

50 Years of History

Greece

Name/s of organisation: HELLAS-OMPT

Year organisation started: 2010

Member of IFOMPT since: 2005 (as the Hellenic Manual Therapy Association)

Key influencers of OMPT through the years: In 1993, Freddy Kaltenborn taught in Greece which introduced standardized MT techniques across the nation. Pioneers such as Palina Karakasidou, Angelos Stavropoulos, Georgios Rogdakis, Petros Stavroulakis, Georgios Chatzis and Kostas Sakellariou adopted these methods in clinical practice; some introduced MT to undergraduate programs in Athens and Thessaloniki and established postgraduate educational programs to advance OMPT in Greece. The evolution was further influenced by Greek practitioners trained in Australia and the UK, who introduced the Maitland concept, a therapeutic framework that prioritizes clinical reasoning in managing musculoskeletal disorders. This knowledge diversification has greatly enriched the Greek OMPT curriculums.

Development over the years: Hellas-OMT was established in 2010. This organization is a merger of two programs, the Hellenic Manual Therapy Association (2004), and the Association of Manipulative Physiotherapists of Greece (AMPG, 2007). The organization expanded by recognizing the Hellenic OMT eDu (H-OMT.eDu) (2014) as an equal member. Today, OMT-Greece, AMPG, and H-OMT.eDu serve as the sole providers of IFOMPT-certified educational programs in MT, with a fourth member to be added to further enrich the training opportunities.

Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years: Since its formation, Hellas-OMT has navigated a path of organizational changes and challenges integrating different organizational cultures and visions. These internal disputes occasionally threatened stability but have served as important catalysts for organizational growth and improvement in implementation of educational programs. This adaptive approach exemplifies Hellas-OMT's dedication to continual growth and enhancement of the scope and quality of MT education in Greece.

Current status and challenges: Hellas-OMT currently stands as a robust entity and is dedicated to maintaining the highest educational standards. Despite our achievements, Hellas-OMT faces ongoing challenges in integrating the newest member organization to maintain cohesion within its framework. Adapting to the latest advancements in MT and ensuring that all programs continuously meet evolving IFOMPT standards present ongoing challenges. Another focus is on expanding the reach and recognition of these programs within the broader Greek healthcare system to attract more practitioners and resources, thereby enhancing the professional opportunities and recognition for specialized musculoskeletal physiotherapists.

The future of the organisation: The future of Hellas-OMT is on a promising and dynamic trajectory. We are actively advocating for better payment structures for specialized MSK physiotherapists, to elevate the profession's stature and attract more practitioners to this specialized field. Strengthening education by integrating the latest research and practices in MT is another priority to keep Greek physiotherapists at the cutting edge of the field.
