

NEWS FROM THE ECOO ACCREDITATION AGENCY

University of Latvia granted full EDO Accreditation

June 2026

The ECOO Accreditation Agency is pleased to announce that the University of Latvia has been granted full accreditation for the European Diploma in Optometry (EDO), following approval by the ECOO European Qualifications Board and Executive Committee during the Spring Meetings held in Riga on 14 May 2026.

This marks a significant milestone for the University and reflects the substantial progress made in strengthening optometric education in the region.



ECOO Accreditation Agency Co-Chair Prof Julie-Anne Little and the first graduate with the European Diploma in Optometry from the University of Latvia, Baiba Balode.

FHNW in Olten Switzerland re-accredited for a further five years

The re-accreditation visit to the optometry programme at Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz in Olten, Switzerland resulted in a positive outcome, with the programme being re-accredited for a further five years under the European Diploma in Optometry framework.

The decision reflects the programme's continued high standards and ongoing commitment to quality optometric education, while also identifying a small number of areas for further development.

Positive progress in Moldova and continuity of European development initiatives

An accreditation visit to Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy highlighted the considerable progress being made in the development of optometry education in Moldova.

The Bachelor of Optometry programme was launched in 2017, initially as a four-year degree and more recently restructured into a three-year programme. A Master of Optometry course was introduced in 2022. Despite its relatively short history, optometry is a recognised

healthcare discipline in the Republic of Moldova.

This work represents a direct continuation of the Erasmus+ initiative in which ECOO participated several years ago under the leadership of University College of Southeast Norway, which helped to establish and support early development of optometry education in the country.

More recently, the programme has also benefited from World Bank funding, which has provided additional support for its ongoing accreditation and development activities.

Continued Progress Across Europe

ECOO continues to work closely with a number of institutions across Europe as they progress towards full European Diploma in Optometry accreditation.

Ongoing collaboration and engagement demonstrate a shared commitment to advancing educational quality and professional standards. This includes constructive progress at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Spain, where continued work with the accreditation Panel is supporting the programme in moving towards full compliance with EDO requirements, alongside several other programmes showing encouraging development and strong potential for future accreditation.

ECOO Becomes Affiliate Member of ENQA

ECOO is also pleased to confirm its new status as an affiliate member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

ENQA is the European umbrella organisation for quality assurance agencies in higher education, promoting cooperation, development, and alignment with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG). ECOO's affiliation represents an important step in strengthening the international recognition and credibility of its accreditation work, reinforcing its commitment to transparent, consistent and high-quality evaluation processes across optometric education in Europe.



ENQA former President Douglas Blackstock and Fabienne Eckert, ECOO Secretary General at the ENQA General Assembly in Brussels, October 2025.

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 and to discuss key topics and challenges. The next session is planned for September.

Information Session for Prospective Education Visitors

Following ECOO's recent call for new Education Visitors to support its accreditation activities, we are hosting an informal online information session for prospective applicants on Thursday 4 June at 5.00 pm (UK time).

During the session, current Education Visitors will share their experiences of participating in

accreditation panels that visit universities across Europe to assess optometry programmes against the standards of the European Diploma in Optometry. The event will provide an opportunity to learn more about the role, the accreditation process, and the impact Education Visitors have in supporting high standards in optometric education.

Please email accreditation@ecoo.info if you would like a zoom link to participate.

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/>