

The ECOO European Diploma in Optometry and Qualification in Optics

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ECOO – Immediate Past President

About ECOO

European umbrella association, representing the interests of Opticians and Optometrists 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 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 Diploma in Optometry (EDO)

- Designed to be at the highest entry level into the optometric profession in any country of Europe

“Gold Standard”



“Gold standard” – what does that mean?

- The EDO is designed to be at the **highest entry level into the optometric profession in any country of Europe.**
- EDO is set at **least at the Bachelor level** in European Higher Education or equivalent.
- It provides a qualification appropriate for Optometric practice at **Category 3 of the World Council of Optometry’s four categories model.**

WCO Categories of Optometric Services

1.
Optical
Technology
Servicesx

2.
Visual
Function
Services

3.
Ocular
Diagnostic
Services

a) without drugs b) with drugs

4.
Ocular
Therapeutic
Services

dispensing

dispensing
refraction
Prescription
Recognition of
abnormality

dispensing
refraction
Prescription
Recognition of
abnormality
Diagnosis and
management
of eye disease

dispensing
refraction
prescription
Diagnosis and
management
of eye disease
using DPA's
(diagnostics)

dispensing
refraction
prescription
Diagnosis and management
of eye disease using DPA's
(diagnostics)
treatment of eye disease
using TPA's (therapeutics)

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Scope of Practice of Optometry

Box 1
Turkey

Box 2
Belgium
France
Iceland
Italy

Box 3
Austria
Czech Rep
Denmark
Germany
Spain

Box 4
Finland
Ireland
Netherlands
Norway
Sweden
Switzerland*

Box 5
Australia
Canada
Colombia
New Zealand
Nigeria
UK
US

OPTICIAN
dispensing

REFRACTING OPTICIAN
dispensing
refraction prescription

OPTOMETRIST
dispensing
refraction
prescription
screening for eye disease

OPTOMETRIST
dispensing
refraction
prescription
diagnosis of eye disease using DPA's (diagnostics)
** Diagnostics not legal*

OPTOMETRIST DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY
Dispensing refraction
prescription
diagnosis of eye disease
using DPA's (diagnostics)
treatment of eye disease using TPA's (therapeutics)

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Structure of the EDO

- The EDO is divided into four parts
 - Part A: Optics and Optical Appliances
 - Part B: Clinical Investigation and Management
 - Part C: Biological and Medical Sciences
 - Part D: Integral Competencies (Communication & Professional Conduct)
- In addition, there is a Portfolio of Clinical Experience that needs to be presented.

Structure of the EDO - Portfolio

- The Clinical Portfolio
 - 130 Cases
 - 20 detailed Cases
 - 5 Primary Eye care, including 1 LV, 2 BV, 1 Paedriatic
 - 5 Contact Lenses, including one RGP case
 - 5 Dispensing Cases – Challenging ones
 - 5 Abnormal Ocular Conditions – Referalls

EDO accreditation system

- The accreditation is a competency and outcomes-based process.
- Language of accreditation: English
- Self-assessment form filled-in by applicant University
- A preliminary visit is scheduled to ensure full understanding of the course and to clarify any questions.
- The visitors will then carry out an in-depth examination on the occasion of a second visit.

EDO Accreditation

- **Fully accredited:**

- University College of Southeast Norway
- Beuth University, Berlin, Germany
- University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, the Netherlands
- Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Hochschule für Technik, Institut für Optometrie, Olten, Switzerland

- **Upcoming:**

- Karolinska Institute, Sweden

Partially accredited:

- Palacky University in the Czech Republic.

