



**TRK DİŐHEKİMLERİ BİRLİĐİ**  
**TURKISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

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Subject : 2024 ERO National Report

20/02/2025

**Dear Monika Lang,**  
**ERO Secretariat**

Please find attached the ERO National Report for 2024 from our Association.

Should you have any further requests regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our Association.

**Best Regards,**

**Fatih Gler**  
**Turkish Dental Association**  
**President**



## **TURKISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

# **2024 ERO NATIONAL REPORT**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	: Türkiye
<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	: Turkish Dental Association
<b>HEADQUARTER</b>	: Ankara / Türkiye
<b>YEAR</b>	: 2024

## ***FDI EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION***

### ***National Report 2024***

***Country*** : *Türkiye*  
***Association*** : *Turkish Dental Association*

*Please classify your national report by following subjects:*

#### ***Changes***

*in the association and it's organization.*

The 20th Ordinary General Assembly of the Turkish Dental Association took place in Ankara from **1st to 3rd October 2024**. A total of 410 delegates attended, with 400 participating in the elections. As a result of the election, the following individuals were elected to serve on the 20th Term of the Board of Directors of the Turkish Dental Association.

<b>Turkish Dental Association 20<sup>th</sup> Term Board of Directors</b>	
<b>Fatih Güler</b>	President
<b>Tolga Beray</b>	Vice President
<b>Gassan Yücel</b>	Secretary-General
<b>Alper Dilek</b>	Treasurer
<b>Gülbüz Eldeniz</b>	Member of the Board of Directors
<b>Uğur Mercan</b>	Member of the Board of Directors
<b>R. Naim Şenyurt</b>	Member of the Board of Directors
<b>Fatih Uçar</b>	Member of the Board of Directors
<b>Esra Yamak</b>	Member of the Board of Directors
<b>Meltem Çağın Alkan Yıldırım</b>	Member of the Board of Directors
<b>Hüseyin Emir Yüzbaşıoğlu</b>	Member of the Board of Directors

❖ **Our newly established Chamber.**

With the establishment of our new Chamber in the city of Şırnak, the total number of Chambers affiliated with our Association has risen to 44.

We wish success to our colleagues who took charge of establishing our Chamber, which received funding equivalent to 250 times the Oral Dental Health Examination and Treatment Fee Tariff for use in the establishment procedures.

*Trends and developments:*

*In professional politics*

❖ **The Regulation that Enables Employment of the Dentists in Practice Office Was Approved By the Commission.**

The regulation that we, as the Turkish Dental Association, have long advocated for allowing the employment of dentists in dental practices came into effect on 1 March 2024.

Under this law, only one dentist may be employed in dental practices; moreover, employing more than one dentist will not be permitted.

❖ **Amendment to Law Regarding the Sharing of Health Data and Our Association's Objection.**

The Law No. 7499 on Amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure and Certain Laws was adopted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on March 2, 2024. The amendment, which was introduced under Article 20 of the Constitution, violates the right to privacy and permits the widespread processing of health data.

Moreover, it allows the intentional misuse of health data under the pretext of providing financial support for health services.

As a result, the Turkish Dental Association and the Turkish Medical Association have filed a lawsuit challenging this amendment.

Our annulment request dated 27 February 2024 was accepted by the Supreme Court. Additionally, Article 378, which allows the Health Ministry to collect personal data in a host system, was cancelled after review.

❖ **Amendment to the Regulation Concerning Private Health Institutes Offering Oral and Dental Health Care.**

The amendments published in the Official Gazette on 15 December 2024 primarily involve the reorganization of the rules, which were suspended by the Council of State's decision on 18 March 2024 in the lawsuit filed by our Association.

In addition to that, some regulations deemed necessary by the Council of State were included among the amendments.

