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## PRESS RELEASE

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### ECOO publishes Blue Book 2017

*The latest data on the professions of optometry and optics in Europe*

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8 May 2017

**The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) is delighted to announce the publication of its third edition of the Blue Book. The Blue Book is a valuable aggregation of data on the professions of optometry and optics in countries across Europe. It is the only publicly available compilation of data that offers a comparative and comprehensive view on these two professional groups across 30 countries. Information is gathered through surveys filled in by ECOO members and partners.**

The Blue Book showcases the unique profile of each country and at the same time visualises the scattered professional landscape throughout Europe. The varied scope of practice of opticians and optometrists in Europe is the result of the training available, the applicable law, the organisation of the professions, their independence, relative size and political weight.

*“This picture supports the mission of ECOO 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. This enables professionals to move to another country and practice their profession and at the same time responds to today’s primary health care needs”* says Peter Gumpelmayer, ECOO President

With the rising cost of medical care and decline of the number of ophthalmologists in some countries of Europe, we see a trend that primary eye health care is transferred increasingly to optometrists and opticians.

This development is also supported by the data in this Blue Book. Since the last edition in 2015, the number of opticians and optometrists in Europe increased in many countries and we also see an increase in the number of students qualifying. In this context, ECOO is pleased that increasingly more universities are being accredited with the ECOO European Diploma in Optometry and the Qualification in Optics, which contributes to this positive development.

*“The previous edition of the Blue Book has proven to be a valuable source of information for many stakeholders, academics and institutions. To continue informing about the professional landscape and to provide input to policy developments at EU and national level, ECOO is pleased to present an updated version of the Blue Book, which now covers 30 countries and is the only compilation of data of its kind in Europe.”* says Fabienne Eckert, Secretary General of ECOO.

The Blue Book may be viewed and downloaded on the ECOO website: [www.ecoo.info](http://www.ecoo.info). Click [here](#) for the direct link.

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## **Notes to the editor**

### About ECOO:

The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) is the European organisation which represents the interests of optometrists and opticians from 25 countries. It aims to promote eye health to the public across borders and to harmonise clinical and educational standards of optometric and optical practice throughout Europe.

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