Optometry in Lithuania

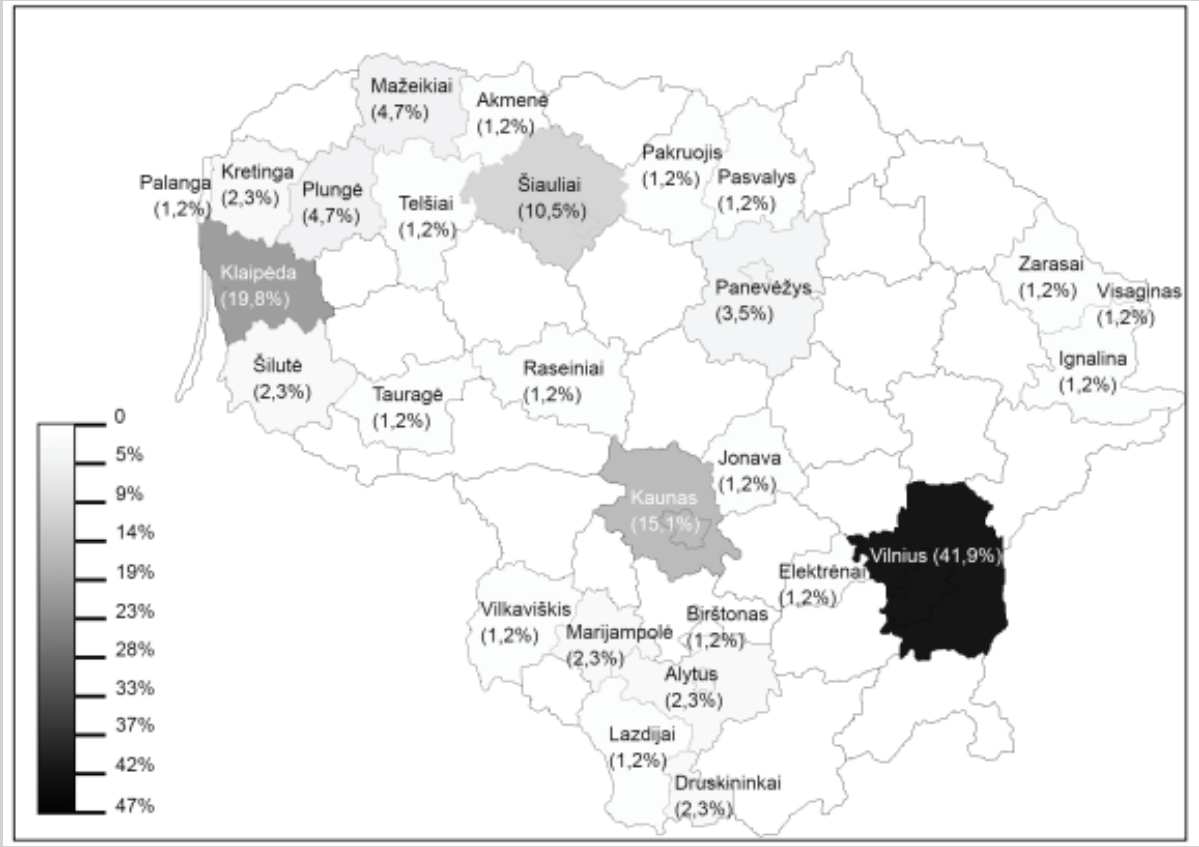
Chief optometrist N. Martinkienė

Topicality

Data from the World Health Organization suggests there are at least 2.2 billion people around the world who have a vision impairment, of whom at least 1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or treated.

Topicality

The need for ophthalmologists and optometrists is also growing in Lithuania, with about 300 optometrists per 2,8 million of inhabitants.



Distribution of the provision of optometric maintenance services in Lithuanian municipalities. https://sm-hs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SM-HS_295_68-73.pdf