Those are:

- Current health institutions will continue to provide services in accordance with the physical requirements and standards of equipment and staff as per the Regulation on the date they receive authorization.
- One of the two dentists who will work at the Authorization Commission, which authorizes health institutions, will be representative of the professional chamber.
- Dentists may work in up to two different health institutions, provided they are located within the same province.
- Along with issuing a financial document in exchange for the fee received from the patient, a second document will also be issued and presented to the patient that details the health services provided and the prices of each item.
- The size of the indoor usage area for oral dental health centers and hospitals will be reorganised. It will be required to provide at least 500 m<sup>2</sup> of indoor space and to have five dental units, with an additional 25 m<sup>2</sup> required for each extra unit. Hospitals will need a minimum indoor area of 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>, and 25 m<sup>2</sup> will be added for each unit beyond the minimum of fifteen dental units.
- The number of examination rooms required in health centers and hospitals has been determined based on the minimum number of dentists needed for the establishment of these institutions. The 50 m<sup>2</sup> waiting room has been amended to accommodate five dentists, with an increase of 5 m<sup>2</sup> for each additional dentist.

As a result, the number of examination rooms needed in the establishment has been halved, while the waiting room's size has increased by fifty per cent. Furthermore, according to the amendment, a waiting room of 130 m<sup>2</sup> is mandated for fifteen dentists, and for each additional dentist, the waiting room will be expanded by 5 m<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the examination room was required in the establishment. While the number of physicians was reduced from twenty-five to fifteen, the waiting room was enlarged by approximately 40% for the same number of physicians.

❖ **Signage Standards for Dental Practices - 24 April 2024.**

Since Law No. 1219 was amended to permit the employment of dentists limited to one person, the Supreme Board of Directors, at its meeting on 24 April 2024, added the following to the "**Signage Standards for Practicing Offices**" regarding the signage practices of dentists in this situation:

***“15. Separate signboards may be displayed in the name of the license holder and the working dentist.”***

Consequently, if the rules outlined in the signage standards are adhered to, the licensed dentist and the dentist practicing in a clinic will be permitted to display separate signs.

*In health and social politics*

❖ **“The Future of Dentists is at Risk!” Social Media Campaign.**

Between 13 June and 3 July 2024, we launched a campaign on our Association's social media accounts focusing on the employment of dentists in our country, university quotas, education policy, young dentists, and the future of our profession. Visuals prepared for this campaign were shared daily, tagging the Presidency, Grand National Assembly, Ministry of Health, Higher Education Council (YÖK), and all political parties in Grand National Assembly.

*Education politics*

❖ **Regulation on the Recognition and Equivalence of Higher Education Diplomas Abroad Amended.**

To be recognized in our country, higher education diplomas obtained from foreign educational institutions must be approved by the Higher Education Council (YÖK).

With the amendment to the Regulation on Recognition and Equivalence of Foreign Higher Education Diplomas, which came into effect on 15 March 2024, diplomas from those who graduated from medicine, pharmacy, law, or dentistry departments abroad will be considered valid in our country only if the foreign educational institution attended is ranked among the top 1,000 universities worldwide by recognized ranking bodies.

Furthermore, diplomas acquired through distance education in health programmes that include clinical practice will not be recognized.

## ❖ TDA Academy Activities

During this period, TDB Academy organized eight online scientific events with the following titles between 14 December 2022 and 27 March 2024, featuring the participation of our esteemed educators and the support of our sponsoring companies:

• <i>Implant or Tooth? Should We Extract It or Keep It in the Mouth?</i>
• <i>Relationship between Dental Health and Hearth Health.</i>
• <i>Why Choose an Oral Health Doctor?</i>
• <i>Treatments for Stomatitis and Their Relationship with Oral Health.</i>
• <i>Natural Smiles: Sustainable Restorations with a Biomimetic Restorative Dental Practice.</i>
• <i>Technologies from which we cannot distance ourselves in dentistry: CAD-CAM Systems</i>
• <i>Interactions Between General Health and Oral Health in Osteoporosis</i>
• <i>Relationship Between Pediatric Hematology and Dentistry in Pediatric Patients with Bleeding Disorders</i>

## *Continuing Dental Education Recognition and Credits (CDE)*

With CDE certificates, dentists ensure that their training is recorded by the TDA, which entitles them to advantageous registration for the congresses organized by the TDA.