EDO in numbers

- 408 EDO diplomats to date

European Diploma Graduates by Institution

EDO in numbers

- Average of 60-65 new Diplomats per year, tendency growing

Number of EDO graduates over the years

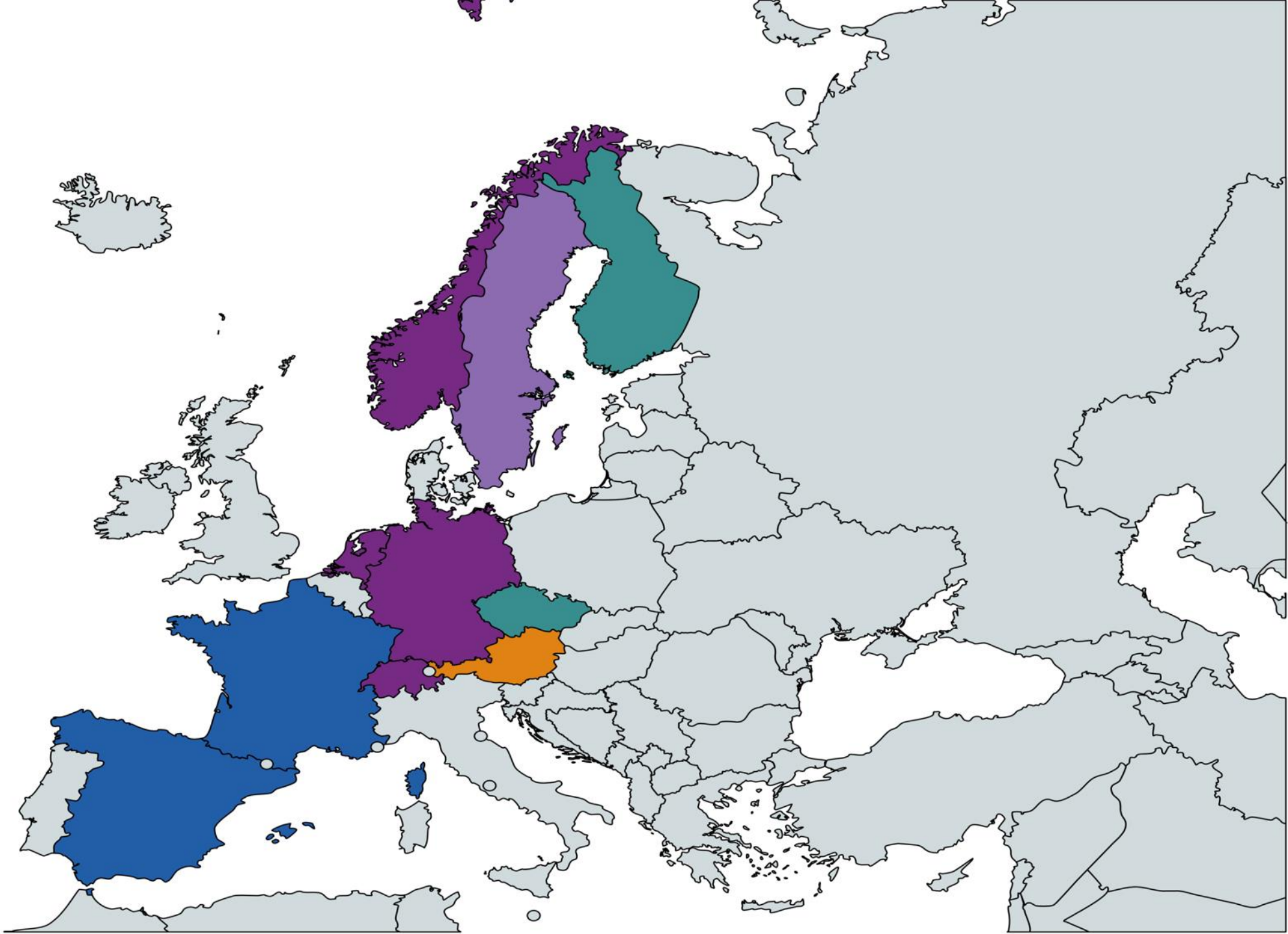


Ongoing EDO Accreditations:

Ongoing or upcoming accreditation process with Universities in:

- Germany
- France
- Finland
- Spain

- In EDO accreditation process
- Fully Accredited with EDO
- Upcoming full accreditation with EDO
- Partially accredited with the EDO
- Upcoming EQO accreditation



Value of the EDO

- Prestige
- Competency level
- Harmonisation
- Facilitated work across Europe:
 - UK recognises the EDO (reserves right to check Diploma)
 - Switzerland recognized the EDO
 - Norway, allows fast track recognition

European Qualifications in Optics (EQO)

- Entry standard for optics at a European level
- Competency framework has been developed with reference to Part A of the EDO
- It is envisaged that this qualification would allow exemption from Part A of the EDO.
- The framework has been designed to be similar to the WCO competency framework at category 1

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**Diagnosis and
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refraction
prescription
**Diagnosis and
management
of eye disease
using DPA's
(diagnostics)**

dispensing
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prescription
Diagnosis and management
of eye disease using DPA's
(diagnostics)
**treatment of eye disease
using TPA's (therapeutics)**

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Structure of the EQO

- The EQO is composed of three parts:
 - Part A Optics
 - Part B Background Knowledge
 - Part C Skills and Attitudes
- In addition, a Portfolio of Optics Experience needs to be presented.

EQO accreditation system

- Self-assessment form
- Series of visits by the accreditation panel to assess the competences of the graduates.

First accreditation upcoming:

- OHI Vienna (pilot)

Other universities already expressed interest.

Future outlook

- ECOO's aim is to have at least one accredited university in each European country.
- Firmly establish the EDO and EQO as the recognised standards in Europe.
- In the interest of harmonisation, the overarching objective is to achieve full recognition of the EDO and the EQO in Europe.

Contact

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