



Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: ROMANIA

Association: Romanian Society of Stomatology (SRS)

Venue: Bucharest

Year: 2023

Changes in the association and its organisation

Our association of dentists was established in 1923.

The main purpose of the association was “to contribute to the progress of dentistry; to defend the professional and material interests of its members”.

Nowadays the Romanian Society of Stomatology has a Board of Directors, elected for a four-year mandate with the following members: Prof. Dr. med. dent. Dr. Habil. Paula Perlea - President, Prof. Dr. med. dent. Marian-Vladimir Constantinescu – Vice President, Dr. Ion Bogdan Teodor Georgescu – Secretary General. The President and the Vice-President are actively involved in continuing the RSS relations with international organizations.

RSS organizes annual congresses and regularly publishes its journal "Romanian Journal of Stomatology".

Trends and developments in professional politics:

Currently, Romania has 19.24 million inhabitants (as of United Nation statistics) and there are around than 23000 dentists.

The increase of fees for the dentists and the lack of CME credited events, due to change of regulation, are the main concern.

Trends and developments in health and social politics:

Romania continues to have the lowest budget for healthcare among the EU member states. While the EU average for health is around 9.6% of GDP, Romania’s health expenditures are less than half of this percentage.

Unfortunately, the trend of oral health expenditure of the government is to decrease, instead of increase, even with additional 50%.

The medical funds of the National Health Insurance House are spent on dental treatments in a very small percentage. Children under 18 years are insured by default. It is estimated that adult patients directly pay at least 90% of the costs of dental treatments.

Free dental care facilities for people with low income have been set up, some of them in cooperation with Dental Medicine Faculties.

There are also several programs available for kids and scholars.

Trends and developments in educational politics:

In 2023 there were 12 Dental Medicine Faculties in Romania, as follows: 5 traditional ones in the cities of Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Târgu Mureș, Timișoara and Iași, plus 7 newly created faculties in the cities of Bucharest, Craiova, Constanta, Sibiu, Oradea, Arad and Galati. About 1,300 dentists graduates every year nationwide.

To become a dental student, a Romanian citizen must be a high school graduate and pass an admission examination.

It is possible for foreigners to study dentistry in Romania in English, French or Romanian. Admission is based on a file selection, or examination. The main admission requirement is a high school diploma.

The Ministry of Education monitors the quality of the training process and the Faculty Board is directly responsible.

For the graduation examination, any candidate must take a written test containing 100 questions, a practical test and also defend his/her graduation paper.

The general trend of the evolution of medical education in Romania places dental medicine on one of the first places, both in necessity and addressability.

Diplomas from other EU countries are recognized without the need for any vocational training. The Romanian College of Dentists registers all dentists and all dental specialists.

It is mandatory to know Romanian to be registered with the RCD. EU citizens must pass a written and oral evaluation test in order to be able to perform dentistry in Romania.

Continuing education program is compulsory for all dentists, included teaching staff. Every dentist must attend 200 hours of continuing education every 5 year. If they do not manage to do it, the Romanian College of Dentists (RCD) has the legal obligation to terminate the right of the dentist to practice.

The regulation of Continuing Medical Education is based on the following mechanism: the RCD annually authorizes the dental professional associations and the lecturers. A lecturer is allowed to provide courses and/or hands-on demonstrations credited by the RCD, on specific subjects only, under the organizational supervision of a professional dental association.

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

General and oral health care depends on the compulsory membership of each insured citizen in the Social Health Insurance System. The whole population is insured and contributes a monthly fixed amount of their salaries to the National Insurance Company, directly proportional to the level of the salaries.

The different level of contribution to National Health Insurance System generated by the different levels of salaries does not affect the quantity or quality of the health care services.

The system of public health insurance provides a standard package of general and oral healthcare as established by law.

At the end of each year, the management of the National Health Insurance Company negotiates with the National Chamber of Dentists and the NDAs and establishes the expenditure for the different medical specialties (hospitals, general practitioners, specialties, emergencies, dentistry).

Almost 90% of all dentists become private practitioners and 60% of dentists are owners of their dental offices and the rest of 30% are employed in the dental offices. 10% of dentists work as employees in primary schools and dental faculties. Just 10% of the Romanian dentists, owners or non-owners of their dental offices, work under the National Health Insurance Company. The other 90% of the dentists work in a completely liberal (private) system, with direct payments from patients only. It is estimated that patients directly pay at least 90% of the costs of dental treatments.

The public health insurance system provides cover for all prevention and treatments for children and young people, until they turn 18.

Corporate Dentistry:

Dental Health care in Romania is governed by a series of organic laws that emphasize the importance of the patient.

In some countries, the dental practice chain, stand alone or in the structure of national / multinational health service providers, are sometimes managed by staff with no basic training in the medical field, focusing on the commercial aspect (profit) and thus transforms the patient into a client, with the violation of the rules of professional ethics and deontology.

The Romanian legislation does not allow the endorsement / accreditation of a dental clinic without a medical management. The administrator of such a private practice must be a doctor and the activity of the private clinic is represented only by the provision of dental care services, according to a generally accepted code system across the European Union.

However, we see a significant development of chains in Romania, recently, mainly by purchasing other dental practices

Tightening the legislation on accreditation of dental practices, in compliance with the rules imposed by the European Directive 35/2006 on recognition of professional qualifications can be a solution to limit the development of dental chains with nonmedical management.

Changes in Fees:

The annual fees for dentists remained stable in 2023, compared with 2022. However, it is important to notice that they increased in 2022 by 50% compared with 2021 and by 100%, compared to the fees paid in 2020, without any reason, despite the pandemic situation which affected the incomes of most of the dentists in 2020 and 2021.

Promotion of the WOHD:

We organised the World Oral Health Day in collaboration with the National Student Organisation.

What are your 3 main concerns?

1. The trend of yearly decrease of Government expenditure for Oral Health, which significantly affect all dentists in Romania.
2. The change of regulation and the decrease of CME providers are creating troubles to dentist to accumulate the mandatory 200 CME credits every 5 years.
3. Botox and Fillers cannot be performed anymore by dentist unless they are attending a course which was never organized until now.

3 points you would like to discuss

1. CME valid throughout Europe
2. Improving access to oral health care, increase expenditure of Health Insurance for dentistry.
3. Face Aesthetics in dental practice

President,
Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea

Vice-President,
Prof. Dr. Marian-Vladimir Constantinescu