

ERO Working Group

“Relation between dental practitioners and universities”

Collaboration between NDAs and dental faculties: the NDAs perspective

Almaty, 2nd May 2025

Why investigating collaboration of NDAs and dental faculties?

- › First systematic analysis of NDA–faculty cooperation (NDAs perspective, derived from faculty's perspective, Yamalik et al., 2013)
- › Identification of strengths and gaps in key areas
- › Promotion of interinstitutional synergies
- › Basis for global comparisons
- › Data-based roadmap for targeted improvements

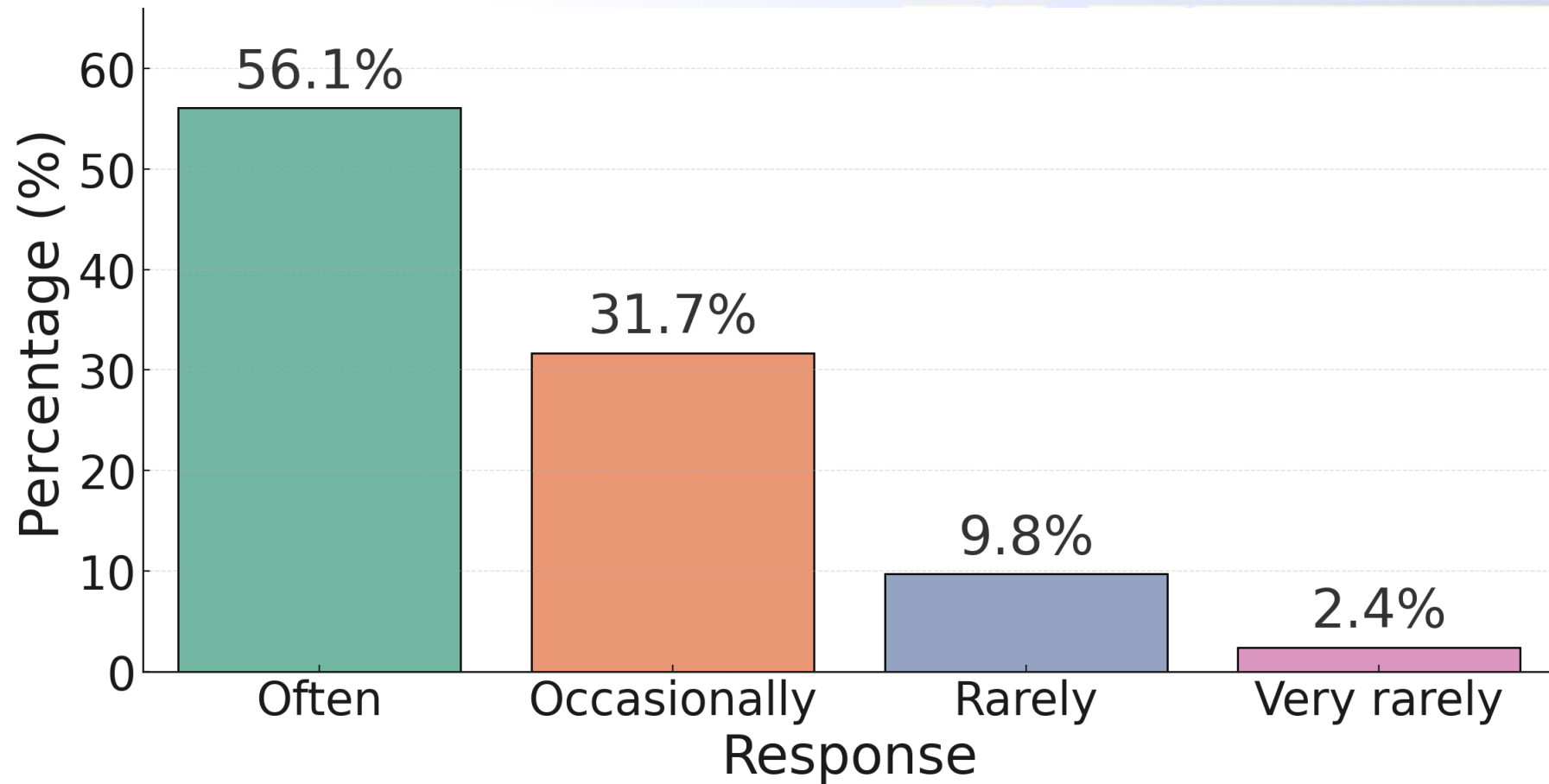
Aims of the study

- Identification of all areas of cooperation (teaching, CE, workforce, etc.)
- Identification of partnerships that are working well and those that could be improved
- Formulation of specific recommendations for action

