

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2023

Country: Hungary

Association: Hungarian Dental Association

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

From 2021 our scientific journal Fogorvosi Szemle has become available only online, its old issues are fully digitalized and thus it is open access. We are constantly striving to keep up with digitalization, thereby developing our member database, and from the end of 2023, in cooperation with HALEON, we organize webinars to the Hungarian dentists and dental hygienists, the aim of which is to explore everyday problems and issues related to the given topic, unlike the usual lectures, involving the audience. This makes it easier to understand, illustrate what they hear with practical examples and everyday cases.

Trends and developments:

Dental care in Hungary is undergoing significant changes. The proportion of clinics operated by the state and local governments has fallen below ten percent. About ninety percent of the surgeries are private practices. Within this, two types can be distinguished. One type has a contract with the National Health Insurance Fund of Hungary (Hungarian acronym: NEAK), and the other type is the purely private practice. In practices with NEAK contracts, the dental patient has subsidized access to certain dental treatments, whereas in practices without a contract, the patient pays for their own treatment (out of pocket).

The number of NEAK contracted practices is steadily decreasing due to insufficient public funding to finance individual interventions. NEAK contracted practices are not an attraction for dentists. Therefore, the ratio between NEAK contracted practices and practices without NEAK contracts is shifting towards purely private practices.

The situation of oral prevention is currently extremely weak in Hungary. Practices (both NEAK contracted and non-NEAK contracted practices) are not interested in any prevention activities. This can be seen in both paediatric dentistry and adult dentistry.

A significant problem in Hungarian dentistry is the complete lack of quality assurance and quality control. NEAK spends very significant amounts of money to finance both prevention and curative activities, without having the slightest control over how these funds are spent.

There have been significant changes in the health insurance system in the last 5 years. The previous Bismark system, which consists of maintaining an independent state insurance company, has been replaced by the Beveridge system, the essence of which is that financing is carried out by the state apparatus (in Hungary, the Ministry for home affairs). Thus, healthcare funding is not independent of the government, the spending of funds is determined by the government.

The situation is complicated by the fact that Hungary has been governed by decree for seven years, so it is not laws, but government decrees that also decide health issues. In Hungary, private health insurance is not allowed. There are certain initiatives (health funds), but they are not comparable in volume or quality to the advantages offered by multi-insurance systems. At the same time, the establishment and operation of private health care institutions is not hindered by the health government. However, a certain degree of impoverishment of society does not allow a significant number of patients to use private healthcare. This has an extremely negative effect on dentistry.

Patients with Special Needs are being pushed into the background. Dental care for the elderly, disabled people, people with central nervous system diseases, those undergoing psychiatric treatment and other disadvantaged groups is not solved.

Suggested solutions:

1. Introduction of Quality Assurance and Quality Control in dentistry.
2. Encourage the introduction of a multi-insurance system.
3. Awareness of the importance of preventive action and its high-quality implementation for the whole society.
4. Mapping the needs of Patients with Special Needs and meeting those needs as much as possible.
5. Elaboration and development of dental health-conscious behavior patterns that are able to improve Hungarian dental indicators on their own.

Corporate Dentistry

Dental tourism is a very popular section of dentistry in Hungary.

on the western part of the country, most of the dental offices are specialised for foreign customers. Although Hungarian dental Association is a scientific association, taking care of education and scientific development of their members, we still observe a danger of dental procedure carried out for foreign clients in a very short time frame, which could be questionable in many treatment cases.

Most of the cases, professional qualification of dentist employed are much lower, then knowledge requires.

Also, the follow up and warranty aspects (in most cases) could not be maintained.

HDA would recommend a much stricter professional supervision of dentists specialising only for foreign clients and carrying out treatments with much shorter time than needed.

Changes in fees:

Unfortunately, the income of Hungarian Dental Association has decreased, but because of the current economic situation it is very difficult to increase the membership fee.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

The Hungarian Dental Association organises and takes part in several different actions on and around WOHD. We raise attention for prevention in homes for the elderly, in schools and kindergartens. We involve dental hygienist, dental students as well as students of health translation. We translate FDI resources into Hungarian and spread awareness on our Facebook, web and Instagram pages actively from 16-20 March each year.

Further information (activities):

It has been 17 years since our association organizes every year one of the top dental events in Hungary, the SymposiumSzeged scientific training conference, which will be held in April 2024. The prime goal of the 17th SymposiumSzeged conference is to invite world- renowned lecturers to give Hungarian and European dentists a chance to see and hear the top of the dental profession at an affordable price. The conference brings excellent dentists and scientists with unique knowledge to Hungary, thus providing an opportunity and a forum for scientific discussion and exchange of experience with the participation of distinguished and respected speakers from the international palette. World-renowned speakers from a number of countries represent a wide range of dentistry, from periodontics through aesthetic dentistry to orthodontics. In addition to lectures on all areas of dentistry, participants will be able to meet well-known exhibitors and unique product presentations during the two-day scientific conference. One day before the conference, on 25th April, the participants take part in a hands-on course as well as a training for dental hygiene colleagues and students.

***What are your 3 main concerns?
see below***

3 points you would like to discuss

- 1.Oral health and tobacco
2. Oral health in connection with general diseases
3. Finding more opportunities to increase the role of dental hygienist in prevention of oral diseases