

National Report on Activities – 2025

General Information

Country: Germany

Association: Bundeszahnärztekammer

Reporting Period: January–December 2025

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Instructions

Please complete this form clearly and concisely. Where applicable, you may attach additional documents or provide references. If a section is not applicable, please indicate "N/A".

1. Changes in the Association and Its Organisation

Please describe any significant structural, strategic, leadership, or membership-related changes during 2025.

The General Assembly of the German Dental Association took place in Berlin on 31 October and 1 November 2025. In line with the regular election cycle, delegates elected the new Executive Board of the BZÄK. CED-Board Member Dr. Romy Ermler was voted new President of the German Dental Association. She will be joined on the Executive Board by Dr. Ralf Hausweiler from North Rhine as Vice President and ERO Secretary General Dr. Doris Seiz from Hesse as Vice President.

2. Main Concerns

Please list the three most important concerns currently facing your association.

- a) Germany's healthcare system faces significant financial pressure, with rising costs challenging the stability of statutory health insurance (GKV). There are currently intense discussions about possible reforms of the healthcare system. There are also proposals that would significantly affect dentistry.
 - b) High on the agenda is the urgently needed modernization of the private fee schedule for dentists (GOZ). It is severely outdated, and no government has been willing to address it since 1988.
 - c) Another major focus is the reduction of bureaucracy in dental practices. Many documentation requirements do not contribute to patient safety but significantly increase administrative workload.
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3. Key Discussion Points

Please indicate three topics or issues you would like to discuss at international level.

- a) Is the issue of skilled labour shortages (dental workforce shortages) significant in your country, and if so, how are you dealing with it and what measures have you taken?
 - b) To what extent are you restricted in your dental practice by bureaucratic regulations, and what steps are you taking to encourage policymakers to address this?
 - c) What strategies have you developed at the national level to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of your association?
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4. Trends and Developments

Please describe relevant trends and developments in the following areas:

a) Professional Politics

German dental professional policy is actively responding to structural challenges like workforce supply, digital transformation, regulatory updates, and economic pressures on practices.

b) Health and Social Politics

Germany's healthcare system faces significant financial pressure, with rising costs challenging the stability of statutory health insurance. There are currently intense discussions about possible fundamental reforms of the German healthcare system. Several expert commissions are currently

working on reform proposals and corresponding legislative initiatives are expected over the course of the current year.

c) Educational Politics

The German government has made a proposal to accelerate the recognition procedures for foreign healthcare qualifications. BZÄK supports this initiative, but stresses that reforms must not compromise patient safety or the quality of dental care. BZÄK advocates consistently applying the knowledge examination as the sole assessment pathway, combined with thorough verification of submitted documents and required professional language skills. BZÄK also considers the proposed equivalence assessment based solely on documentation impractical for dentistry and expressed reservations regarding plans to introduce partial professional access and hardship provisions, for which no practical need has been identified.

d) Insurance System

(including public health insurance and private insurance schemes)

Germany's healthcare system is under significant financial pressure, as rising costs along with the demographic change increasingly challenge the sustainability of the health insurance system. Against this backdrop, there is a growing consensus that fundamental reforms across all areas of the healthcare system are necessary. Comprehensive reform measures are currently being discussed and prepared, and several expert groups have been established to develop proposals for the future structure and financing of healthcare in Germany. Some of these proposals could also have substantial implications for the field of dentistry.

5. World Oral Health Day Promotion

Does your association promote World Oral Health Day?

Yes No

The World Oral Health Day, as promoted by the FDI and its regional organizations, is not celebrated by the German Dental Association. The German national day on oral health has been established for nearly over 30 years and is celebrated on the 25th of September each year. It is not possible to adapt the German Day of Dental Health to the 20th of March, since the national day is planned and prepared well in advance with many actors (health insurance companies, municipalities, schools, regional dental associations).

Signature (optional):

Official Stamp (if applicable):