

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2023

Country: SLOVAKIA

Association: SLOVAK CHAMBER OF DENTISTS

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes in the association and its organisation

- *In 2023, elections were held in the Slovak Chamber of Dentists. Dr. Igor Moravcik remained on the post of president of the Chamber. 2 new vice-presidents were elected – Dr. Patricia Husarova and Dr. Peter Kukolik, who is also a member of the Committee for Foreign Affairs. Dr. Simona Dianiskova was re-elected as the Chairman of Committee for Foreign Affairs and as new members were elected two young colleagues Dr. Kristina Mendros Vaclavova and Dr. Milan Kovac.*
- *The Slovak Republic had in 2023 early elections, which were preceded by a frequent change of health ministers. There were three this year. For that reason, it was not possible to achieve specific changes and adjustments, which the chamber has been trying to achieve for several years as part of legislative adjustments.*
 - It focuses mostly on:*
 - *Practical nurse - assistant - minimal staffing of the dental clinic*
 - *Realization of reimbursement of basic services from public health insurance*
 - *Predictable financing of specialized ambulatory care, which also includes dentistry.*

Trends and developments: in professional politics

- *The Slovak Chamber of Dentists negotiated an increase of financial reimbursement for medical treatment in emergency service facilities for dental care. It has been more than 18 years since the price of financial reimbursement was last adjusted.*

in health and social politics

- *In the case of non-financing of dental care by the state to health insurance companies and subsequently from health insurance companies to dental procedures in the basic version, not only quality but also availability is at risk, especially in remote regions of Slovakia.*

- We have many dentists over the age of 65, in case of non-financing of dentistry and constantly increasing bureaucracy in paperwork, there is a risk that they will close their clinics.

in educational politics

A dentist in Slovakia, after completing his university studies, immediately practices the medical profession either in dental clinics or independently in a dental clinic.

Dentists are not obliged to have any mandatory practical training after graduation in Slovakia. Chamber sees that the students are well theoretical educated, but with insufficient practical skills to start the independent dental praxes right after the graduation.

Slovak Chamber of Dentists proposes ((like in some other European countries) teaching for five years and the sixth-year professional practice directly "in the patient's mouth". We believe that with the new accreditation at medical faculties in the field of dentistry, personnel changes in the management of the Faculty of Medicine as well as long-term warnings and proposals from the Chamber to effectively acquire practical skills for students of dentistry, we will soon be talking about a positive direction in the practical erudition of graduates of the Faculty of Medicine.

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

Realization of reimbursements from health insurance companies and the necessity to issue a new list of medical services including their pricing.

Dental clinics in Slovakia, and essentially the entire outpatient sector, operate according to an outdated list/catalogue of medical procedures without performance and price updates. The chamber has been working on the catalogue for almost 15 years and it still hasn't seen the light of the day. The intention of the Chamber is to create a separate List of health services from other outpatient specialties. The importance and significance of the urgent introduction of the List of health services is in the correct treatment of patients according to the recommended standards and, above all, the patient knows what he is entitled to from public health insurance and can decide, based on communication with the dentist, which dental care he prefers.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

problems with dental chains

possible solutions

The trend of corporate dentistry is on the rise, and the current legislative regulations are insufficient and extremely mild, according to the chamber.

A non-dentist can also own a corporate dental clinic, as long as he has a dentist as a professional guarantor.

Changes in fees:

Membership fees were not raised for 10 years, but the increasing rate of inflation caused an increase in membership fees by approx. 10%. Other fees have not changed.



*Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day: Slovak Chamber of Dentists promoted WOHD 2023 in our bimonthly journal *Zubny lekar*, web site: www.skzl.sk; on our social media and at schools. The Committee for Prevention of Slovak Chamber of Dentists organized educational activities at medical faculties across Slovakia.*

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns? / 3 points you would like to discuss

— *Corporate dentistry versus liberal dental praxis*
Practical education during the pregraduate dental study
Lack of secondary medical staff

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