

OCULUS – report on the website

www.oculuserasmus.org

WP2.7 Development – OCULUS Portal

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1. Introduction

Purpose of this document is to describe the website created for external communication about the project. This deliverable is part of work package 2.7, *Development of OCULUS portal*, which aims to ensure successful communication and dissemination of the project results and the benefits of the developed knowledge beyond the consortium to the public. The OCULUS website serves as a central point of entry to all public materials, such as public resources, reports, relevant informational and links to dissemination material, presentations and promotional videos developed as part of the project.

2. Design of the Website

The design of the OCULUS website is based on the WordPress theme called [Divi](#). This theme was chosen because of the credibility (more than half a million users globally so far) as well as the features it offers such as real time design, clicking and typing function, possibility to customize every element responsive editing, easy to organize and 24/7 technical support availability.

3. Structure of the Website

The OCULUS project website is available at www.oculuserasmus.org managed by the coordinating organization of the project. The website is based on a server with a 'LAMP stack' (a set of open-source software that can be used to create websites and web applications). The data are presented through the

WordPress framework. Revisions to the website are stored automatically after each revision. In addition, an automatic backup of the website on the USN server is made weekly.

All sections of the website the acknowledgement of funding from the Erasmus+ in the footer. The logo is also present on top in the home page. A link to the main home page and the other sections is included and accessible from all sub-pages on the top of the website. The website is responsive to the browser, making it also readable from mobile devices.

The footer (bar in the bottom) contains:

- ERASMUS+ acknowledgement (with link to Erasmus+: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus>)
- Privacy Policy, with link to separate page with a description of the privacy policy; <https://www.oculuserasmus.org/privacy-policy/>
- links to OCULUS social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram) as well as an encouragement to subscribe to the social media (see Figure 1).
- Creative Commons (CC) disclaimer. The CC disclaimer is license CC BY-NC-SA 4.0; *Except where otherwise noted, content on this site is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license*, with a link to [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). The footer is shown on all subpages.

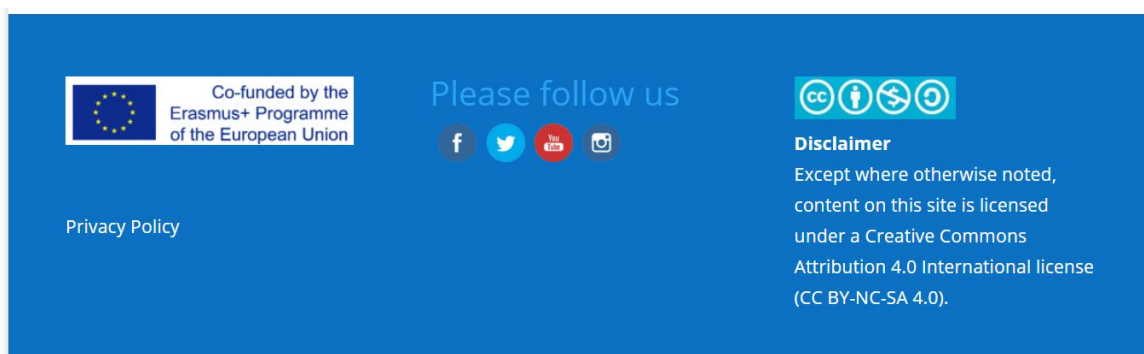


Figure 1. Screenshot of the footer of the OCULUS website

The whole website is designed to be structural, illustrative, color-matching and vivid.

This chapter describes the initial layout of the website. The menu of this layout consists of seven (7) main sections: Home, About, Partners, Project outcomes, Disseminations, Events, Useful links, Contact us and Internal. A search field is on the right side of the main section. Detailed descriptions of all of them are provided in the sub-chapters below.

3.1 Home Page

On the home page of the OCULUS website the name of the project is displayed in large letters on the thematic image. Below there is a short description about the project, the project outcomes, relevant quotes from optometry organizations and on the bottom a world map marking partnering countries and the names of consortium members in those countries.

