

ERO

NEWS 44



A review of the ERO Plenary Session in Almaty, Kazakhstan



EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF THE FEDERATION DENTAIRE INTERNATIONALE FDI

2–3 MAY 2025

Dental leaders descend on Almaty: A new era begins

Organized by the European Regional Organization of FDI, the event took place at the InterContinental Almaty Hotel, hosting leading dental professionals and national association representatives. The session featured a mix of working group meetings, presentations and debates addressing developments in the dental field in Europe and Central Asia.



Breaking barriers: ERO's game-changing agenda

Key topics on the agenda included international dental standards, legal frameworks and professional regulation, education, certification and continuing professional development, best practice sharing within working group sessions.

Powerful welcomes kick off Almaty summit

ERO-President Simona Dianiskova opened the plenary session and thanks the local organizers and the presidents of the local NDAs for being hosts of this session and welcomed us in the beautiful city of Almaty.

The president welcomed the Guests T.C. Wong (Former President of FDI), Enzo Bondioni (CEO FDI), Nick Sharkov (President-elect FDI), Anna Lella (Former President ERO and Vice-President CED), Duygu Ilhan (Liaison Officer FDI-ERO) and all delegates.

The Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Alnazarova Akmaral Sharipbayevna conveyed her greetings to all participants via a video message.



On behalf of the FDI President, Greg Chadwick, Nikolai Sharkov, the President-elect of FDI, extended his greetings to all attendees and he warmly welcomed the assembly.

33 meetings, 6 plenaries, 1 vision: ERO's winning streak

During her presentation, President Simona Dianiskova reflected on her three years of service, highlighting the active work of the board with a total of 33 meetings, both in-person and online, as well as six successful plenary sessions held across Europe and beyond. Key achievements during this period included the publication of the 60th Anniversary Booklet, the launch of a new website, and increased visibility on various social media platforms.

The ERO Member Support Task Force and the joint ERO-CED Taskforce on Corporate Dentistry were initiated, while financial stability was maintained throughout. Strategic projects advanced collaboration on the European Manual of Dentists, the establishment of new working groups on Oral & General Health, Digitalisation, and AI, as well as the development of an Ethics Code, proposed by President-Elect Dr Edoardo Cavallé and the ERO/EDSA Award, taken care of by Prof Paula Perlea, councillor in the ERO Board and Prof Tanner Yucel, General Secretary of ERO.



The main concerns addressed were Corporate Dentistry, education and support for young dentists, insurance gaps, rising costs, and the quality of dental education. Working groups delivered projects such as the Toothbrushing App for Seniors, publications, a digital terminology library, and statements on sugar reduction.

Ongoing initiatives continued to focus on corporate practice surveys, harmonizing education standards, public preventive programs, addressing student needs, and further exploring digitalization through surveys, teleconsultation, and AI position papers.

Finally, the president expressed her gratitude to the member countries for their invitations to conferences and roundtables, which offered valuable opportunities to promote and represent ERO.

Introducing the ERO ethics charter: Your roadmap to excellence

An important topic was the presentation of the ERO Ethic Code. President-Elect Edoardo Cavallé reminded the assembly that the Code of Ethics is serving as a guide for members to uphold the founding values of the association, being a charter of rights and duties that defines the responsibilities of each NDA and directs them to respect the core values of the ERO. Membership in the ERO requires adherence not only with the ERO Statutes and Regulations, but also with this Code of Ethics.

Toothbrushing app for seniors: Tech meets tradition

On behalf of the Chair, Jean-Philippe Haesler, who apologized for his absence, Alexandre Deza presented the results of the working group “Ageing Population”. He introduced the Toothbrushing App, with sheets sorted by theme and a color-coded classification system. The next topic the group will address is “nutrition for the elderly population”.

Private practice reinvented: New study reveals why dentists hesitate

Oliver Zeyer reported on behalf of Gerhard Seeberger, who apologized for his absence. A presentation was delivered, summarizing recent activities and developments of the Working Group “Liberal Dental Practice in Europe”.

A scientific paper entitled Changing Dental Profession in the WHO European Region: Analysis of the Organization and Education Framework was published in Quintessence International, Volume 55, Number 9, October 2024. The article is available on the ERO website.



A second paper is currently under peer review. It was also announced that Thomas Wolf has been appointed as the new Chair of this WG. A joint project with the CED is addressing the challenge of motivating dentists to return to independent private practice rather than working in corporate dental centers. In this context, the reluctance of young dentists to open or take over private practices is being investigated.

