence to support professional judgment and patient need in osteopathic practice is seen to be critical to the continuing development of osteopathic practice, as well as the drive for broader government recognition and regulation.

We will look to promote and share best practice across the OE community, particularly in areas such as knowledge based practice. Our research agenda will include PROMs, paediatrics, and the deployment of a Delphi study to understand and shape a common definition of Osteopathic Identity, which has been a common demand from the OE membership.

### III. Build stronger engaged community

Osteopathic Europe is an umbrella organisation of professional associations of osteopathy, and its strength and purpose as an organisation relies on understanding and supporting the needs of the member associations, as well as providing a collaboration space for members to work with and engage with each other.

We will seek to retain the loyalty of our members by supporting programmes for regulation and recognition with more detailed and granular support, and work with members to identify areas in which the OE can support their member

communities, We will look to grow the membership of the OE by inviting other countries to join the OE community, and bringing more regulators and voluntary registers on board.

#### IV. CEN Review 2026–8

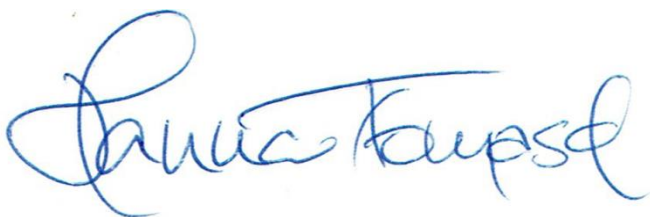
One of the important assets of the profession is the development of the European CEN standard for osteopathy, originally published in 2015 by the *Comité Européen de Normalisation*. This standard has been a key instrument supporting the regulation of osteopathy in a number of countries, and the next review period for this standard is a key opportunity to evolve the standard to support the goals of the OE and its membership.

With the approval of the membership, the CEN review will commence in 2026 with the Delphi survey of Osteopathic Identity to inform the areas of change required. While this survey is expected to take some two years to completion, the initial results at the end of 2026 will be used to inform the CEN review framework, which will therefore commence in 2027. We expect this to complete by 2028.

#### V. Engaging stakeholders

Working with other interested parties in international health will be key to expanding the sphere of recognition and influence for osteopathy and the OE. We will identify and seek to engage with a range of other international health based organisations, such as the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA), and the WHO.

We will also look to collaborate with other international osteopathic groups, such as the OIA and OsEAN, as well as state accredited educators, across the range of development programmes.



Hanna Tómasdóttir  
President