[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Partners](#)
[Project outcomes](#)
[Disseminations](#)
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[Internat](#)

Optometry Curriculum for
Lifelong Learning through Erasmus

an **Erasmus+** project to improve
Optometry Education

Timeframe: 15.10.2016 - 14.06.2020

Picture: University of South-Eastern Norway

OCULUS is a *consortium* of optometry educators with the aim to reform optometry education in Israel and India towards *European standards*, and develop resources for improved education through *lifelong learning*. This will lead to a greater employability and job mobility for graduates, while better-trained optometrists will help to reduce blindness and vision impairment.

Aims of the project

- Development of resources to harmonize optometric education in Israel and India with the highest standard in Europe
- Exceed the existing standard by creating educational resources for evidence based optometry and online tools for lifelong learning.

PROJECT OUTCOMES - TOOLS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF (OPTOMETRY) EDUCATION

Quotes from optometric organizations

"As we understand, most of the educators have already implemented the learnings from OCULUS project in their curricula. This is an incredibly positive change and we are awaiting the transformation of these learnings into a competent Indian optometry system." ASCO - Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, India.

"We are confident the results will continue to serve the profession in the future as new generations of students will be equipped with better practical and clinical skills." EAOD - European Academy of Optometry and Optics, United Kingdom.

"The course self-assessment tool subsequently developed by the OCULUS project will have a positive impact on optometric education, as it will allow developing courses to benchmark against an established standard." WCO - World Council of Optometry, USA.

Map of project partners

Norway

- University of South-Eastern Norway
- Norwegian Association of Optometry*

Israel

- Hadassah Academic College
- Bar Ilan University
- Israel College of Optometry**

India

- University of Hyderabad
- Marathi Academic of Higher Education
- Chitkara University
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

United Kingdom

- City University London

Spain

- Universidad Politécnica de Catalunya

The Netherlands

- Hogeschool Utrecht

Switzerland

- European Council of Optometry and Optics

Project partners
*Associate partner
**Dissemination partner

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under a Creative Commons
Attribution 4.0 International license
(CC BY-NC-SA 4.0).

Privacy Policy

Figure 2. Screenshot of the home page of the OCULUS website.

3.2 About Us

Information, provided on the section “About” is related to providing general information about the OCULUS project such as duration, contact details, the project’s three pillars, a project summary, flow chart (figure 2), an organogram of the activities (figure 2) as well as some information about quality insurance and Field monitoring events.

Home **About** **Partners** **Project outcomes** **Disseminations** **Events** **Useful Links** **Contact us**

OCULUS – Optometry Curriculum for Lifelong Learning through Erasmus

Program: ERASMUS+ KA2, Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Timeframe: 15.10.2016 -14-04.2020
Coordinator: University of South-Eastern Norway
Contact details of project leader:
 Name: Dr. Bernt Monica Aukre
 E-mail: bernt.m.aukre@hvl.no
 Telephone: +47 3100 8936

A presentation (movie) of the project can be found here:
<https://youtu.be/AtJgg3T98Y>
 Examples of impact of the project on optometry education in Israel and India:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxvW4err8U>
[Faculty feedback on OCULUS, Ms. Preethi Naik, MAHE India](#)
[Faculty feedback on OCULUS, Ms. Divyanshika Sankar, MAHE India](#)

The project's three pillars:

Pillar 1
DipE Benchmarking

New educational resources were developed for the curricula in Israel and India, based on the high standards of the European Diploma in Optometry (DipE).

Pillar 2
Novel Educational Module
Evidence Based Practice (EBP) was developed. EBP is a vital part of effective patient care but is still a new concept in optometric education.

Pillar 3
Technology Enhanced Learning

A patient logging network (PLN) was created for optometry students and practitioners, as an online portfolio of patient encounters and tool for peer review and discussion.

Project summary

Vision is our most important sense. It is essential for childhood development, education, employability and lifelong independence. A systematic review of vision impairment and blindness in 2010 showed that 65% of blind people and 76% of visually impaired people had a preventable or treatable disease, with a geographical bias. The majority of blindness and vision impairment can be avoided by good eye and vision care and in many regions optometrists are the primary providers of this service.

