

National Report on Activities – 2025

General Information

Country: **GREECE**

Association: **HELLENIC DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

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.

No major structural changes were recorded during 2025.

The Hellenic Dental Association continued its institutional operation through its General Assembly, Board meetings and official circulars addressed to the Regional Dental Societies.

A significant institutional decision adopted by the General Assembly in 2025 concerned the strengthening of Continuing Education through the provision of **free Continuing Education credits** to members via organised webinars.

2. Main Concerns

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

- a) **Extremely limited public funding for oral health within the national health system.**
Public dental expenditure in Greece represents approximately **0.3% of total dental expenditure**, compared to over **30% at EU level (OECD, 2021)**. This structural imbalance highlights the need to strengthen public dental services, including the recruitment of dentists, the upgrading of primary care infrastructure, and the consideration of contractual frameworks between the state and private dental practitioners.
- b) **Restricted access to dental care due to economic constraints.**
The prolonged economic crisis has significantly affected the ability of large segments of the population to seek timely dental treatment, contributing to unmet oral health needs and widening health inequalities.
- c) **Economic sustainability of dental practices.**
A substantial number of dentists face financial pressure due to reduced patient attendance linked to affordability issues, combined with increasing costs related to equipment, materials, energy and regulatory compliance.
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3. Key Discussion Points

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

- a) **Establishment of a common European Continuing Education credit system**, to facilitate mutual recognition of educational points and support professional mobility within the European Union.
- b) **Definition of a common minimum level of essential dental treatment services across Europe**, to be considered for inclusion within national insurance systems, with the aim of improving population oral health outcomes and ensuring patient safety.
- c) **Harmonisation and standardisation of dental professions within the European Union**, in alignment with existing European legislation, including the clarification of occupational rights within the European Single Market. Particular emphasis is placed on the enforcement of professional restrictions and the effective implementation of the Code of Ethics, especially regarding the advertisement of dental treatment services.
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4. Trends and Developments

Please describe relevant trends and developments in the following areas:

a) Professional Politics

A defining institutional event in 2025 was the organization of the **1st Panhellenic Dental Forum (20 March 2025)** under the auspices of the Hellenic Dental Association.

The Forum functioned as a national platform for dialogue between the dental profession and public stakeholders, focusing on access to care, prevention policies and the strategic positioning of oral health within national health planning.

The HDA continued regulatory coordination with the Regional Dental Societies throughout the year.

b) Health and Social Politics

No new national oral health strategy was adopted in 2025.

However, access to dental care remained a central issue in public and professional discourse.

According to **Eurostat data published on 29 August 2025:**

- 6.3% of individuals aged 16+ in the European Union reported unmet dental care needs.
- Greece recorded the highest proportion among EU Member States, with **27.1%** reporting unmet dental care needs.
- Among individuals at risk of poverty in Greece, the proportion reached **52.8%**, compared to 22.7% among those not at risk of poverty.

These figures highlight significant socioeconomic inequalities in access to dental services and underline the importance of structured policy interventions.

c) Educational Politics

In 2025, the General Assembly of the Hellenic Dental Association adopted a formal resolution to provide a substantial number of **free Continuing Education credits** to its members through organised educational webinars.

This decision aims to:

- ensure equitable access to lifelong scientific education,
- reduce the financial burden associated with the collection of Continuing Education credits,
- support high professional and clinical standards nationwide.

The initiative is implemented centrally and made accessible to all members through the HDA and the Regional Dental Societies.

In parallel, the **43rd Panhellenic Dental Congress (Athens, October 2025)** continued to serve as the principal national scientific event for Continuing Education.

d) Insurance System

(including public health insurance and private insurance schemes)

The Greek social security scheme, EOPYY, does not provide comprehensive coverage for dental care for insured citizens, and no contractual framework with private dentists has been established.

Although the primary health care system theoretically includes dental services, in practice these services are almost entirely financed privately. As a result, approximately 99.7% of total dental expenditure in Greece is covered out of pocket, placing a substantial financial burden on individuals and families.

5. World Oral Health Day Promotion

Does your association promote World Oral Health Day?

* Yes No

If yes, please describe the type of activities (e.g. campaigns, events, media outreach, partnerships):

In 2025, the Hellenic Dental Association marked World Oral Health Day through the organisation of the **1st Panhellenic Dental Forum on 20 March 2025**, bringing together representatives of the dental profession, public authorities and other stakeholders.

The Forum served as a national platform for dialogue on oral health policy, access to care and prevention strategies, reinforcing the importance of oral health as an integral part of general health.

Through this institutional initiative, the HDA contributed to raising awareness at national level regarding inequalities in access to dental care and the need for structured preventive approaches.

Regional Dental Societies also supported World Oral Health Day through local awareness activities and professional engagement within their respective communities.

Signature (optional):



Official Stamp (if applicable):

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