



ERO Working Group Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry

ERO Plenary Session 2025

Building the Continuing Education Structure for the Young Dentist's Prospect

The continuing dental education of oral health professionals (OHPs) is of fundamental importance to update and improve CE to be able to deliver the highest quality of oral healthcare to address the oral health needs of the population. Today's oral health professionals are seen as the front-line medical practitioners in the prevention, early detection, and monitoring of both oral and non-communicable diseases. On this regard, continuing dental education is vital to keep their knowledge and skills up to date to maintain career-long highly-qualified professional development.

There is a big discrepancy between today's educational methods and what the new professional generation mostly prefer. Not only the educational models but also the demands and preferences on educational topics has been identified based on the results of the survey enrolled within the collaboration of ERO and EDSA.

ERO recommends National Dental Associations to organize their CE events to fulfill the demands and needs of the young generation of dental professionals;

Educational Preferences: The expected outcomes of CE courses include achieving proficiency, enhancing patient education, and improving clinical skills. Thus, medical clinical and operative topics are the mostly emerging gaps in the needs of the young dental profession.

Preferred Educational Formats: Conferences and lecture sessions are favored in means of their effective learning outcomes however hands-on courses and workshops being the most attractive to improve their clinical skills and experiences.

Participation Criteria for CE: Factors such as credibility, lecturer credentials, format, timing, venue, and cost influence course selection plays important selective criteria. Smaller groups (up to 15 participants) are preferred for better engagement for the best outcome of professional improvements.

Conclusion

-There is a strong commitment of the young generation dentists to reinforce their professional development.

- With a clear preference for clinical specialties and hands-on learning outcomes and experiences, students can improve their academic medical knowledge with practical skills.
- As future dental professionals, their proactive approach to education will significantly improve their ability to provide high-quality patient care.
- Through the current recommendations for learning, teaching and the emergence of new technology in professional education, such as practical teaching (workshops, hands-on courses) virtual reality simulation, an overview of the providing of these practices and educational events are necessary.

ERO calls European NDAs for collaboration across education stakeholders and institutions to support and improve the contemporary continuing education topics of the future oral health professionals.

Strengthening Continuing Education for the Future of Dentistry

As a global advocate for optimal oral health, the **FDI World Dental Federation** underscores the critical importance of **continuing education (CE)** in preparing the next generation of **oral health professionals (OHPs)** to meet evolving healthcare needs and advance global health outcomes.

In alignment with **FDI's Vision 2030: Delivering Optimal Oral Health for All**, which emphasizes the importance of a **resilient oral health workforce** and the integration of oral health within broader health systems, continuing professional development stands as a cornerstone of quality care, career sustainability, and innovation in dentistry.

Today's OHPs play an expanded role—not only providing clinical care but also participating in the **prevention, early detection, and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**. To fulfill this role, CE must be forward-looking, accessible, and responsive to the educational needs of young professionals entering the field.

Key insights from the ERO–EDSA highlights:

Educational Content Priorities: Young dentists seek CE focused on clinical, medical, and operative topics that directly enhance patient care and clinical confidence.

Preferred Learning Formats: Hands-on workshops, small-group sessions, and digital tools—including simulation and virtual learning—are increasingly favored for their effectiveness in translating knowledge into practice.

Participation Drivers: Course credibility, lecturer expertise, flexible formats, affordability, and accessibility are major factors in CE engagement.

Strategic Call to Action

FDI encourages **National Dental Associations (NDAs)** and education stakeholders to:

Align CE offerings with the competencies and learning preferences of emerging dental professionals.

Embrace innovation in education delivery, including **technology-driven approaches** highlighted in FDI's **Vision 2030** and the **Education Strategy**.

Foster international collaboration and knowledge exchange to support **workforce sustainability and quality improvement**.

Empowering young oral health professionals with relevant, skill-based, and accessible CE is essential to the global goal of ensuring **resilient, future-ready dental workforces**.

**Working Group-
CONTINUING MEDICAL
EDUCATION IN DENTISTRY**

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Thank you...