OCULUS is a consortium of educators from optometry schools in Europe (Norway, UK, Spain and the Netherlands) with the aim to reform optometry education in Israel and India towards European standards. This is expected to lead to a greater employability and job mobility for graduates, while better-trained optometrists will lead to a reduction in blindness and vision impairment.

The project was organized in three main pillars. In **pillar 1**, called 'DipE Accreditation', new educational resources were developed for the curricula in Israel and India that are based on the high standards of the European Diploma in Optometry (DipE). Pillars 2 and 3 bring innovations to optometry education, enhancing the standard beyond DipE. In **pillar 2**, 'Novel Educational Modules', educational resources for evidence based optometric practice (EBP) were developed. EBP is a vital part of effective patient care but is still a new concept in optometric education. In **pillar 3** 'Technology Enhanced Learning', a personal learning network (PLN) was created for optometry students and practitioners, as an online portfolio of patient encounters and platform for peer review and discussion.

OCULUS has had the support of global optometry governing and education bodies. The Israel Council of Optometry and the Association of Colleges and Schools of Optometry in India were full partners. European Academy of Optometry and Optics and the Norwegian Association of Optometry were associate partners. These organizations ensure that OCULUS outputs will continue to be disseminated globally for maximum exploitation and impact.

In short, our project has developed resources that has led to harmonisation of optometry education in Israel and India with the highest standard in Europe. Furthermore, this standard was exceeded by creating educational resources for evidence based optometry and online tools for lifelong learning.

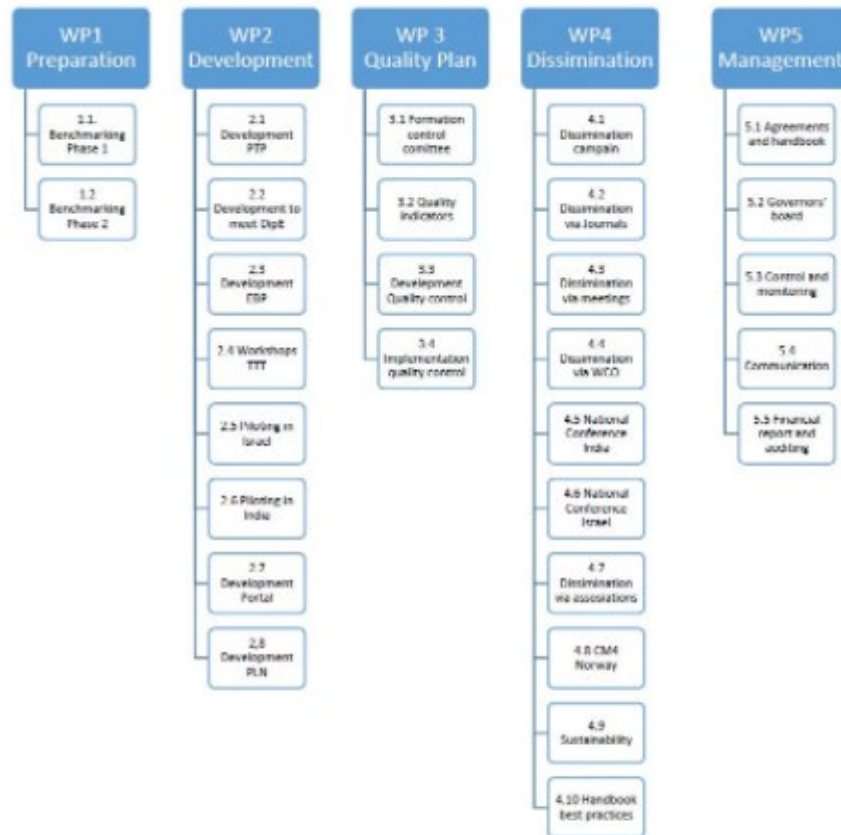
Flowchart of the project activities

OCULUS Consortium Flowchart

The flowchart illustrates the project's activities across four main pillars: DipE Accreditation, Novel Educational Modules, Technology Enhanced Learning, and Dissemination, Management, QA. Key milestones include the development of educational resources, the creation of the OCULUS Portal, and the implementation of the project in Israel and India. The flowchart also shows the timeline of the project, from 2016 to 2020.