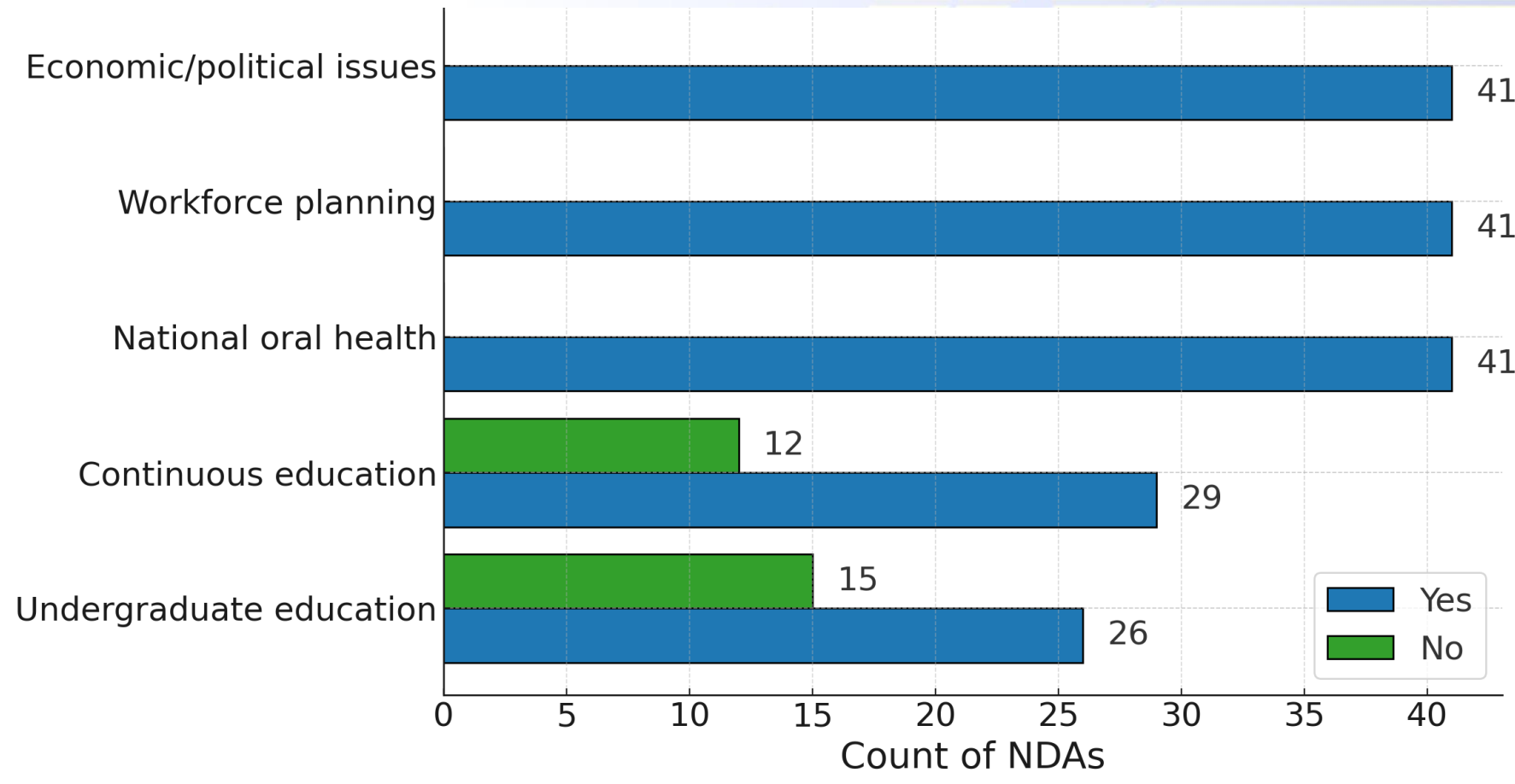
Thank you very much for participation!

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Norway, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. (n=41)

How frequently does your NDA engage with dental faculties in your country? (n = 41)



Areas needing improvement (n=41)



Cooperation in Teaching

- **Curriculum development:** 59% actively involved
- **Continuing education (CE):** 90% plan/offer CE jointly
- **Cooperation with authorities:** 63% formally involved

Collaboration in Partnership Development & Core Topics

- **Positive development:** 88% see progress over the last 10 years
- **More frequent meetings:** 76% report more intensive exchange
- **Main topics of the meetings:** CE (100%), knowledge transfer (100%), programs for national oral health (90%), new technologies (73%) curriculum (66%), clinical practice (59%), competencies (34%)

Cooperation in Workforce, Scholarships & Migration

Scholarships: 76% through NDAs, 78% through individuals;
66% support registration processes

Impact of labor migration:

- **Negative effects:** «unequal quality of treatment»: 46%,
«too few patients»: 66%, «loss of own dentists»: 66%
- **Positive effects:** «more dentists needed»: 76%,
«competition improves quality»: 54%

Strengths and areas for improvement in the partnership

- **Working well:**
 - CE cooperation (71%)
 - Technology transfer (73%)
 - Knowledge transfer (67%)
- **Room for improvement:**
 - Undergraduate curriculum (42%)
 - Workforce issues (50%)
 - Economic/political negotiations (44%)

Possible recommendations for action

Strengthen membership: Send NDA representatives to faculty committees

Joint working groups: Regular working groups on curriculum, CE & workforce

Stakeholder dialogue: Half-yearly round tables with politicians, universities & NDAs

Resource synergies: Joint funding applications, shared teaching and practical infrastructure

Monitoring & review: Annual evaluation of cooperation results and adjustment of the roadmap

New project:

Evaluation of the needs and trends for postgraduate training

- Education, specialization and occupational preferences
- Competition for dental student positions
- Specialization preferences by gender
- What are the needs and optimal structure for postgraduate training
- Emerging trends & challenges in dentistry

Members of this working group

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Thank you very much!