

## **ERO WG Oral Health and General Health**

### **Report of activities in 2023/2024**

#### **Plenary Session Limassol April 2024**

1. This working group was established at the ERO Plenary Session 2023 in Istanbul. Subsequent to the meeting, calls for expressions of interest were made and the members of the group met online for the first time in July 2023. Mick Armstrong was appointed as Chair of the WG.
2. Since the initial meeting, there have been two further meetings. In between meetings, the group has communicated by email and outlined its work ideas in an initial document to the Board.
3. The original aim of the group was to create an advocacy document about raising awareness of the connections between oral health and general health. There is a lot of knowledge amongst the members of the group and a lot of ideas of what should be contained in the advocacy document.
4. After the November Board meeting, the ERO President confirmed that the Board was pleased with the progress made by the WG at that time and wished that the focus would be the “implementation of a comprehensive prevention strategy including a sugar tax with revenue reinvested into oral health strategies; advertising bans on certain products, negative advertising /increase public awareness around oral health matters; fluoridation, food labelling, reducing or scrapping taxes on oral health products”.
5. Following on from this, the WG has focused on sugar as well as prevention messaging and delivery. The national health systems in which the profession works often do not enable prevention appropriately. It is also important that the dental team works together to ensure health messages are received and that the most vulnerable people are supported. This again is dependent on the availability and training of the dental workforce and will be different in every country.
6. An initial outline draft of a first document will be presented in Limassol. The working group aims to draw on available literature and good practice for its recommendations.