Figure 3. Screenshot of the section “About Us” of the OCULUS website.

Organogram of the project work packages



Field monitoring events

Field monitoring of the project's progress was done at HAC by the [Israel Erasmus+ office](#). The project was presented and discussed. Strengths and weaknesses were analyzed and outlined by the Office.

Below the presentations of field monitorings are shown.

[Field monitoring 1 HAC 2017 Presentation by Ariela Gordon-Shaag](#)

[Field monitoring 2 HAC 2019 Presentation by Ariela Gordon-Shaag](#)

Figure 4. Screenshot with the organogram of the OCULUS website

3.3 Partners

An overview of all the partners is included with links to their institutional websites. Logo's of each partner is included in the bottom of the page and the world map (also shown on main page) is shown on the right site.

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[About](#)
[Partners](#)
[Project outcomes](#)
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Project partners, associate partners and dissemination partners

Project Partners

[USN](#) – University of South-Eastern Norway (Coordinator)
[BIU](#) – Bar Ilan University, Israel
[HAC](#) – Hadassah Academic College, Israel
[UPC](#) – Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
[HU](#) – Hogeschool Utrecht, Netherlands
[CUL](#) – City University London, UK
[UOH](#) – University of Hyderabad, India
[MAHE](#) – Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India
[CU](#) – Chitkara University, India

Associate Partners

[ECOO](#) - European Council of Optometry and Optics, Belgium
[NOA](#) – Norwegian Optometry Association, Norway

Dissemination Partners

[ASCO](#) - Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, India
 Israel College of Optometry, Israel

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Disclaimer

Figure 5. Screenshot of the section “Project Partners” on the OCULUS website.

3.4 Project outcomes

In this section the project outcomes are presented. On top of the side a bar with link to the Handbook for Pedagogical Transformation is shown. Under the bar the five main resources are shown; PLN, OSAT, Clinical Competency, TTT and EBV, with link to separate pages on which the outcomes are described and can be downloaded.

Under the resources the alignment of the Israel and India optometry education is described with links to the narrative reports.

In the bottom the impact of the project is described by 8 points/sentences.

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EDUCATION RESOURCES developed by the OCULUS project

The resources and tools below are freely available. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Patient Logging Network (PLN)
A digital logbook/tool for registration of patient cases and student follow-up

Optometry Self Assessment Tool (OSAT)
A tool that identifies gaps between the curriculum and the curriculum of the European Diploma

Clinical Competency
Tools for learning and assessment of clinical skills, such as rubrics and grand rounds

Train The Teachers (TTT)
Training of teaching faculties to match the standards of the European Council of Optometry

Evidence Based Practice
How to implement scientific evidence for guidance and decision-making in education.

Alignment of Israel and Indian optometry education with the European diploma

The OCULUS project resulted in the transformation of optometry education in Israel and India:

- GAP analysis was performed
- Curricula were updated
- EBP was included in the education
- Report was sent to ECOO – see reports (link)
- Feedback was received from ECOO – see reports (link)
- The partner institutions are ready for accreditation (scheduled for autumn 2020/spring 2021)