As TDA, our ongoing efforts before the Ministry of Health to mandate Continuing Dental Education upon graduation persisted this year as well.

## *Manpower training*

Our Association's insistence on improving manpower planning before the Ministry of Health and the Council of Higher Education continued this year as well.

Manpower planning is one of the most significant issues for countries to utilize their resources efficiently.

Like many nations around the world, dental undergraduate education is the most expensive form of education in our country. In this regard, it is evident that manpower planning takes on greater importance in dental education.

It is not possible to eliminate dental and gum diseases without the establishment of national health policies that priorities preventive health services and determine manpower planning according to **need, demand, and population** criteria.

Manpower planning in the health industry involves employing health workers in adequate numbers, with high quality, proper distribution, appropriate timing, and in a correct manner to realize the health services currently provided to society and those to be provided in the future.

Actions should be taken in this regard:

- Not establishing new dental faculties, suspending the current quotas, and subsequently adjusting them based on need and demand.
- In determining the quotas for the Faculty of Dentistry, planning should consider the number of faculty members per student and the number of installed active dental units and ensure full compliance with all regulations set forth by the Higher Education Council.
- Planning service provision capacity for independent dentists based on population distribution and demand.
- This year, the issues regarding the monitoring of the family dentistry model, pilot studies, and the evaluation of the results were also communicated to the Ministry of Health and the Council of Higher Education.
- In Türkiye, alongside the information provided by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the Turkish Dental Association (TDA), a report incorporating student feedback should be prepared and shared with relevant stakeholders.
- Efforts should be made to reintroduce all issues related to education, training, and students that were overshadowed by the disaster on 6 February, ensuring they remain current and that targets are achieved and monitored.
- The quantitative increases in education that are occurring today have long been recognized. While taking initiatives to improve this numerical situation (such as not opening new faculties, reducing the quotas of existing faculties, and improving the infrastructure and educational facilities of faculties), it is also essential to discuss with stakeholders what can be done to enhance the quality of dental education and mitigate student issues under the existing conditions.

The issues outlined above were mentioned during our correspondence and our meetings.



### *In the insurance system*

Dental services in our country are provided free of charge by the public sector, namely through the Social Security Institution. However, particularly due to the pandemic, the procurement of private services has increased.

Our Association consistently voices the necessity for the public to obtain certain treatment items, including public services, from the private sector through service procurement, based on current data.

### *Personal Accident and Work Incapacity Insurance*

Furthermore, the private life insurance for TDA organs and Dental Chamber Executives, along with the private personal accident and incapacity for work insurance for dentists, which we have been providing since 2004, has continued this year as well.

According to this, health expenses arising from accidents, as well as natural or accidental deaths, are covered as indemnity payments by the TDA budget for the Supreme Board of Directives, the Supreme Board of Auditors, and the Supreme Board of Disciplinary, following the policies that specify a determined amount.

Dental Chambers, by contrast, offer daily compensation for up to 200 days each year for days rendered unworkable due to personal accidents and incapacity to work insurance, as well as compensation for disability and death resulting from personal accidents funded by member fees.

### *Corporate Dentistry*

In most developed countries, dentistry is essentially conducted on an individual basis. In free, pluralistic democracies, the existence of self-employed professions based on the principle of self-governance contributes significantly to the emancipation of society, provided that a sufficient number of public units are established to offer standardized healthcare to patients in an accessible manner.

Self-governance and patient-centered self-employment are essential aspects of independent dental practice. The Turkish Dental Association values and supports health service delivery that maintains these characteristics.

Chain dental clinics are establishments that offer oral and dental health services across multiple locations, all operated under a single brand name either by one owner or by different owners.

- a) It has been noted that the establishment of multiple health institutions under a single ownership may potentially conflict with the principle of dentists working in clinics under their management while practicing their profession. It could be argued that the professional autonomy of dentists is somewhat restricted in chain health institutions, which may potentially limit their ability to make patient-oriented decisions that are in the best interest of their patients.