History Optometry in Lithuania

ŠIAULIŲ UNIVERSITETAS

Šiauliai University since 2003. Until 2018 has trained about 300 optometrists

2003

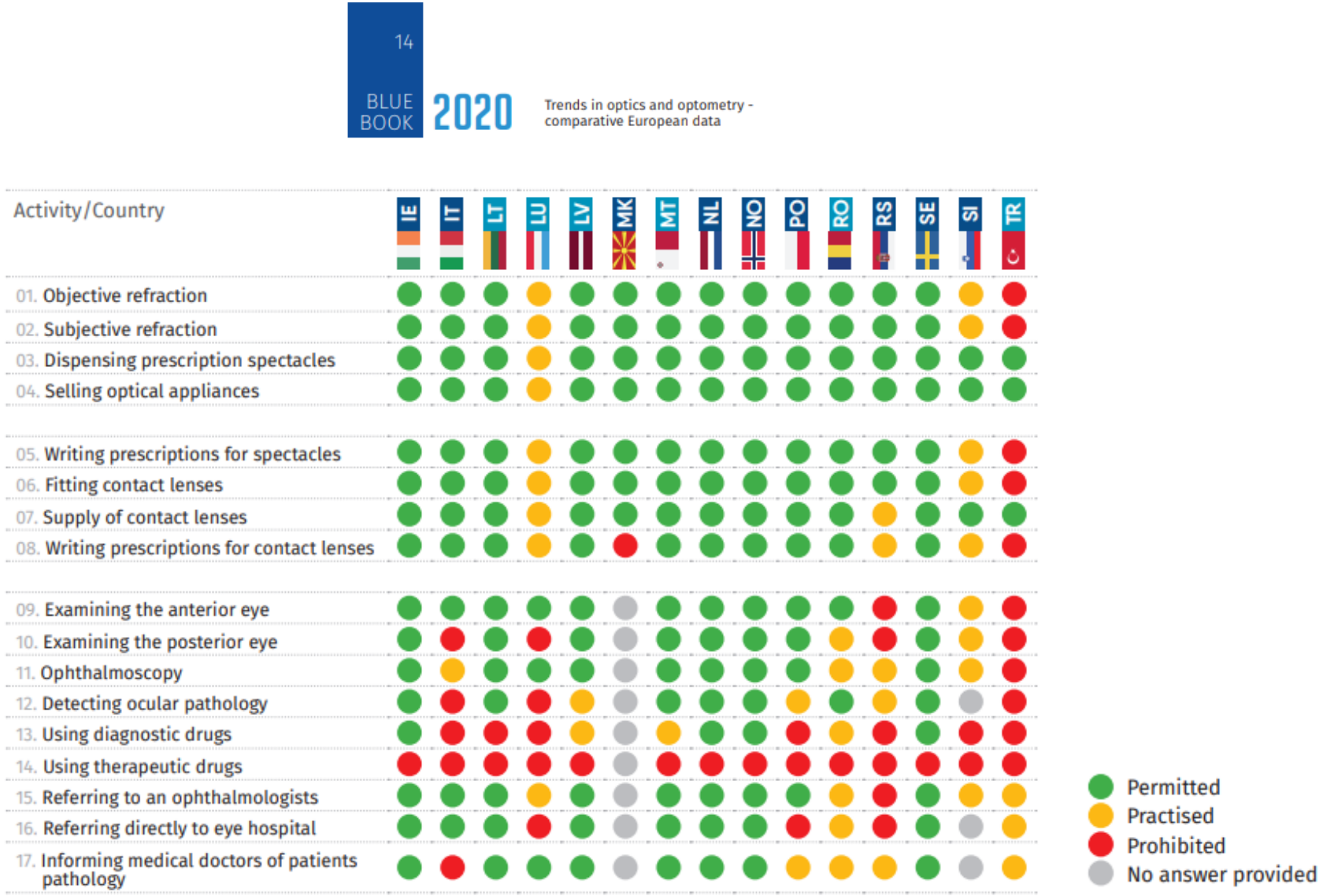
2018

Only in 2018, by order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania, was approved Lithuanian medical standard MN 166:2018 which officially confirmed the status of an optometrist as a medical professional

2020

In 2020, an improved program "Optometry" was opened at the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University. Program developed in accordance with the recommendations of the European Council on Optics and Optometry (ECOO).

Scope of practice across Europe



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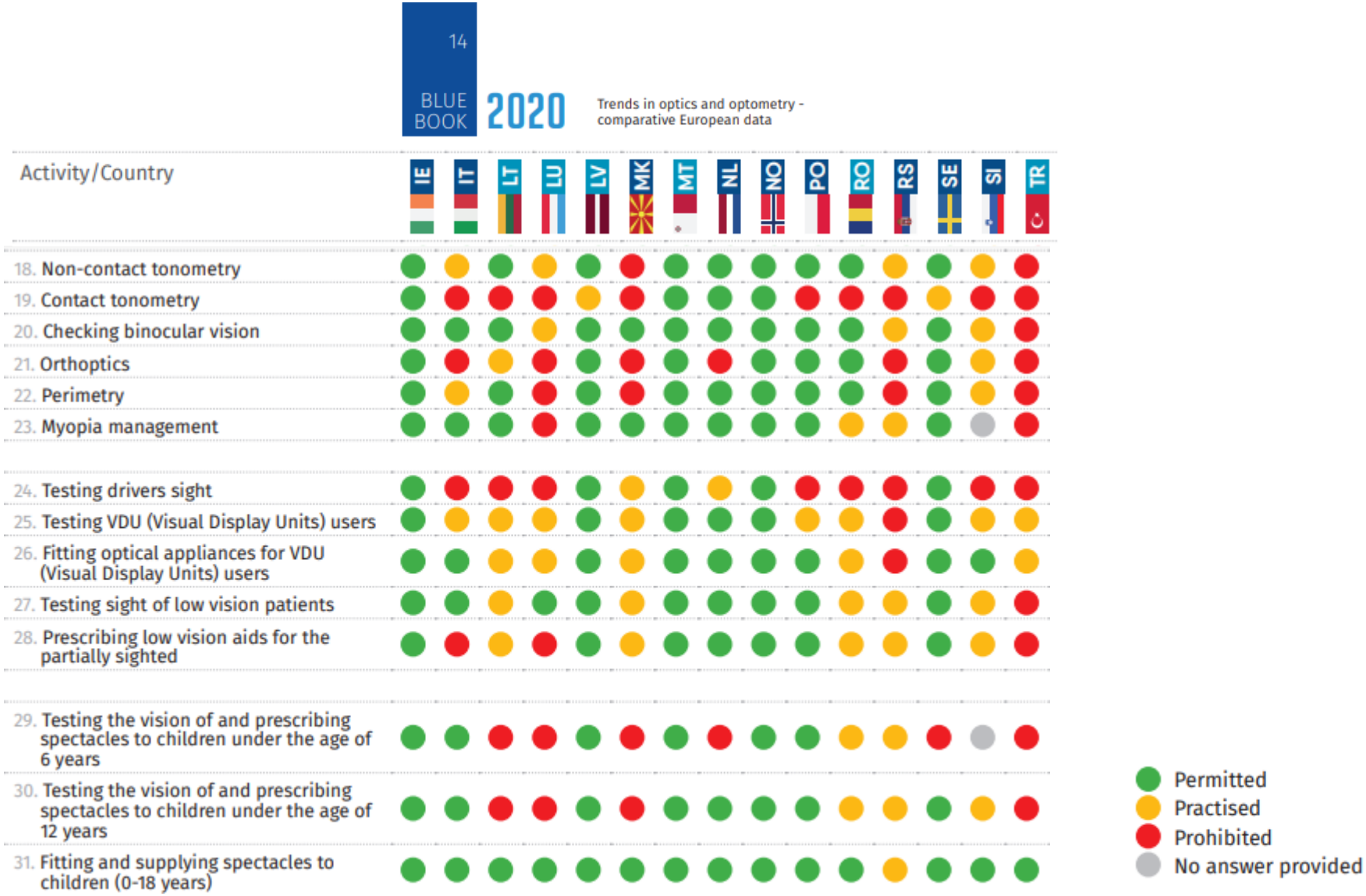
Scope of practice across Europe