IMPACT of the OCULUS project

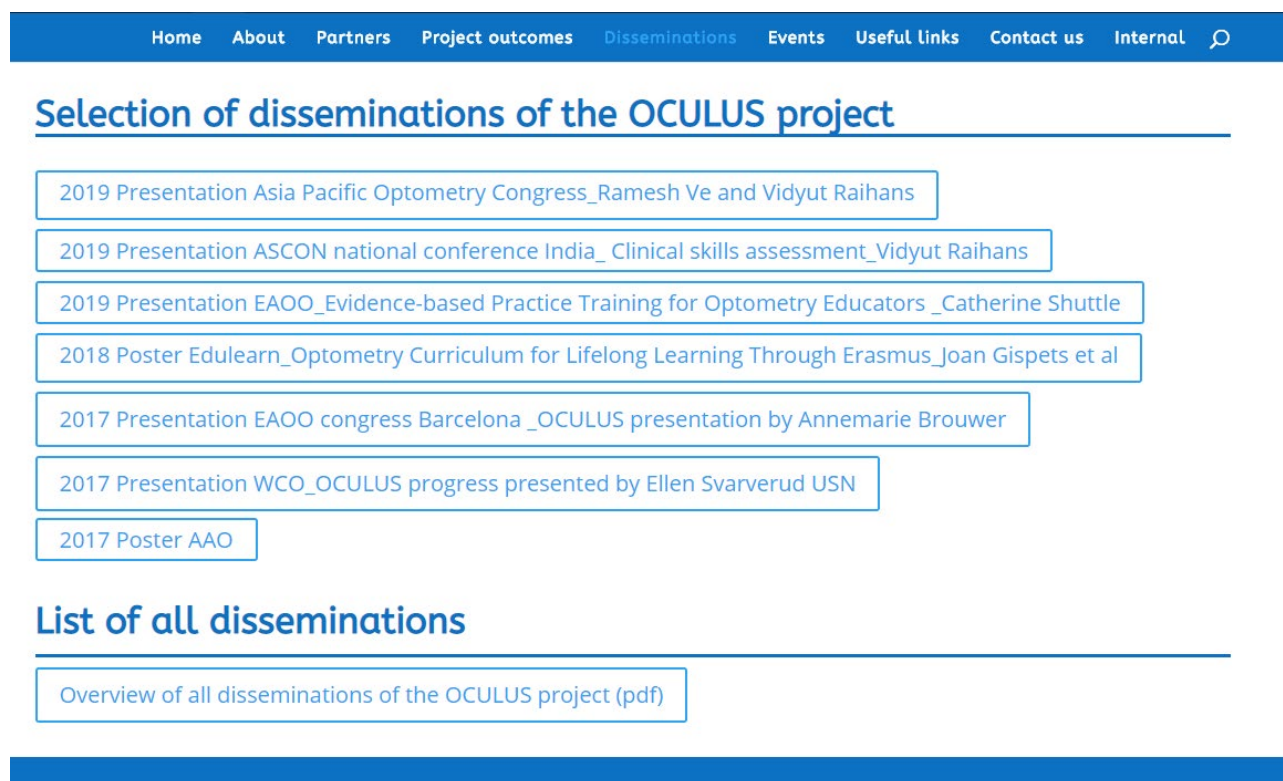
The OCULUS project had the following impact:

- Improved quality of the curricula for optometry at the Higher Educations in Israel (HAC and BIU) and India (CHU, UOH and MAHE). The curricula are aligned with the requirements of the European Diploma and ready for accreditation
- Increased potential of the optometrist's scope of practice and awareness of role in national health system
- Development of practical tools to fill the gaps, see [guide](#)
- Development of a [Patient Logging Network](#) as a teaching learning tool in the optometry education
- Implementation of [Evidence Based Learning](#) at all participating institutions in order to sustain Life-Long Learning
- Analysis of GAPS in the curriculum by the new tool (OSAT), which is especially relevant for ECOO
- Knowledge sharing helped to implement measures to cope with the COVID-19 situation in the clinics
- Extended network for all participating institutions which is valuable for knowledge sharing and future collaborations

Figure 6. Screenshot of the section “Project outcomes” on the OCULUS website.

3.5 Disseminations

A selection of the most important disseminations of the project are given here with direct links to the presentations. A list of all disseminations is provided in the bottom.



Home About Partners Project outcomes Disseminations Events Useful links Contact us Internal

Selection of disseminations of the OCULUS project

- 2019 Presentation Asia Pacific Optometry Congress_Ramesh Ve and Vidyut Raihans
- 2019 Presentation ASCON national conference India_ Clinical skills assessment_Vidyut Raihans
- 2019 Presentation EAOO_Evidence-based Practice Training for Optometry Educators _Catherine Shuttle
- 2018 Poster Edulearn_Optometry Curriculum for Lifelong Learning Through Erasmus_Joan Gispets et al
- 2017 Presentation EAOO congress Barcelona _OCULUS presentation by Annemarie Brouwer
- 2017 Presentation WCO_OCULUS progress presented by Ellen Svarverud USN
- 2017 Poster AAO

List of all disseminations

- Overview of all disseminations of the OCULUS project (pdf)

Figure 6. Screenshot of the section “Events” on the OCULUS website.