- b) Identification of health institutions, each of which belongs to different dentists, under the same brand, and use of the name right is also a different manifestation of chain health institutions. In this chain, although each health facility operates in its own autonomy, each health facility appears to be part of a larger entity, with various associations ranging from the name of the workplace to its organization, from the determination of the tools used to the collective accounting.

This creates the perception among patients that support can be gained from large, corporate, multi-located health institutions at the expense of chain health institutions, negatively impacting colleagues who provide services in their practice or in the polyclinic established with their peers.

The existence of health institutes and their expansion restricts professional independence on one hand and narrows the activities of our profession on the other.

As a professional organization, we reiterate our concerns regarding this issue once again this year.

### *Problems with the dental chains*

The main problems caused by chain dental clinics can be listed as exposure of employees to performance pressure and possible loss of quality in health services due to this and violation of ethical rules, especially regarding promotion.

### *Possible Solutions:*

If it is not possible to completely prevent chain health institutions, then all partners should be dentists, and all dentists working in the health institutions in question should be partners of the health institution. Sanctions for violations of ethical rules should be determined proportionally to the number of dentists working in all health institutions with the same name.

### *Changes in Fees:*

- ❖ **The Turkish Dental Association has established the 2025 Oral and Dental Health Examination and Treatment Fee Tariff.**

The “Oral and Dental Health Examination and Treatment Fee Tariff ” which will be implemented by our colleagues in the country throughout the year beginning on 1 January 2025, was established in accordance with the opinions and suggestions received from our Chambers and ratified at the meeting of our Supreme Board of Directors on 18-19 December 2024, then forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

*Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:*

- The community oral health activities to be organized by local Dental Chambers.
- Sharing FDI brochures via web site and social media.
- Press Conference.

*Further Information (activities):*

❖ **The Handover Ceremony Between the 19th and 20th Terms of the TDA Board of Directors Was Held.**

Our colleagues who served on the 19th and 20th Boards of Directors of our Association gathered at the ceremony held on 21 November 2024.

At the conclusion of the meeting, plaques of appreciation were presented on behalf of our profession to the members of the Board of Directors, the Board of Auditors, and the Disciplinary Board of the 19th Term, recognizing their contributions to the improvement of oral and dental health in our society and profession during their tenure.

❖ **The Turkish Medical Association Visited Our Newly Elected Board of Directors.**

The Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association visited our newly appointed 20th Term Board of Directors of the Turkish Dental Association.

During the meeting, the Turkish Medical Association extended its best wishes to our new Board of Directors, stating that the existing relationships between the Turkish Dental Association and the Turkish Medical Association will be maintained in the upcoming working period. Additionally, opinions were shared regarding the health system in our country, the status of professional associations, and the challenges they face.

❖ **Preparations for the 28th International Dental Congress of the Turkish Dental Association.**

The 28th International Dental Congress of the Turkish Dental Association will be held from **18 to 21 September 2025** in the city of Diyarbakır, hosted by our Diyarbakır Chamber of Dentists.

The TDA International Congress recognized as the most extensive and largest congress within the field of dentistry in our nation, will include a wealth of scientific and social programs this year, consistent with its tradition observed annually.

### ❖ **Meeting of the Turkish Dental Association Council of Presidents**

The Council of Presidents Meeting, which will be attended by the Presidents and General Secretaries of our member Chambers, has been scheduled to take place in Gaziantep on 7-8 February 2025. Ministry officials are also expected to participate in the meeting, during which the issues facing our profession and colleagues will be discussed.

### ❖ **Preparations for the 71st International Association of Dental Students (IADS)**

In accordance with the decision to host the 71st International Association of Dental Students (IADS) Congress in Istanbul, where East meets West, from 12 to 17 February 2025, preparations have begun by the TDA Student Branch. This event will allow numerous dental students to gather on a global scale and exchange ideas.

*What are your Three Main Concerns?*

- The establishment of excessive faculties, ongoing increases in quotas, and consequently enrolling more students than necessary may lead to unemployment or a cheap labor situation.
- Non-professionals as Partners in Oral and Dental Health Institutions.
- Dentists' salaries are insufficient to maintain a prosperous lifestyle in retirement.