

Regional European Organisation of the FDI
NATIONAL REPORT
Geneva, Switzerland
21 – 22 April 2017

POLAND - Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists

I. Changes in the association and its organisation.

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.

There were no major changes regarding the organization and tasks of the chambers during the last year.

The main activities of the chambers include:

- awarding the right to practice as a physician or dentist and maintaining the register of physicians and dentists entitled to exercise the profession in Poland;
- representing and protecting the professions;
- setting principles of professional ethics;
- supervising the professional conduct (acting as medical courts imposing disciplinary sanctions);
- co-operating in matters of medical and dental education – especially postgraduate training (continuing professional development, including specialist training);
- expressing opinions on draft legislation and health issues.

In September 2016 dr. Leszek Dudziński was elected as the Vicepresident of the Supreme Medical Council and the Chair of the Dental Practitioners' Committee.

The Polish Dental Society is a scientific association, the membership in the Society is voluntary. The Chamber and Society cooperate in many fields.

There are also other, numerous dental scientific societies in Poland, acting within the specific fields of dentistry.

In September 2017, basing on the experiences of the 2016 FDI AWDC in Poznań, a Congress of the Polish Stomatology Union is planned at the same venue which will involve all Polish dental organizations – the Chamber is preparing a special one-day session.

The scientific committee of this Congress is led by prof. Marzena Dominiak who presided over the scientific committee of the FDI AWDC 2016.

II. Trends and developments

- in professional politics

No major changes in the reporting period.

- in health and social politics

The prices of dental services for children contracted and financed by the public payer (National Health Fund) were raised.

- in educational politics

On 1 January 2017 the amendments to the law on the professions of a physician and a dentist entered into force reintroducing the obligatory postgraduate internship as a requirement for graduates of dental studies to be awarded the full right to practice the profession in Poland (5-years of dental studies followed by 12 months of supervised internship).

The purpose of the 12-months postgraduate internship in Poland is to deepen the theoretical knowledge and to develop practical skills. The interns carry out their professional activity under supervision.

A few years ago the Ministry of Health decided to cancel this requirement which was widely criticized by the medical and dental professions which see the internship as a very important and useful vocational training for graduates that enables them to get valuable experience before commencing independent practice.

We are glad that this wrong decision has been reversed.

The chambers (both at the regional and national levels) are continuing to organize (usually free of charge) a wide range of CPD events for dentists – covering not only strictly dental and medical topics but also the so called soft competences (soft skills)

i.e. behavioural competences like communication with patients, as well as legal knowledge related to the exercise of the profession.

At the beginning of the year 2017 dentists have criticised a very low number of specialist training posts for dentists (the number of training posts is set each year by the Minister of Health). The Chamber also appealed to the Minister of Health not to raise the number of admissions for dental studies in Poland and indicated the necessity of guaranteeing proper quality of clinical practice during dental studies – this is in line with recent statement of the European Dental Students' Association.

In Spring 2016 representatives of the Supreme Chamber attended the annual Conference of professors and deans of Dental Faculties at the Polish Medical Universities in Nałęczów. This meeting is an important forum of discussion and presentation of opinions and ideas related to dental education in Poland, incl. the under- and postgraduate dental education, especially specialist training. On behalf of the Chamber dr Anna Lella reported on the current educational issues from the European perspective, as discussed within the ERO and CED.

- in the insurance system

No major changes in the reporting period.

The Minister of Health announced plans to reform the organization of the healthcare system by dissolving the national Health Fund and a shift from insurance type to budgetary type of healthcare financing. The concrete draft regulations however have not yet been published.

- in dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees

There are relatively few refugees and asylum seekers in Poland. Necessary healthcare for them is organized by the government. Special contracts are concluded with given healthcare facilities (hospitals, ambulatories) – dental care is very basic, mostly centered on pain relief.

III. Changes in fees.

No major changes in the reporting period.

IV. Promotion of the World Oral Health Day in 2017.

Each year Polish dentists and students of dentistry are celebrating the World Oral Health Day and organize various events to promote oral health and to raise public awareness of its significance.

On 20 March 2017 the Supreme Chamber is organizing a conference in Warsaw – its first part will be a scientific conference entitled “Live Mouth Smart” where leading Polish academics and researchers and representatives of the Chamber will present the new definition of oral health adopted by the FDI, findings of recent studies on the state of oral health. They will talk about main factors that influence the development of tooth decay and about some other important issues related to dentistry.

This will be followed by a press conference in order to disseminate this information to the public.

V. Further information.

In September 2016 the FDI Annual World Dental Congress took place in Poland (Poznań) for the first time in history.

The organization of the Congress was very well received – the number of participants was very high. It was an honour for Polish dentists to host this event and to welcome guest from all over the world.

We thank all those who came to Poland and hope to meet them again in our country – both for professional and private visits.

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