3.6 Events

A list of the events that found place is given. On top a simple list of the consortium meetings and dates, as well as national meetings are shown. Under the list of Consortium Meetings a link to the overview on Quality evaluation of the consortium meetings is given.

In the bottom the meetings are shown through a picture containing a link to the program of each meeting.

List of the project's events that found place. More information can be found below.

Consortium Meeting 1 – London, UK 12-16 June 2017
 Consortium Meeting 2 – Hyderabad, India 12-16 September 2017
 Consortium Meeting 3 – Barcelona, Spain 12-14 February 2019
 Consortium Meeting 4 – India 26 June 2019
 Consortium Meeting 5 – Jerusalem, Israel 17-19 September 2019
 Consortium Meeting 6 – Virtual via Zoom, 23-26 March 2020
[Link to overview on Quality evaluation of all Consortium Meetings](#)

National Conference India – Chitkara 23-25 June 2019
 National Meeting on EBP – HAC 12-13 June 2019
 National Conference Israel – Bar Ilan 16 September 2019

Consortium Meetings



Consortium Meeting 1
Barcelona,
Spain, 2017



Consortium Meeting 2
Hyderabad,
India 12-16
September
2018



Consortium Meeting 3
Barcelona,
Spain 12-14
February 2019



Consortium Meeting 4
India 26 June
2019



Consortium Meeting 5
Jerusalem,
Israel 17-19
September
2019



Consortium Meeting 6
Virtual via
Zoom, 23-26
March 2020

National meetings



National Conference India
Chitkara 23-25
June 2019



National Conference Israel
Bar Ilan, Israel
16 September
2019

[Short movie](#)



National Meeting
on EBP at HAC
Jerusalem, Israel
12 and 13 June
2019

Figure 7. Screenshot of the section “News” on the OCULUS website.

3.7 Useful links

The “Useful links” section contains links to optometry education organizations and associations. A small picture of the logo’s and a descriptive text are shown, with a direct link to the main page of the organization/association.

Links related to optometry education



ASCO – The Indian
Association of
Schools and
Colleges of
Optometry



ECOO – the
European Council
of Optometry and
Optics



Erasmus+ is the
EU's programme
to support
education,
training, youth and
sport in Europe.



Optometry at the
University of
South-Eastern
Norway – an
example of
accredited
education of
optometry



WCO – The World
Council of
Optometry seeks
to support
optometry
worldwide

EAOO – European Academy of Optometry and Optics

The Academy is a membership organisation that provides a much needed voice to help advance optometry and optics, develop the scientific knowledge base and support and promote lifelong learning for optometrists, opticians, vision scientists and all those involved in eye health care across Europe.

European Diploma

ECOO established the European Diploma in Optometry A Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry as a stimulus to the harmonization of European optometric education and clinical practice. The European Diploma is set at least at the Bachelor level in European Higher Education or equivalent and provides a qualification appropriate for Optometric practice at Category 3 of the World Council of Optometry's four categories model. The countries of ECOO have adopted the Diploma as the "Gold Standard" for European Optometry.

Figure 8. Screenshot of the section “News” on the OCULUS website

3.8 Contact us

This page contains an online contact form with the tabs “Name”, “Email Address”, “Message, which is connected to the mailbox of the project administrator. The latter allows visitors to contact project consortium and submit comments, questions, or suggestions. In a line with the website’s privacy policy, the email address of the visitor is required in order to send feedback. All tabs are obligatory to fill in.

