

## ***Regional European Organisation of the FDI***

### ***National Report on the activities of 2023***

**Country: ESTONIA**

**Association: ESTONIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

*Please classify your national report by following subjects:*

#### ***Changes***

##### *in the association and its organisation*

Number of members is increasing - 1160 (1120 in 2021)

New working groups have been established within the EDA framework, and they are actively operating.

#### ***Trends and developments:***

##### *in professional politics*

1. On 1st January 2023, the Medical Devices Act Amendment Act and related amendments to other laws came into force. This amendment stemmed from Regulation (EU) 2017/745 of the European Parliament and of the Council on medical devices. EU regulations introduced harmonised and stricter quality and safety requirements for medical devices to address general safety issues associated with such devices.
2. We have taken measures to address the issues between dentists and orthodontists. On 12 October 2023, a multilateral meeting was convened at the Health Insurance Fund, attended by representatives from the Estonian Dental Association, Estonian Orthodontists Society, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Health Insurance Fund. Regrettably, the Health Board declined to participate in the meeting for reasons unknown to us. During the meeting, it was agreed that by May 2024 at the latest, consensus would be reached on the additional training requirements (both content and extent) for dentists to be able to carry out basic orthodontic procedures.

### *in health and social politics*

Under revision is the Regulation on Ensuring the Quality of Healthcare Services, concerning mandatory continuing education for healthcare professionals (§ 8 para 2), supplemented by a chapter on patient safety, addressing the conditions and procedures for documenting patient safety incidents and submitting data to the patient safety database.

### *in educational politics*

1. A new Health Insurance Fund leaflet on dental trauma has been prepared
2. Spread of oral health knowledge through a series of courses for teachers and parents, also in ICT environment: [www.suukool.ee](http://www.suukool.ee)
3. Meetings with the academic staff of the Institute of Dentistry regarding the practical skills of dental graduates took place.

### *in the insurance system (incl. the public health insurance and private insurance schemes)*

The Mandatory Professional Liability Insurance Act for Healthcare Service Providers (MPLIAHSP) was adopted in 2023 and will come into effect on 1st July 2024.

## **Corporate Dentistry**

### *position of NDA towards dental chains*

There is one major chain of dental clinics in Estonia known as "Meliva Unimed's United Clinics," comprising 17 dental facilities (up from 11 in 2020) situated in various regions of Estonia. Drawing from the experiences of other member countries, we are attentive to future trends and potential challenges..

### *problems with dental chains*

Currently, most dentists refrain from openly expressing complaints, but there is clear pressure on the dental team regarding speed and turnover.

### *possible solutions*

To restrict the chairmanship in the corporation to a minimum of 51% dentists

### *Changes in fees:*

EDA membership fee did not change in 2023

Due to high level of inflation, fees for dental treatment have increased 5-10%

### *Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:*

As part of the oral and dental disease prevention project, oral hygiene instruction and guided tooth brushing have been conducted for 7,000 children in 400 groups.

***Further information (activities):***

- 11 board meetings and 2 council meetings have been convened.
- The Estonian Annual Dental Meeting 2023 was held in person from 24th to 26th August, with 1171 participants, featuring 5 pre-conference courses, 26 lecturers, and 62 exhibitors.
- The "Quality Guidelines in Dentistry" have been finalized.
- Two in person conferences were conducted, one in the spring and one in the autumn.
- 4 webinars on dental care issues have been conducted.
- The official journal of EDA, "Hambaarst," has been published regularly, 7 times a year.

***What are your 3 main concerns?***

- The proficiency in Estonian language of immigrating dentists
- Education of dental assistants in medical high school
- The increasing reporting obligations, partly stemming from those originating from the European Union, as well as local government authorities.

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