

NEWS FROM THE ECOO ACCREDITATION AGENCY

NEW GRADUATES, RENEWED STANDARDS: PROGRESS IN ACCREDITATION AND GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

October 2025

New Graduates

As 2025 enters its final months, ECOO celebrates 56 new holders of the European Diploma in Optometry (EDO) this year. The total number of EDO graduates is now 734, alongside which, 111 professionals hold the European Qualifications in Optics (EQO).



ECOO President Gabriëlle Janssen with Diplomats from Utrecht

This year's EDO graduates completed their studies from Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Hochschule für Technik, Institut für Optometrie (Olten, Switzerland); the University of South-Eastern Norway (Kongsberg, Norway); the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (the Netherlands); and Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Helsinki, Finland).

To mark these milestones ECOO Treasurer Peter Gumpelmayer attended the graduation ceremony in Olten, while ECOO President Gabriëlle Janssen represented ECOO in Utrecht. Both took the opportunity to congratulate graduates and recognise the institutions' ongoing

commitment to educational excellence.

Upcoming Accreditation Visits

These accomplishments reflect the continued growth and excellence of optometric education through ECOO's accreditation and qualification activities.

A re-accreditation visit for the EDO accredited programme at Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz in Olten, Switzerland, took place in late September and early October 2025. Next will be a re-accreditation visit for the European Qualification in Optics programme at OHI Vienna, scheduled for March 2026. Several other accreditations and re-accreditations are also currently underway across Europe, signalling a busy year ahead.

Review of the EDO Syllabus and Practical Competencies

Another key development has been the mapping of the EDO knowledge base and clinical and practical competencies against the new World Council of Optometry (WCO) Competency Framework for Optometry, which is now completed. The revisions incorporate key insights from two surveys conducted in 2022 on the relevance of the EDO syllabus and competencies.

The revised [EDO syllabus and clinical/practical competencies](#) are available on the ECOO website and will take effect from January 2026 for all new accreditation and re-accreditation activities. ECOO has also published [a position paper](#) confirming that the EDO is fully aligned with the WCO Competency Framework, reinforcing its role as a benchmark qualification for the profession in Europe and beyond.

To further support institutions a new [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section has been added to our website, offering practical information for those new to ECOO's accreditation process.

Consortium Sessions for Optometric Educators

We continue to arrange optometric educators' consortium online sessions for those interested in working on the harmonisation of optometric education in Europe to discuss key topics and challenges. The next is planned for 14 November 2025 at 11.15 CET, focussed on the

training of clinical supervisors and staff teaching on methods of examination of posterior eye. Please complete this [registration form](#) for attendance.

EDO Diplomat Award 2026

Finally, we are delighted to announce the [EDO Diplomat Award](#) for the 17th Annual European Academy of Optometry and Optics (EAOO) Conference, which will take place in Riga, Latvia, from 15–17 May 2026. The award offers free registration, €700 towards travel and accommodation, and a one-year EAOO membership to one EDO graduate. Applications are open until 15 December 2025, with the winner to be announced in January 2026.



Peter Gumpelmayer with Diplomats from Olten

ABOUT THE ECOO ACCREDITATION AGENCY

ECOO has developed the European Diploma in Optometry (EDO) and European Qualification in Optics (EQO) as a syllabi and competency frameworks, and operates an accreditation scheme for institutions to benchmark against this framework. The Accreditation Agency has been set up to run this accreditation work.

To find out more about this work visit:

<https://ecoo.info/ecoo-accreditation-agency/>