

ERO NEWS



ERO-FDI and ADEE Strengthen Cooperation in Europe



24-28 AUGUST 2026

ERO-FDI and ADEE Strengthen Cooperation to Shape the Future of Dental Education and the Profession in Europe

The European Regional Organisation of the FDI World Dental Federation (ERO-FDI) has expressed its commitment to developing closer and more structured cooperation with the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE), bringing together dental education, professional practice and oral health policy to address the rapidly changing needs of European dentistry.

The initiative was highlighted during the ADEE Annual Meeting 2026 in Budapest, hosted by the Faculty of Dentistry of Semmelweis University from 24 to 28 August 2026.

Under the theme “Evidence and Empathy as the focus in Oral Health Professionals’ Education,” this year’s meeting emphasised the importance of combining scientific excellence and evidence-based education with a patient

centred and humanistic approach—principles that are equally important to the mission and activities of ERO-FDI. Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea, President-Elect of ERO-FDI, highlighted the potential for the Budapest discussions to become the foundation for a long-lasting partnership between the two organisations.

ADEE and ERO-FDI represent two highly complementary perspectives. ADEE brings together European dental education and academic expertise, while ERO-FDI brings together the organised dental profession and National Dental Associations. By strengthening the dialogue between education and the profession, we can better prepare European dentistry for the profound transformations that lie ahead.

Building Bridges Between Education and Professional Practice

ERO-FDI represents the dental profession across the WHO European Region through a diverse network of National Dental Associations. Its activities provide an important bridge between dental education, professional practice and oral health policy.

This role is particularly reflected in the work of the ERO Working Group “Relation between Dental Practitioners and Universities,” led by Prof. Mare Saag from Estonia, which aims to strengthen cooperation between National Dental Associations, dental faculties and practising professionals.



Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea President-Elect of ERO-FDI with Prof. Dr. Ivan Alajbeg President of ADEE during the ADEE 2026 Annual Meeting in Budapest



Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea President-Elect of ERO-FDI with Dr. Denis Murphy, CAO and Secretary-General of the ADEE

Dialogue between ERO-FDI and ADEE already has an important foundation. ERO has contributed to discussions surrounding the Graduating European Dentist (GED) curriculum framework, including the multi-stakeholder workshop organised by ADEE in Dublin in 2025. These exchanges demonstrate the value of combining ADEE's academic and educational expertise with the professional and policy experience of ERO-FDI and its National Dental Associations.

Priorities for Future Cooperation

The Budapest event highlighted several potential areas for closer collaboration between ERO-FDI and ADEE:

- competencies and preparedness of graduating European dentists and their transition into contemporary professional practice;
- stronger links between dental faculties, National Dental Associations and practising professionals;
- continuing professional development and lifelong learning;
- digital dentistry, artificial intelligence, e-health and new educational technologies, with appropriate professional and ethical safeguards;
- interprofessional education and the growing integration of oral and general health;
- workforce development, professional mobility and changes in models of dental practice;
- stronger involvement of students and young dentists in shaping the future of the profession;
- joint surveys, position papers, scientific sessions and educational projects.

A Common Vision for European Dentistry

European dentistry is undergoing profound transformation. Digitalisation and artificial intelligence, demographic changes, workforce challenges, new models of professional practice and the increasing integration of oral and general health are reshaping both dental education and clinical practice.

Responding effectively to these developments requires closer collaboration between universities, educators, National Dental Associations, professional organisations, students and practising dentists.

Cooperation between education and the profession is more important than ever. Our common responsibility is not only to anticipate change, but also to ensure that future generations of dentists have the knowledge, competencies and professional values required to provide high-quality care to European citizens.

On behalf of ERO President dr Edoardo Cavalle, herself and the entire ERO Board, Prof Perlea, President Elect of ERO-FDI congratulated, ADEE President Prof. Ivan Alajbeg, CEO and Secretary General Dr. Denis Murphy, the ADEE Board, Semmelweis University and the organising team for the successful preparation of the 2026 Annual Meeting in Budapest.

The Budapest meeting represents an opportunity to take a further step in strengthening the relationship between ERO-FDI and ADEE and to develop sustainable cooperation based on a shared European objective

Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea
President-Elect
on behalf of ERO BOARD

