

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: ITALY

Association: ANDI

Venue: Lungotevere Raffaello Sanzio 9, Roma 00153

Year: 2024 (reporting previous year)

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

- The board is in its second year of mandate after the elections in May 2022: to visualize the National Board consult the link attached. Dr Ferruccio Berto was confirmed as head of ANDI Foreign Office and NLO.
<https://www.andi.it/who-we-are/>
- The number of associates in 2023 is rising above 28.000, over the 47.000 active dentists in Italy. ANDI central offices are located in Rome, Lungotevere Raffaello Sanzio 9. In 2023, ANDI inaugurated a new wing for its central office, dedicated to administration and partnerships. In addition to the central office the Association is deeply embedded locally, thanks to 115 departments that allow ANDI to cover all the Italian territory, engaging directly with associates and regulators operating both nationally and regionally.
- Through a cooperation between national and local dimension, ANDI organizes and promotes a dense network of educational events; to extend participation, most of these are broadcasted through our platforms. ANDI seldom holds a national dental congress, due to the fact that continuing education and scientific congresses are held in each region, to bolster participation among the associates. However, ANDI is currently programming a national congress for 2024.
- In 2023, ANDI forged an agreement with AISO, the Italian Association of Dental Students. The aim is to coordinate a deeper level of interaction between dentists and students to facilitate the entry of young colleagues into the profession. Additionally, ANDI has established a memorandum of understanding with SSO, the Swiss Society of Dentistry, due to the numerous points of contact between the two associations.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

in health and social politics

in educational politics

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

- Dental amalgam was almost completely phased out of use in July 2022: however, is still employed in rare cases for therapeutic reason (uncooperative patients etc). It should be noted how, even before the ban, dental amalgam has been rarely used within dental cabinets at least for the past 15 years. Following the National Plan for Amalgam Elimination (November 2020), the complete phase out will be reached within the end of 2024.
- The public and private insurance scheme system registers no variation. In Italy, the NHS provides for minimum dental health requirements of the population (LEA) and the needs of some fragile patients, but it is unable to ensure all citizens with check-ups or hygiene procedures. 95% of dentists and dental medicine is private, paid out of pocket directly by patients. However, ANDI is approaching the world of dental insurances with one of its branches, FAS (Fondazione ANDI Salute). FAS policies will guarantee the free choice for attending physicians and build a practice of informed consent between dentists and patients, providing a deontologically sound approach to the world of dental insurances.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

problems with dental chains

possible solutions

ANDI opposes dental chains and corporate dentistry. The constitutional principle of corporate dentistry makes it answer to market opportunities instead – and sometimes against – clinical considerations; this is incompatible with the dental profession. The ancillary position that trained medical personnel occupy within the decisional framework of these ventures makes it impossible to uphold any control by the National Chamber or Health Ministry; this often leads to a void in regulation that creates grey deontological areas within the national practice of oral health.

Moreover, as reported in the recent CED document on dental tourism, dental chains are constitutively incapable of constructing meaningful therapeutic pacts with patients, rushing instead health procedures and basing most of their appeal on misleading advertisement practices.

In 2018, Italy approved a series of regulations on medical advertisement: pushed forward by ANDI, the law also explicitly states that all health clinics must nominate a medical director. Medical directors must be members of a professional medical chamber (CAO, Commissione Albo Odontoiatri in the case of dentistry), making them subject to the deontological regulations and disciplinary procedures of said chamber. Following this principle, ANDI is advocating for the necessity to conform all health-providing institutions, including dental chains, to the model of a professional association. In this way, at least 2/3 of the shared capital invested in a health clinic would be provided by medical specialists, ensuring the capability of the Health Ministry and the competent National Chamber to regulate all health providing clinics through medical regulations and deontological codes.

Moreover, promoting sound models of dental practice and associationism among young dentist is the core principle for depriving dental chains of their main employees. For this reason, ANDI senior associates chair courses and seminars during the 6th year of dental school to introduce dental student to the professional landscape, from a legal, managerial and deontological perspective.

Changes in fees:

No change in fee for dental services, nor for subscription to the Association and the Chamber.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

In line with the campaign for 2024, ANDI will meet with primary school students during World Oral Health Day. Initiatives in schools and public squares, along with a media campaign on all platforms, will introduce WOHD to the population.

Further information (activities):

- **Alpha:** In 2023, ANDI launched Alpha, a project aimed at debunking fake news pertaining to the world of dentistry and oral health provision. TV and radio appearances, journalistic articles, social media campaigns, and roundtable discussions were dedicated to this issue.
- **Congiunturale:** The ANDI Research Initiative (Centro Studi ANDI) has been conducting a broad-spectrum investigation pertaining to the state of dentistry in Italy for several years. Given the predominantly private nature of Italian dentistry, qualitative data on the profession are extremely difficult to obtain. With over 2700 members actively participating in the proposed survey each year, ANDI's Congiunturale represents one of the main references for understanding the state of Italian dentistry.
- **Dentista Sentinella:** national programme to guide dentists in recognizing, supporting and reporting cases of domestic and gender-based violence. The initiative has generated a highly successful continuous training course and has been received with interest by the Italian Ministry of Health. In addition to the ability to expand the project, consideration is being given to its presentation at the international level.
- **Diritto alla Prevenzione:** in partnership with the Red Cross, ANDI has equipped and is providing volunteers to a mobile dental clinic unit (a truck with 2 complete dental cabinets), to extend dental health coverage to remote areas or risk patients (migrants, homeless, seasonal workers). The truck has started its national tour in Naples, February 2024.
- **DVR ANDI:** building from its previous experience, ANDI remade its paper-based DVR into a digital version. The service, updated according to current regulations and available free of charge to all members through the Brain platform, aims to unify risk assessment documentation at the national level, presenting a standard model for all practices.
- **Oral Cancer Day and Month of Prevention:** in 2023 the 16th and 43rd edition of these awareness campaign took place with in person events, news coverage and free dental check-ups. More than 12.000 ANDI members participated to these initiatives overall. Oral Cancer Day, which sprung from the Month of Prevention, aims to spread the culture of prevention regarding oral cavity cancer. In the month of May, ANDI dentists, on a voluntary basis, make their practices available for screening against oral cavity cancers
- **ANDILab:** ANDI has opened in 2022 its tech company, ANDILab, to manage all digital aspects of the profession. BRAIN, our broadcasting platform/social network/continuing education platforms (and much more) reached 22.000 subscribers in December 2023. MIND, ANDI management software for the dental study, was launched in 2022 on market, and is currently employed in 450 dental clinics.

What are your 3 main concerns?

- 1) Ensure the generational turnover for the profession

- 2) Capabilities of dental chains market and promotional practices
- 3) Ensure the accessibility for dental procedures in a time of social and economic uncertainties

3 points you would like to discuss

- 1) Ageing Population: how to provide optimum oral care for elderly and fragile patients
- 2) Quality in Education: how to recognize titles and qualifications on a transnational base to ensure mobility without decreasing the quality of dental services
- 3) Sustainability: how to reduce the carbon mark and waste production of dentistry globally
- 4) E-Health: how to guide the digital revolution in dentistry following deontological and clinical considerations