

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

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

***Country: Poland***

***Association: Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists***

*Please classify your national report by following subjects:*

#### ***Changes***

*in the association and its organisation*

No changes in the reporting period.

The Polish National Committee for ERO FDI is formed by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and the Polish Dental Society.

The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists is the main professional organization in Poland. It is the organizational body of the professional self-government of physicians and dental practitioners who are associated in the chambers with equal status. Membership is mandatory. Every physician and every dental practitioner who holds the right to practice the profession in Poland is a member of the chamber by virtue of the law. There are 23 Regional Chambers and a separate chamber of military physicians and dentists. The Polish Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists coordinates the work of regional chambers.

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

*in professional politics*

In 2022 the Minister of Health set up a Council for the Development of Dentistry as an advisory body for the Minister. The tasks of the Council include proposing solutions regarding a wide range of issues related to dentistry, in particular:

- under- and postgraduate training of dentists and other dental care professionals;

- principles of exercising dental profession;
  - the scope and pricing of dental services financed from public funds.
- The vice-president of the Supreme Medical Council dr Paweł Barucha chairs the Council since October 2023.

In its latest resolution the Council appeals to the Minister of Health to take a legislative initiative aimed at repealing the legal provisions which allow the so-called simplified access to the professions of a physician and a dentist in Poland. The Council highlighted that granting authorization to practice in that way takes place without reliable verification of qualifications obtained outside the European Union and without verification of knowledge of the Polish language. This compromises patient safety and constitutes a major concern for the high quality of Polish healthcare.

*in health and social politics*

No major changes in the reporting period.

*in educational politics*

No major changes in the reporting period.

Some Regional Chambers report that there are problems regarding the postgraduate internship for dentists (in Poland it is a 1-year compulsory vocational training after dental studies) – in some regions they have problems with finding dentists who meet the requirements to become coordinators of the internship.

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

No major changes in the reporting period.

**Corporate Dentistry**

No major changes.

*position of NDA towards dental chains*

The Chamber has not taken any official position towards dental chains.

*problems with dental chains*

In the light of the Polish law and professional ethics every dentist – regardless whether the dentist works in his own office or whether the

dentist is employed - is bound to act in accordance with the principles of medical and dental ethics.

*Further information (activities):*

In June 2023 the XI Congress of Medical Professionals of Polish descent (XI Kongres Polonii Medycznej) and IV World Congress of Polish Physicians and Dentists (IV Światowy Zjazd Lekarzy Polskich) took place in Olsztyn.

It was organized by the Regional Chamber of Physicians and Dentists in Olsztyn in cooperation with the Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists, the organizing committee was chaired by dr Anna Lella.

Initiated in 1991, this event has attracted more than 5,000 participants from over 50 countries and regions. The Congress is the result of cooperation between doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals of Polish origins who practice abroad and doctors practicing in Poland.

Several hundred healthcare professionals of Polish origins from all over the world attended this Congress - a large proportion of them were dentists.

The scientific part included topics related to dentistry, e.g. “Challenges to paediatric dentistry”, “Does digital dentistry have future?”, “Possibilities and limitations of modern diagnostics in the head and neck area”.

Large presence of colleagues from Ukraine was an additional incentive to include topics related to medicine in times of armed conflicts. This session featured an interesting presentation on “Special features of organization help to persons with maxillo-facial injuries in conditions of modern war of Russia against Ukraine”.