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BLUE BOOK 2020 Trends in optics and optometry - comparative European data

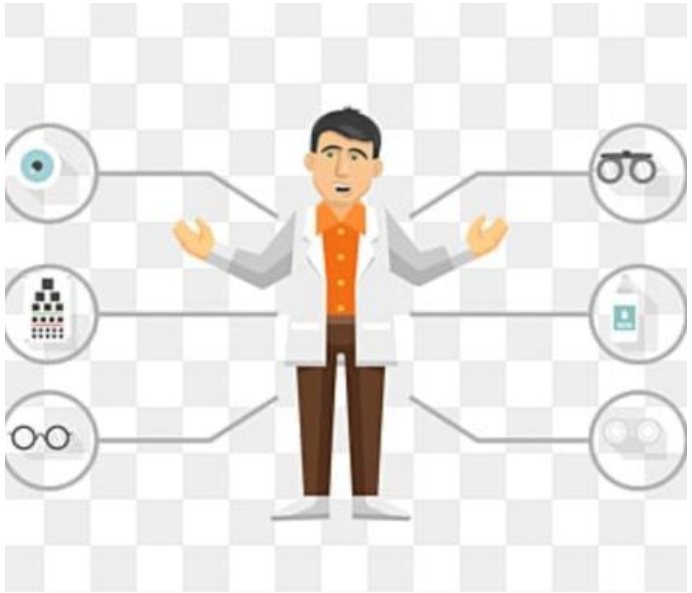
CATEGORY 3 IN DETAIL

Ocular Diagnostic Services: Optical Technology Services plus Visual Function Services, plus investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease

REGULATORY LANDSCAPE		NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	
The profession is regulated by law	without diagnostic drugs	6 (85,7%)	AT DE DK ES LV LT
	with diagnostic drugs	8 (100%)	FI MT NO SE CH UK IE NL
The professional title is protected	without diagnostic drugs	6 (85,7%)	AT DE DK ES LV LT
	with diagnostic drugs	6 (75%)	NO SE CH NL UK FI
The profession is deregulated		0	
Activities are reserved to the holder of a specific professional	without diagnostic drugs	5 (71,4%)	AT DE ES EE LT

https://www.ecoo.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ECOO-BlueBook-2020_website.pdf

THE PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE IN EUROPE



Optometrist capabilities

The optometrist has a wide range of knowledge:

- can recognize the signs of diseases that affect visual acuity (diabetes mellitus, hypertension, renal pathology), the processes of age-related dystrophy of the tissues of the eye apparatus;
- do more research;
- suggest eye care products;
- choose means for vision correction;
- refer person to an ophthalmologist if serious diseases are detected.

Cooperation with ophthalmologists

The work of an optometrist is a real help to patients in the prevention of eye diseases in collaboration with ophthalmologists, this reduces delayed diseases and increases the number of early diagnoses of eye diseases, which makes treatment more effective.

Optician → Optometrist → Ophthalmologist → 1 day

Polyclinic → Therapist → Ophthalmologist 2-3 months

Eye vision prevention

Optometrist is a health profession.

Preventive education for all ages is gaining importance as a result of changing social habits.

Thank you for making the world brighter