

# European Society of Ophthalmology



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Project Abstract

***Title of Project:* Time effort of preparation for the cataract surgery in different European countries**

***Purpose:*** To compare the time necessary for different ophthalmic investigations and preparation of patients before the cataract surgery in different European countries.

***Methods:*** The ophthalmic investigations and preparations of patients for the cataract surgery were divided into the 8 steps: visual acuity, intraocular pressure, slit lamp, biomicroscopy of the fundus in mydriasis, biometry and IOL calculation, inform consent, consent for the anesthesia, and appointment administration. The time necessary for each single step were measured separately if performed by ophthalmologist and separately if the step was done by nurse, optician or optometrist. The measurements were performed in at least 6 patients in four different University Departments of Ophthalmology in four different European countries: Germany, Finland, Czech Republic and Russia. The waiting time between the steps was not reflected. The differences among these countries were compared.

***Results:*** The longest total time for all evaluated steps was found in Finland ( $53 \pm 8$  min) followed by Germany ( $47 \pm 9$  min) and Czech Republic ( $37 \pm 7$  min). The shortest total time was observed in Russia ( $32 \pm 6$  min). Further, significant differences were found in total time, which the ophthalmologist spends for the preparation of the cataract surgery. The highest volume of the preparation was performed by ophthalmologist in Germany and Finland. In Czech Republic and in Russia significantly more steps are done by nurses or optician.

***Conclusions:*** Even the cataract surgery is a highly standardized procedure; the preparation of the patient varies significantly among different European countries. The shortest total time as well the smallest proportion of the time performed by ophthalmologist was found in Russia.