Under the form the contact details of the project coordinator and a contact person for each project outcome is given (EBP, OSAT, Dissemination, Improving Optometry Teaching/Learning, Rubrics, PLN and Quality control and monitoring)

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Contact us

Please contact us for more information and/or free tools for improvement of education:

5 + 1 =

Contact details

Project coordinator:

- Lead organisation: [University of South-Eastern Norway \(USN\)](#)
- Contact Person: [Bente Monica Aakre](#)

EBP – Evidence based Practice

- Lead Organisation: [City University London \(CUL\)](#)
- Contact Person: [Catherine Suttle](#)

OSAT – tool for alignment with ECOO

- Lead Organisation: [Bar Ilan University \(BIU\)](#)
- Contact Person: [Tzofia Simkovich](#)

Dissemination and OCULUS events

- Lead Organisation: [Chitkara University \(CU\)](#)
- Contact Person: [Preethi Pradhan](#)

Improving Optometry Teaching/Learning

- Lead Organisations: [Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya \(UPC\)](#) and [Manipal Academy of Higher Education \(MAHE\)](#)
- Contact Persons: [Joan Gispets](#) and [Vidyut Rajhans](#)

Rubrics – Clinical Competency Assessment Rubrics

- Lead Organisations: [Hadassah Academic College \(HAC\)](#) and [University of Hyderabad \(UOH\)](#)
- Contact Persons: [Ariela Gordon-Shaag](#) and [Nag Konda](#)

PLN – Personal Learning Network

- Lead Organisations: [University of Hyderabad \(UOH\)](#) and [University of South-Eastern Norway \(USN\)](#)
- Contact Persons: [Nag Konda](#) and [Ellen Svarverud](#)

Quality control and monitoring

- Lead Organisation: [City University London \(CUL\)](#)
- Contact Person: [Catherine Suttle](#)

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Figure 9. Screenshot of the section “Contacts us” on the OCULUS website.

3.9 Internal

This page is only for internal use by the consortium members. It requires a password to enter. The purpose of this page is to share documents that are irrelevant to the public. It contains a tool to upload documents and shows a simple list of all documents available.

Start each document with the WP number: **WPx.x** and add a descriptive title. Merge similar documents into one before uploading. **Refresh** page to see your uploaded documents.


- WP0.0 Handbook OCULUS including guidelines v2.pdf (2.46 Mb)
- WP0.0 OCULUS logos.pptx (112.11 Kb)
- WP1-2-Benchmarking-BIU_Reports-from-ECOO-and-narrative-letter-on-changes.pdf (645.45 Kb)
- WP2.1 PTP workshops on clinical gaps HAC Israel 2017.pdf (208.41 Kb)
- WP2.1 PTP – BIU.pptx (43.09 Kb)
- WP2.1 PTP-Chickara-University-2017.pdf (90.8 Kb)
- WP2.1 PTP-Pedagogic-Transformation-Plan_Manipal-University-2017.pdf (175.46 Kb)
- WP2.1 PTP-resources-to-be-developed-with-WP-leaders-2017.pdf (179.72 Kb)
- WP2.1 PTP-workshops-on-clinical-gaps-HAC-Israel-2017.pdf (208.41 Kb)
- WP2.3 EBP teaching plan CU, HAC and MAHE at CM3.pdf (1.02 Mb)
- WP2.3.1 Overview-of-systematic-review-of-EBP-teaching-methods.pdf (387.53 Kb)

Figure 10. Screenshot of the section “Internal” on the OCULUS website.

4. Administration of the Website

Administration of the OCULUS website is managed through WordPress. The access of this interface (<https://oculuserasmus.org/wp-login.php>, Figure 11) requires user authentication. The project manager is responsible for administration of the website.

Figure 12 presents the view of the OCULUS website administration dashboard, where on the left side all relevant features for administration of the website can be seen. Most of them have additional menu options, which can be chosen by tapping on their names.



Username or Email Address

Password

☐ Remember Me

[Lost your password?](#)

Figure 11. Screenshot of WordPress Log In interface.

