



European  
Council of  
Optometry  
and Optics



# **THE VOICE OF OPTICIANS AND OPTOMETRISTS IN EUROPE**



ECOO General Assembly (Prague, October 2017)

## ECOO: what ECOO can do for you

Driven by its overarching goal to improve vision and eye health by providing high-quality, cost-effective optometric and optical services across Europe, the European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) represents the interests of optometrists and opticians from 25 countries. ECOO aims to promote eye health to the public across borders and to harmonise clinical and educational standards of optometric and optical practice throughout Europe.

Its over 40 member organisations together represent more than 150,000 opticians and optometrists across Europe. ECOO is the only European umbrella association that brings together the interests of the professions to speak with one voice. With its Europe-wide reach and representation in Brussels, ECOO is the most influential optical and optometric body in Europe.

## Our vision

To improve vision and eye health by providing high-quality, cost-effective optometric and optical services across Europe.

## Our Mission

- *To improve eye health and vision for all and eliminate avoidable blindness and visual impairment in Europe.*
- *To create a harmonised professional and educational system for optometry and optics based on the European Diploma in Optometry and the European Qualification in Optics.*
- *To develop the scope of practice for optometrists and opticians to the degree that the same high standards apply and are mutually recognised in all European countries.*

## European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO)

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## ECOO actively represents its members on key issues and provides a range of services, including:

- ❑ Offering a platform for the exchange of **information** among members during the General Assembly meetings twice a year. Information on the various national and EU activities is also shared with members in between meetings.
- ❑ Supporting members in their national **advocacy** activities including for example pursuing to recognition of the profession or expanding the scope of practice. ECOO provides information and evidence form across Europe, joins meetings and issues supporting letters.
- ❑ **Influencing** various EU-level legislative and non-legislative initiatives to ensure the interests of the professions are represented. Examples include ensuring that plano-contact lenses fall within the medical devices directive, the classification of fluorescein at technical level is well-informed and advocating for appropriate vision tests in the driving licence directive.
- ❑ **Responding** to public consultations launched by the European Commission ensuring the interests of ECOO members are reflected in matters such as e-health or the recognition of professional qualifications.
- ❑ Establishing an **accreditation** process for the European Diploma in Optometry and the European Qualifications in Optics with educational institutions being accredited on an ongoing basis.
- ❑ **Cooperation** with other stakeholders in the vision field to promote vision related matters with a common voice in the sector, for instance on the occasion of World Sight Day.



### Accreditation

The **European Diploma in Optometry** has become the gold standard across Europe, with a growing number of graduates and an expanding network of accredited educational institutions, including the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Hochschule für Technik, Institut für Optometrie (Olten, Switzerland), University College of Southeast Norway, Beuth University (Berlin, Germany), and the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (Netherlands). The **European Qualification in Optics** has been launched with the OHI (Optometrie & Hörakustik Initiative) in Vienna (Austria) being the first accredited school.