

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2024

Country: Slovenia

Association: Slovenian Dental Association (SDA)

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

No changes.

President: Prim. Matej Leskošek, DMD

Secretary General: Assist. Prof. Barbara Artnik, DMD

Secretary: Vesna Banko, DMD

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

An agreement to ban the use of amalgam in dental fillings by the beginning of 2025 provides for an exemption for countries where white fillings are not yet available without co-payment, and Slovenia is one of these countries. These countries can extend the transition period until mid-2026. The Ministry of Health has not (yet?) confirmed that Slovenia will make use of the possibility to extend the deadline until the ban.

From 2018, children up to the age of 15, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers can receive a white filling free of charge in the public healthcare system. Other insured persons:

- from 1 January 2025, composite is the standard material for insured persons up to the age of 26 and amalgam only if absolutely necessary for health reasons. Until 1 January 2025, the current standard material - amalgam - was used for this filling

for insured persons aged 15 to 26 who are not pregnant or breastfeeding;

- from 1 July 2026 also for insured persons aged 26 and over (without exception) the standard material composite and amalgam only if absolutely necessary for health reasons. Until 30 June 2026, amalgam will be used as the standard material in these cases.

in health and social politics

On 22 November 2024, the Slovenian parliament adopted the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare. This is the first law dealing with the quality of healthcare in Slovenia. The Act defines the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders in the healthcare system, in particular the organisations of healthcare providers and professional associations, the Ministry of Health and the Slovenian Health Insurance Institute in connection with quality assurance. In addition, many existing quality improvement procedures, such as the incident reporting system, are codified and improved by the Act.

The Act provides for the establishment of the Public Agency for Quality in Healthcare as an independent, publicly funded organisation responsible for nationally coordinated activities in the area of quality assurance. The Agency will also have responsibilities in the field of health technology assessment, in particular as the competent national authority in connection with EU Regulation 2021/2282 on health technology assessment. The Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare also provides for the submission of the Agency's annual report on the quality of healthcare to Parliament and the establishment of a Health Council as an expert advisory body appointed by the Minister of Health.

The renovation of the salary system was successfully completed on 1 January 2025, when the Act on the common foundations of the salary system in the public sector, which was adopted by the National Assembly in October 2024, came into force.

At the end of 2024, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the 2025-2026 Programme for Limiting Alcohol Consumption and Reducing the Harmful Consequences of Alcohol Consumption in order to reduce the health, social and economic burden of harmful alcohol consumption. It contains a series of measures based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization and other international strategies to comprehensively combat this problem.

The union of doctors and dentists (Fides) started a strike on 15 January 2024. It is demanding the regulation of the salary system for doctors and dentists in the special pillar of the health system, the definition of career paths for doctors and dentists and the abolition of salary differentials. The strike, which is still ongoing, is the longest in the country's history. However, we would like to emphasise that this is more of a principled strike and that patients are not being disadvantaged as a result.

in educational politics

The government has adopted amendments to the Act on the organisation and financing of education. The most important amendment adopted by the government includes an article that defines the amount of funding for the development of and investment in education and training, which is linked to 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). In future, such a legal regulation will close the gap that has arisen in recent decades in the area of education and training. This amount will be used to finance development tasks, programmes and projects as well as investments in education infrastructure. From 1 January 2027, the funds will be increased annually by an average of 0.025 percentage points of gross domestic product (GDP) in accordance with budgetary possibilities until the target value of the share of gross domestic product (GDP), i.e. 0.5 percent, is reached.

in the insurance system (incl. the public health insurance and private insurance schemes)

In November 2024, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Act on the Right of Persons Who Have Survived Cancer and Certain Other Diseases to Equal Access to Insurance and Credit Products. With the introduction of the Act, Slovenia joins countries such as France, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Cyprus and Spain, which have already recognised the need for such a regulation. The right to be forgotten enables people suffering from cancer, hepatitis C or HIV to no longer disclose this data when concluding credit and insurance contracts after a certain period of time. The law also prohibits insurance companies from collecting this data when assessing risk:

cancer: 7 years after completion of treatment,

hepatitis C: 3 months after completion of treatment,

HIV: 1 year after the end of treatment.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

problems with dental chains

possible solutions

Corporate dentistry is not yet widespread in Slovenia, but the trend is slowly emerging. The Slovenian dental market is otherwise still largely dominated by private practises and public healthcare facilities. There are some smaller dental groups and practises with several locations, but they do not yet operate according to a large-scale corporate model. International dental chains are not yet strongly represented on the Slovenian market. However, with increasing privatisation and market liberalisation, dental chains could expand in the future.

Slovenia's proximity to Austria, Italy and Croatia, where corporate dentistry is more widespread, could influence market development. Some Slovenian patients are already travelling abroad (especially to Croatia) for cheaper dental services, which could force local practises to consolidate in order to remain competitive.

Challenges for corporate dentistry in Slovenia:

- Regulation and licencing: Slovenia has strict regulations for the establishment of dental practises, which could slow down expansion.

- Cultural preference for private practitioners: Many Slovenians still prefer personal relationships with their dentists, which makes it more difficult for corporate models to gain trust.
- Labour force and education: The number of dentists in Slovenia is relatively low and recruitment staff for corporate practises could be a challenge.

Changes in fees:

No changes in the reporting period.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

We will use the FDI materials prepared for WOHD.

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns?

Digitalisation, introduction of a new strategy for primary healthcare, doctors' strike

3 points you would like to discuss

Digitalisation.