EDORTH - the project

The European Diploma for Orthoptists was developed by an Erasmus+ funded project group. Its members were all Orthoptists working at institutions across Europe which offer an Orthoptic Programme. Involved in the development of EDORTH were also other members of the Education Committee of the OCE from another 4 European countries as well as experts from further countries in Europe.

OCE

The Orthoptistes de la Communauté Européenne (OCE) is the representative professional body in the EU and spokesperson for the orthoptic profession on European topics. The OCE was founded to collate and to provide the European authorities, the member states and the individual orthoptists with up to date information on the state of orthoptics in the various EU countries.

The aim of the project was to reach a common high standard of Orthoptic Education in Europe. The need to harmonise education was identified as a prerequisite to enable mobility of Orthoptists across Europe.

Survey of Orthoptic Education in Europe

In the first phase of the EDORTH project, a survey of current orthoptics programmes in Europe was conducted. 45 training institutions at vocational school, polytechnic and university level from a total of 12 EU countries participated in this survey in 2019. This provides an overview of the nature and level of qualifications and aspects of delivery of orthoptic education across all countries in Europe that qualify orthoptists. Details are available on the OCE website.

European Competence Profile

In phase 2, contribution of experts from 12 countries, some with predominantly clinical work experience, others with predominantly academic teaching experience, enabled the project group to produce a competence profile for orthoptics in Europe. This sets out knowledge, skills and competences graded by level of proficiency that would be expected of an orthoptist working or seeking employment in a European country. The document can be viewed on the OCE website - attached is the QR code that leads directly to the document.

EDORTH Learning platform - CANVAS

Online learning packages were developed based on the findings from phase 1 and the competency profile and level of proficiency expectations determined in phase 2. Learning content not taught or required at the necessary high level in some countries, but deemed important by the experts in phase 2 were included. As learning platform we have choosen Free CANVAS. All content of the CANVAS course is open access and will be available to orthoptists on request from March 2022.

The platform is quite extensive. Documents, videos, links can be uploaded, but tests and quizzes can be added. The course is taken self-directed, which means that there will be no classes taught by an instructor. However, participants can reach out to each other. There is a possibility to open a discussion forum, so users can communicate as well as learn from and with each other. The course contains 6 topics: optics, visual and binocular functions, eye movement disorders, neuro-ophthalmology, management of strabismus and amblyopia, ophthalmic diseases and the exam. The topics point out learning objectives and contain lesson plans including learning materials, literature references and recommendations, quizzes, videos and links to the internet. Learning with CANVAS is self-structured, independent of time and place. When the participant is ready to take the exam, he or she can register to take it.

Whether you get access to the platform lies with the OCE. This course is made for qualified orthoptists. It is possible to link anyone to it, but OCE would like to check that the person has the background of an orthoptist. To enquire, mail to Europeandiploma@euro-orthoptics.com

Testimonial

> *By collaborating with multiple experts in different fields of our specialty, we have developed a complete question bank that prepares applicants for the EDORTH exams. Self-assessment resources also include multiple-choice questions which simulate the exam, these will be updated and expanded progressively. I expect EDORTH to become a recognised qualification by employers and authorities.*

Agneta Rydberg
Coordinator EDORTH, Associate professor, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

EDORTH – the examination

An online examination resource with multiple-choice questions (MCQ) forms the basis of the European Diploma. Upon passing this exam, one is eligible to receive the diploma as a certificate from the OCE.

It is advisable to be comfortable and familiar with the use of your computer. You also need a good level of English reading comprehension and knowledge of specific terminology. The online exam will be held for the first time in the first week of November 2022. Thereafter, it will be possible to take the exam in the first weeks of March and November each year. Applications will open on February 1st and close on May 31st of each year. Please ensure that you apply on time, late application requests will not be considered.

Candidates must commit to an exam day no later than 1 week before the exam week – this means in the last week of February or the last week of October respectively. The time frame on the exam day can be individually chosen to suit the candidate.

Please ensure you read the eligibility criteria in advance of completing your application. If you are unsure about your eligibility please contact Europeandiploma@euro-orthoptics.com before submitting an application.

If you plan to take the exam, please consider where you will take the exam: that there is adequate broadband internet, it is quiet and you will be undisturbed for the duration of the exam. A Windows 10 or a compatible Apple operating system should be adequate. Ideally you should use Google Chrome as your browser. Firefox or Microsoft edge will also work, but might be less stable.

From a question bank 60 MCQ's will be given with 90min time to answer them, 120min respectively if the applicant is not a native English speaker. There will be no option to go back to a previous question. Aids like books or personal notes are permitted. However, the time for answering the MCQ's is tightly calculated. It is advisable not to rely on reading up during the exam because it is likely that you will not have sufficient time to then answer all questions.

The outcome of the exam will be emailed to the candidate within 2 weeks after the exam. If the exam was passed, a certificate will be issued by the OCE and posted. Unsuccessful candidates may repeat the exam a maximum of two times. A new registration for the repeat exam is necessary.

Application

Please ensure that you apply on time and supply all necessary proof of eligibility. Late or incomplete application requests can not be considered.
Applications open on February 1st and close on May 31st each year.
You need to provide:
- Personal data including:
  - full name
  - date of birth,
  - place of birth
  - current full postal address
  - email address
  - personal identification (i.e. Passport, national ID card)
- Proof of qualification stating the institution, where this was achieved

Please note it is very important to respond to all email correspondence regarding the exam without delay. In the event of delayed responses, we may be forced to cancel your application.

Data protection

We are committed to ensuring protection of all personal information that we hold and to provide and protect all such data in full agreement with the EU General Data Protection Regulation as came into force on May 25th 2018.
Data is collected solely for the purpose of processing your application, ensuring that you are eligible to gain access to EDORTH resources and to receive an EDORTH certificate. All data are securely managed by the OCE.

Costs

- The fee to sit the 2022 EDORTH online exams is approx. €180 and is non-refundable and non-transferable. Please ensure that you are eligible and available to sit the 2022 EDORTH online exams before applying, as **no refunds/transfers will be processed.**
- The EDORTH 2022 exam is published in English only. Please ensure that your understanding of English is at an acceptable level to sit this exam as no alternatives are available.

Exam Eligibility

Any qualified Orthoptist is eligible to take the exam. They must have fully qualified at the time of application. Membership of a national association is not mandatory.