

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2023

Country: Switzerland

Association: Swiss Dental Association SSO

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

No changes in the Board. Dr Jean-Philippe Haesler was re-elected as President as well as the other board members.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics:

The board of the Swiss Dental Association SSO is still making efforts to take younger dentists on board. A working group has been created to find out about the needs of students and young dentists. For the third time a special event for dentists under age 35, was organised with success.

in health and social politics

One of the main concerns, is still the oral health of the ageing population.

in educational politics

In 2023 there were 131 students passed their exam as dentists. 70% were female. In Switzerland an average of 20% of dentists will do a specialisation training at universities, which lasts between 3 and 4 years.

In Switzerland we have 4 specialisations that are regulated by the ministry of health Orthodontics and Oral Surgery are recognised by the EU. (The 2 others are Periodontics and Reconstructive Dental Medicine.)

The specialisation made in Switzerland were 6 for Orthodontics and 4 for Oral Surgery. The recognised specialisations made in EU countries were **43**.

Since 2002 the ratio form Specialisations made in Switzerland and recognised Specialisations 1:4 to 1:5 This is a real concern for our Dentists.

We have 5 more specialisations that are regulated 5 by the Swiss Dental Association SSO (General Oral Dental Medicine, Endodontics, Pedodontics, Oral Implantology and Restorative and Aesthetic Dental Medicine)

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

After 3 referenda for a mandatory insurance for dental care have been rejected in the Cantons (districts) Vaud, Geneva and Neuchâtel, there is an initiative from the parliament for the same idea. Of course, the SSO fights this initiative, because the SSO stands for a free and independent relation between patients and their dentists.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

The Swiss Dental Association SSO is not favourable dental chains because we fear the same problems that occurred in Spain, France and other countries. Dentistry shouldn't become a field for profit maximising investors.

problems with dental chains

Aggressive advertising, misleading the patients occurs frequently with such chains. Their interest is focused on costly Implant dentistry and aligner therapies. Investors buy dental offices for a price that is way over the market price and therefore make it difficult for young dentists to open their own office.

possible solutions

Owners of the office should be dentists. Limited number of employed dentists per office. Change in law is needed.

Changes in fees:

None

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

SSO promoted the World Oral Health Day via social media and press releases.

Further information (activities):

The SSO held its 100th anniversary Congress in Basel.

What are your 3 main concerns?

- Immigration of dentists and the differences in their qualifications.
- Dental chains offering aligner therapies and badly trained young dentists providing them.

3 points you would like to discuss.

- Immigration of dentists and the differences in their qualifications
- How to collect reliable data about dental training (hours in theory and chairside with the patient)
- How to create a good environment for future dentists