

## NATIONAL REPORT

Country: Croatia

Organization: National committee for dental medicine

Event place and time: Armenia, April 29-30, 2010

Members:

Women: 2799

Men: 1487

Employed in medical institutions: 659

Doctors of dental medicine in private practice: 467

Host of private practice: 2559

Retired doctors of dental medicine: 480

Unemployed doctors of dental medicine: 121

Total: 4286

### 1. Professional policy

*During 2009, the professional law – the Law on dental practice - has been changed, instituting two professional classes within the Croatian Chamber of Dental Medicine – the class of dental technicians and class of dental assistants. In this way, all profiles of the profession participating in providing dental care are now active within the Chamber – the doctor of dental medicine as the carrier, dental technician offering services of dental technology and the dental assistant. In doing this, doctors of dental medicine and dental technicians perform their profession independently, with an obligation of taking out and renewing of their permissions for independent work (licenses), and the obligation of continuous professional education. Dental assistants do not have a status of an independent professional, as they work in assisting the doctor of dental medicine, conducting jobs of maintaining hygiene and cleanliness in the doctor's office and managing the prescribed records and dental documentation. As such, they are only required to take out a license to work without requests for continuous education.*

*For the purpose of instituting the new professional classes, the Chamber is currently undergoing activities to publish all necessary Acts, enveloping all new members (dental technicians and dental assistants).*

*The new Law changed the professional title of doctor of stomatology into the new title of doctor of dental medicine.*

*Our exceptional cooperation with our colleagues from the neighboring countries (Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia) continues, especially in the field of professional education and improvement.*

## 2. Legislature

*The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has changed the Law on health protection in 2009, instituting a concession for health professions. With the consent of the Minister of Health, a doctor of dental medicine may sign a concession contract with the county, and based on this contract also a contract for providing mandatory health insurance with a suitable insurance company. At the time of signing a concession contract, the doctors of dental medicine that already have a signed contract for providing mandatory health insurance have priority. The concession is payable and is issued for a period of 10 years.*

*Financing of the mandatory health insurance continues to be conducted through a head tax. Doctors of dental medicine are stimulated by receiving additional funds for providing emergency dental medicine services. Along with the prescribed standard of insured persons, the allowable minimum is also increased, that is the maximum number of insured persons is decreased (a tendency of those numbers reaching the prescribed standard is noticed), giving rise to a possibility of certain doctors losing their contract for providing mandatory health insurance. Owing to the Chambers insisting, the application of the provisions of the general act regulating the stated matters has been prolonged for a period of four years.*

## 3. Additional information:

*A plan is currently being constructed for the purpose of instituting a professional class of dental assistants, as well as a program of professional retraining and additional education of medical nurses and dental technicians currently working as dental assistants in offices of doctors of dental medicine.*

## 4. Education:

*Croatia is currently in the process of realization and modernization of the study program (basic education) in accordance with the instructions of the ADEE (Association for Dental Education in Europe).*