Bridging academia & practice: The first systematic NDA Study

Mare Saag reported on the activities of the Working Group “Relations between Dental Practitioners and Universities” and presented the latest results. The study is the first systematic analysis of cooperation between National Dental Associations (NDAs) and dental faculties from the perspective of NDAs, based on previous work by Yamalik et al. (2013). The objectives are to identify areas of collaboration, assess strengths and gaps, and develop recommendations for improvement.

Seamless integration: How immigrants and grads join ERO

Ilshat Yuldashev presented the current issues and activities of the “Integration” Working Group. Main topics addressed were EU Manual of Dental Practice (ongoing reference for the group's work), Undergraduate Education, Preventive Programs and Collaboration with the European Society of Dental Ergonomics.



CE revolution: Tailoring training for tomorrow's dentists

Hande Şar Sancaklı presented the latest projects of the “Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry” Working Group. Continuing education (CE) is essential for oral health professionals to maintain up-to-date knowledge and provide high-quality care. Young dentists, as frontline health providers, require CE that matches their learning preferences. A joint ERO-EDSA survey revealed a gap between current CE offerings and young professionals' needs. ERO recommends National Dental Associations tailor CE programs accordingly.

Inside the dental team: Who's getting left behind?

Doniphan Hammer presented the results of the activity of the “Dental Team” Working Group. The goals of the project were to gather information on current practices in ERO member countries, to provide a useful information base for all stakeholders, to create or improve elements of national continuing education systems and to collect all data through an online survey. Twenty-five countries participated in the survey.

In 21 of these countries, continuing education is mandatory for dentists. Most dentists complete more than 10 hours of CE annually, with costs varying widely. For dental assistants, chairside assistants, dental hygienists, administrative assistants, and dental technicians, participation and CE requirements vary significantly across countries, with many team members receiving less than five hours of CE per year. Specialized roles exist in some countries.



AI & teledentistry: Dentistry's digital frontier

Roman Smucler summarises the work and considerations of the Working Group “Digitalization in Dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence”. The topics analyzed were Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Dentistry, Teledentistry, Education in Digital Dentistry, Cybersecurity and Data Protection, Integration of Digital Tools in Clinical Workflows and Patient Perspective and Communication. The group discussed the possibility of organizing an autumn webinar for national dental bodies. The use of AI tools for streamlining information sharing was also proposed.

Prevent to save: Why oral health is the planet's best bet

Mick Armstrong reported that the Working Group “Oral Health & General Health” discussed the strong link between dental disease and general health. Nearly all dental diseases are preventable, and there are well-established bidirectional relationships between oral health and systemic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and dementia. The costs of treatment for dental disease are enormous; however, prevention has been proven to be effective, not only improving patient health, happiness, and productivity, but also providing the most sustainable option for the planet.



New leadership elected: Meet ERO's 2025 power team

An important point on the Agenda of the ERO Plenary Session in Almaty was the election of the new Board of Directors.

The result of the elections was:

- Edoardo Cavallé – President
- Paula Perlea – President-elect
- Doris Seitz – Secretary General
- Oleg Gladkov – Councillor
- Ariel Slutsky – Councillor



Passing the torch: Historic Handover

A memorable event of the ERO Plenary Session in Almaty was the handing over of the presidency. Simona Dianiskova handed over the presidential chain to Edoardo Cavallé. She emphasized that it was a privilege to work with the Board and highlighted the importance of friendship and good cooperation with the board members and the delegates. Edoardo Cavallé expressed his pride in taking over the presidency.



Acknowledging the significant legacy, he is looking forward to future collaboration. Simona Dianiskova expressed her thanks to everyone on the Board, the Secretariat, the interpreters and the Organizers. She wished the new Board all the best and great success in achieving their goals.

Beyond dentistry: Almaty's unforgettable cultural showcase

Beyond formal sessions, attendees engaged in cultural excursions around Almaty and participated in official networking events.

What's next for ERO: From Shanghai to Sofia 2026

The event underscored both professional collaboration and strengthening personal connections among European and Kazakh dental practitioners. Under the new leadership of President Edoardo Cavallé, the ERO is advancing several strategic initiatives aimed at shaping European dentistry through to 2026 and beyond. These are grounded in the outcomes of the May 2025 Plenary Session and existing Working Group agendas. Next ERO meetings will be the Autumn Plenary session 2025 during the FDI World Dental Congress in Shanghai, and the Spring Plenary session 2026 in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 24–25 April 2026.

All the Best!

Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea
President-Elect ERO

