

ERO-FDI Working Group Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Report Spring Plenary Session

2nd-3rd May 2025 – Almaty – Kazakhstan

At the Spring Plenary Session in Limassol Cyprus, Board-supervisor of the ERO-FDI Working Group Liberal Dental Practice, Dr. Oliver Zeyer, gave a report about the activities of the WG LDPE.

The WG LDPE Survey on *Young Dentists' Workplace and Employment* was sent out on June 12th, 2024. This was the first time that an ERO WG realized a questionnaire available in 6 languages, accessible with a QR Code and a link.

At the ERO Autumn Plenary Session in Istanbul, Türkiye, the WG held a short meeting on September 11th, 2024. The WG LDPE Chair Dr. Gerhard K. Seeberger presented his Report on September 12th, 2024, together with the results published ahead in an e-pub version on *Changing Dental Profession in the WHO European Region: analysis of the organization and education framework* and made available by the WG's Scientific Advisor, Prof. Dr. Thomas G. Wolf.

The paper *Changing Dental Profession in the WHO European Region: analysis of the organization and education framework*, had been published in Quintessence Volume 55, number 9 October 2024. The article is available on the ERO Website: [European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale](#)

Dr. Oliver Zeyer chaired a virtual WG meeting on November 18th, 2024, in which a new study comparing data from 2018 and the present, focusing on changes in dental practices and organizations across different countries, was discussed. It will be presented at the ERO Spring Plenary Session in Almaty, Kazakhstan. An ongoing joint project with the CED addresses the challenge of motivating dentists to return to independent private practices rather than working in dental centers, had not delivered sufficient data.

It was also considered to explore the reasons why young dentists are leaving private practice. A draft questionnaire sent by Jacques Deniaud to Thomas Wolf, including questions aiming at identifying the reasons why young dentists are reluctant to open or take over private practices, was decided to be shared with the WG members. A good deal of WG members will leave after the ERO PS and the need for recruiting new WG members is of utmost importance.

The ERO Booklet 1964-2024, edited by former ERO President, Dr. Anna Lella, containing the achievements of the ERO WG LDPE, was distributed on December 19th, 2024.

On February 4th, 2025, an ERO WG LDPE online meeting was held. Two future topics for the work in the WG were discussed:

- Definition of quality of care
- Corporate dentistry's aggressive advertising strategies: discrepancies in regulations governing private and corporate practices

Feedback by the WG members was requested. An eventual survey refinement (questions prepared by Dr. Jacques Deniaud) was also discussed.

An ERO WG LDPE virtual meeting was held on March 31st, 2025. It was agreed to explore the topic *Advertising regulations for dental practices, particularly the differences between dentists and corporates*,

President: Dr. Simona Dianiškova (Slovakia) • President-Elect: Dr. Edoardo Cavallé (Italy) •
Secretary General: Prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey) • Treasurer: Dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) • Councilor: Prof. Paula Perlea (Romania)

ERO-Secretariat, Monika Lang, Muenzgraben 2/P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern, Tel. ++41 31 313 31 61/Fax ++41 313 31 40
mail: ero-sekretariat@sso.ch

Bank account: CREDIT SUISSE AG, 3001 Bern, Switzerland - Account No. 1872503-32, IBAN CH14 0483 5187 2503 3200 0, BIC CRESCHZZ80A
in the name of European Regional Organisation of FDI, 1216 Cointrin, Switzerland



further, possibly through a questionnaire to understand the situation in different countries. The topic *Definition of quality in dentistry* was postponed and might be picked up as a future WG LDPE topic to tackle.

An emphasis was put on the recruitment of new members. A letter from the WG LDPE Chair on this behalf was sent on April 15th, 2025. A reminder for the survey *ERO-FDI-Survey on Young Dentists' Workplace and Employment* was sent on the same date. The WG LDPE Chair has drafted an agenda for the next WG meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and announced his apologies for his absence at the next ERO PS and his farewell.

Humbly delivered by WG LDPE Chair Dr. Gerhard Konrad Seeberger

April 27th, 2025

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