

National Report on Activities – 2025

General Information

Country: Hungary

Association: Hungarian Dental Association

Reporting Period: January–December 2025

Contact Person (Name / Position): Prof. Dr. Katalin Nagy, president

Email Address: katalin.nagy@universityszeged.com

Date of Submission: 24.02.2026.

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.

In 2025, the Hungarian Dental Association maintained its core organizational structure while strengthening its strategic focus on member engagement and professional development. Key initiatives included increasing digital outreach through webinars and educational programs, expanding collaboration with industry partners, and actively participating in international programs, including World Oral Health Day.

Major activities included organizing the 18th Symposium Szeged, which attracted nearly 1,000 participants and welcomed dental teams from Uganda; hosting four interactive webinars with Haleon, reaching around 1,000 Hungarian dentists and dental hygienists; and, for the first time, hosting the FDI Continuing Education program on Adhesive and Aesthetic Dentistry in Budapest. For World Oral Health Day, MFE also translated and distributed FDI WOHD posters in Hungarian and co-organized an online webinar on oral disease prevention and stomato-oncological screening, which attracted close to 1,500 participants.

Under the stable leadership of Prof. Dr. Katalin Nagy, these initiatives reinforced both international collaboration and active engagement of the association's membership through translated materials, free events, and professional networking opportunities.

2. Main Concerns

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

1. Sustainable professional representation and member engagement

Ensuring effective advocacy for dentists while maintaining and growing an active, paying membership base in a challenging professional and economic environment.

2. Financial and structural sustainability of the association

Securing stable funding and strengthening organizational capacity to provide high-quality professional programs, education, and representation.

3. Regulatory and healthcare system challenges affecting dental practice

Responding to ongoing changes in healthcare regulations, financing, and workforce conditions that significantly impact the daily operation and long-term viability of dental practices.

3. Key Discussion Points

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

1. Strengthening the voice of small and medium-sized professional dental associations

Exchange of best practices on how organizations with limited membership and resources can remain visible, influential, and financially sustainable at national and international levels.

2. Sustainability of dental practices under economic and regulatory pressure

Discussion of shared challenges such as rising operational costs, inflation, administrative burdens, and changing healthcare regulations, and identification of effective advocacy and policy responses.

3. Workforce challenges and generational transition in dentistry

Addressing aging workforce trends, recruitment and retention of young dentists, professional mobility within Europe, and strategies to maintain long-term workforce stability.

4. Trends and Developments

Please describe relevant trends and developments in the following areas:

a) Professional Politics

The main actor in Hungarian dental professional politics is the **Hungarian Medical Chamber – Dental Section**. The market is consolidating, with small single-chair practices increasingly replaced by large multi-specialty centers. Recent tax reforms affecting self-employed dentists have increased operational pressures, while state-contracted dentists argue that public subsidies have not kept pace with inflation and material costs.

b) Health and Social Politics

Hungary's dental care system is increasingly two-tiered, with a widening gap between public and private services. The country remains a leading destination for dental tourism, but there is a growing shortage of dental assistants and hygienists, as well as long-term vacant rural practices. Policymakers are placing stronger emphasis on preventive programs, especially school-based dental screenings.

c) Educational Politics

Hungary is an international hub for dental education, led by **Semmelweis University**, **University of Szeged**, **University of Debrecen**, and **University of Pécs**. A large proportion of students are enrolled in English- and German-language programs, making dental education a significant export sector. Educational policy focuses on digital dentistry development and strengthening the state-funded residency training system.

d) Insurance System

Dental care is financed through the **National Health Insurance Fund Administration (NEAK)** point-based reimbursement system. The publicly funded system mainly covers basic and emergency treatments for adults, leading to rapid growth in private health insurance schemes (e.g., **Medicover**, **Union Biztosító**). The EU-driven phase-out of dental amalgam increases financial pressure, as tooth-colored composite fillings are more expensive.

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 recent years, similarly to previous World Oral Health Day (WOHD) campaigns, we translated the official FDI WOHD posters into Hungarian and distributed them to our members for free use in their practices and communication activities.



On World Oral Health Day, in cooperation with Haleon, we organized a free online webinar entitled “*Diseases of the Oral Cavity and Their Prevention – Stomato-oncological Screening*”, delivered jointly by Prof. Dr. Katalin Nagy and Dr. Orsolya Németh. The event attracted nearly 1,500 participants.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Katalin Nagy, President of the Hungarian Dental Association (MFE), delivered a presentation on the fight against oral cancer at an international online webinar held on 20 March 2025, alongside three international experts (Dr. Rafael Figueiredo, Dr. Kamar Mehrani, and Dr. Vivek Padmanabhan).

Furthermore, we organized free preventive consultations and oral cancer screening for the public in Szeged using a mobile screening unit. The initiative was implemented in cooperation with dental hygiene students and demonstrated significant public interest in preventive oral health programs.

Signature (optional):