

## ECOO MEMBER ARTICLE



### *Lithuanian Optometrists Association*

#### **STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION AND BUILDING EUROPEAN COOPERATION**

The Lithuanian Optometrists Association (LOA) is the only professional body representing optometrists in Lithuania. Established in 2006, it unites professionals, advocates for their interests, and contributes to the development of high-quality eye and vision care in the country.

Currently, Lithuania has 235 licensed optometrists, of whom 162 are members of LOA. Membership is open to both practicing professionals and optometry students. The association fosters professional solidarity, continuous learning, and collaboration within the national optometry community.

Since 2018, LOA has been led by Vaida Kačergienė, under whose leadership the association has strengthened its role within the

national healthcare system and expanded its professional development activities. LOA regularly organizes seminars, conferences, and training sessions to enhance professional competence and ethical standards.

The optometry profession in Lithuania was officially recognized as a healthcare profession in 2018, and the Code of Professional Ethics for Optometrists was adopted in 2019, ensuring higher practice standards and professional accountability.

LOA actively seeks to strengthen ties with European partners. This is why the association initiated the process of joining the European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) Our aim is to foster closer cooperation and active participation in Europe-wide professional initiatives.

The key objectives related to ECOO collaboration include:

- ensuring that Lithuanian optometrists operate in line with European professional standards;
- promoting professional integration and knowledge exchange;
- contributing to the development of unified education and qualification frameworks;
- implementing best European practices within Lithuania's optometry system.

By joining ECOO, the Lithuanian Optometrists Association aims to further advance national optometric practice, strengthen

professional identity, and actively contribute to the growth and development of the European optometry community. We were delighted that ECOO members unanimously voted in favour of our application at the ECOO General Assembly on 19 October 2025 and we look forward to working with all our fellow ECOO members in the coming years.

**Key message:**

By joining ECOO, the Lithuanian Optometrists Association aims to strengthen professional cooperation, align national standards with European practices, and contribute to the advancement of optometry across Europe.

*November 2025*



*Rasa Palevičienė and Vaida Kačergienė at the ECOO General Assembly.*

## ABOUT ECOO

The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) represents the interests of optometrists and opticians across Europe. Our members are national professional associations from 27 countries who together represent more than 200,000 opticians and optometrists. 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.