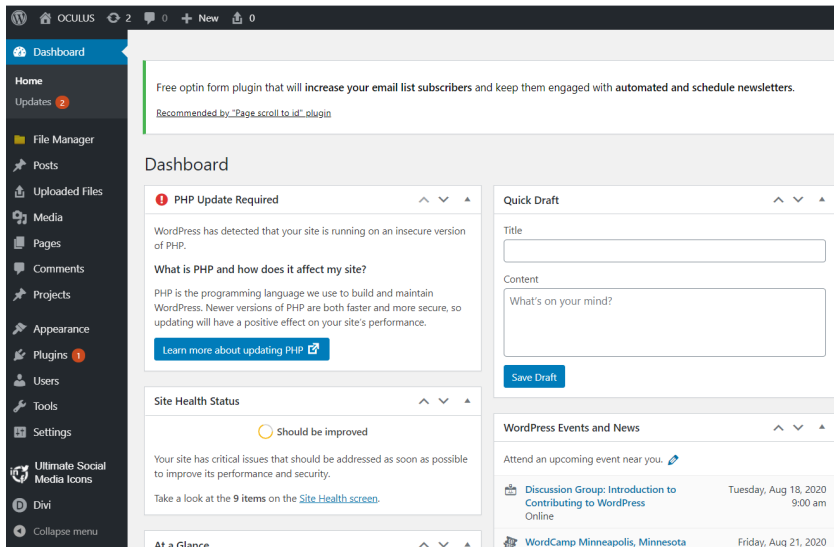


Figure 12. Screenshot of WordPress Dashboard.

The Built-in editor (The Divi Builder), used for editing the page text, offers many formatting options. The latter supported by default have been chosen to encourage semantic-based html formatting. The Divi Builder (see Figure 13) allows editing of content in an uncomplicated way, and it is easy to duplicate, save and (re)create blocks on each page. If saved in a library, the same blocks can be used on different pages. To add, Media Library allows saving and editing various images and videos, which are used later while creating content of the pages.

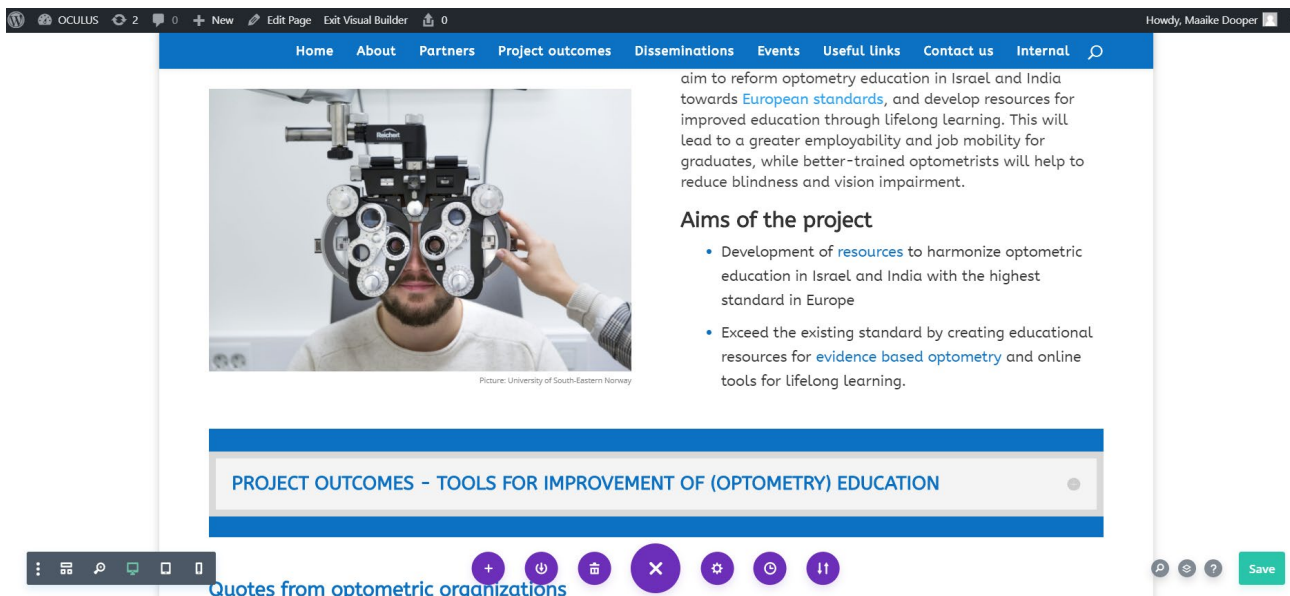


Figure 17. Screenshot of DIVI builder.