

ERO-FDI Working Group Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Report Spring Plenary Session

27th -29th April 2023 – Istanbul - Turkey

The ERO-FDI WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe met on September 23rd 2022 in Geneva during the FDI World Dental Parliament.

The meeting had among the participants, ERO-FDI Supervisor, Oliver Zeyer, ERO-FDI Past-president and former member of the WG LDPE, Philippe Rusca, FDI World Dental Federation Past-president, Michelle Arden, the WG members, and many guests.

Former WG LDPE Chair Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach had initiated a survey in May 2022. It was based on an evaluation starting in 2017, the results of which were published in 2018. The survey was entitled *Liberal practice at times of multi-dentist dental offices, office networks and ambulatory healthcare centers*, as decided during the WG LDPE Meeting at the Spring Plenary Session 2022 in Bucharest. As a matter of fact, the questions of the survey remained the same as in 2017. The purpose of this survey was to analyse the development of dental practice during the last 5 years including the eventual influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to have a base for further statements and policy papers in regard of this topic.

Until September 2022, only a few filled survey forms returned to ERO Head-office. The WG LDPE decided to use the same reminder strategy as in 2017 when 33 out of 37 ERO (~89%) member-countries had responded to the initiative. A total of three reminders were sent out to the member-associations, the last one in January 2023. The last filled form was received just recently. A total of 43 countries from the Region have sent their filled forms. This is a ~119% response rate based on the actual ERO-FDI membership of 36 countries. This result might be a concrete beginning of cooperation between ERO-FDI and CED, as recently discussed by ERO-FDI President Simona Dianiškova and CED President Freddie Sloth-Lihsberg.

Due to the responses received with delay, the statistical work needed to be updated every time a completed form was reaching the ERO-FDI Head-office. Preliminary results, still under construction, and their influence on liberal dental practice might be subject of discussion in a WG LDPE Meeting between now and the meeting during this year's FDI political venue. The presentation of the final results is expected for Sydney. For the work accomplished so far, I want to recognize the efforts of Prof. Thomas Wolf and cand. med. dent. Andres Müller from Berne University, Switzerland.

For future discussion I would like to propose to look deeper into the development of the WHO Resolution on Oral Health and the WHO Global Strategy on Oral Health, culminating in the Draft Global Oral Health Action Plan, GOHAP, which will be approved by the WHO member states at the 76th World Health Assembly in late May this year. The dental community needs to look into the *Proposed actions for civil societies* listed in the document. Dental organizations are part of civil societies and their members need to understand, in which way they are involved in the GOHAP, and what will be the level of liberty of a profession, which is the owner of the medical act, in carrying out the translation of the six strategic objectives of the Global Strategy on Oral Health into a set of evidence-informed actions that can be adapted to national and sub-national contexts. Germane documents have been circled.

Humbly delivered by WG LDPE Chair Gerhard Konrad Seeberger

Istanbul, April 26th 2023

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