

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Denmark

Association: Danish Dental Association

Venue: Copenhagen

Year: 2016

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

The organisations GA decided to merge the local substructure in larger units that comply with the local governments (Regions).

It was also decided to enlarge the Board with one member (from 7 to 8), and to reshuffle and merge some of the standing committees on eg. Self Employed Dentists and Public Employed Dentists.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

The Minister of Health was promoted to Minister of Public Innovation, and the Ministry of Health and The Elderly was demerged to two ministries for respectively Health and Elderly with two separate ministers.

in health and social politics:

The Danish Health Authority published in August new national clinical guidelines for the use of antibiotics in dentistry. The purpose of the guidelines was advising dentists on how to

reduce the use of antibiotics and thus avoiding the development of resistance. The president of the Danish Dental Association (DDA), Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg, credited the Danish Health Authority for involving dentists from several sectors in the preparatory work.

The National Patient Safety Authority introduced risk-based proactive inspections to all clinics, public and private.

in educational politics

The savings on university education is still an issue, and it must be feared that we have not seen the end of this yet. The association is moving an agenda for a mandatory post-grad internship for newly educated dentists in order to obtain “right to independent authorisation”.

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

The Danish Health Authority suddenly - and very discreetly - changed the national clinical guidelines for control visit intervals so that high-risk patients (red group) are only reimbursed when intervals are longer than three months. Previously, all control visits were subsidized. This cancellation of subsidies caused the DDA to initiate a media offensive that created political discussions and led to questions to the Minister for Health.

in dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees

Changes in fees

The clinics have been levied with the costs of running risk-based proactive inspections by The National Patient Safety Authority (app. 750 – 1.000 euro ann.)

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

Further information (activities, concerns):

- *Early 2016 a campaign about eating disorders was launched in cooperation with The Danish National Association for Eating Disorders and Self Harm and with the Research Center for Eating Disorder and Self Harm. The campaign focused on how dentists in a constructive way may communicate with their patients who have or are suspected of an eating disorder. Scientific and journalistic papers in the Danish Dental Journal supported the campaign, which was mentioned on national broadcast and covered in more than 25 other media.*
- *The DDA produced the brochure "Teeth for Life", that was distributed with three national newspapers to app. 270,000 Danes. The brochure included a variety of professional messages about the most common oral diseases and disorders and stressed the value of prevention and health promotion on a self-care basis. It was published to obtain a direct communication with the Danish population, which was wanted by many DDA members. The brochure was, of course, also distributed to all members of DDA.*
- *In September, the DDA launched the campaign "Get back in the game" on Facebook. The purpose of the campaign was to make young adults between 18 and 20 years aware that regular dental visits are important. The campaign consisted of two short films produced by a high school class. The films were distributed via Facebook and shown 245,000 times. Furthermore, more than 450 Facebook users shared them. The DDA conducted the campaign in cooperation with Danish Regions.*
- *Young adults aged 18 to 20 who have not visited a dentist during 2 years are now contacted by Danish Regions with information about the importance of seeing a dentist regularly. This initiative is part of the agreement between Danish Regions and an element that the DDA has been lobbying to obtain.*