

EUROPEAN DENTAL SYSTEMS

COMPARISON

In-depth Analysis of Similarities and Differences

INTRODUCTION

this presentation provides a comparative overview of dental associations across Europe

it focuses on governance, healthcare systems, challenges, and future developments

special attention is given to similarities and differences between countries



GOVERNANCE – SIMILARITIES

- some countries report regular elections (e.g. Bulgaria, Germany, Netherlands)
- professional associations play an important advisory role in health policy
- there is a general trend toward institutional stability and continuity

GOVERNANCE – DIFFERENCES

few countries
have strong
political influence
on healthcare
policy

in contrast, other
countries show
limited regulatory
authority and
mostly advisory
roles

and some
countries report
no major
structural
changes by
politics

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS – SIMILARITIES



most countries operate
mixed public-private
healthcare systems



dental care is often only
partially covered by public
insurance



private out-of-pocket
payments remain a key
financing mechanism

01

Germany and the Czech Republic have relatively structured insurance systems

02

Italy and Greece rely heavily on private payments with limited public coverage

03

Georgia has an almost entirely private dental care system

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS – DIFFERENCES

ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE

unequal access to dental care is a widespread issue across Europe

rural regions often suffer from shortages of dental professionals (e.g. Bulgaria, Kazakhstan)

Greece shows particularly high levels of unmet dental care needs, especially among low-income groups

WORKFORCE ISSUES

some countries experience shortages of dentists, especially in rural areas (Kazakhstan, Greece)

others face oversupply and market saturation (Armenia, Cyprus)

there is also a generational shift with challenges in attracting young professionals for setting up a practice

rising operational costs are reported in many countries (e.g. Germany, Italy, Greece)

dental practices face increasing economic pressure due to inflation and regulatory requirements

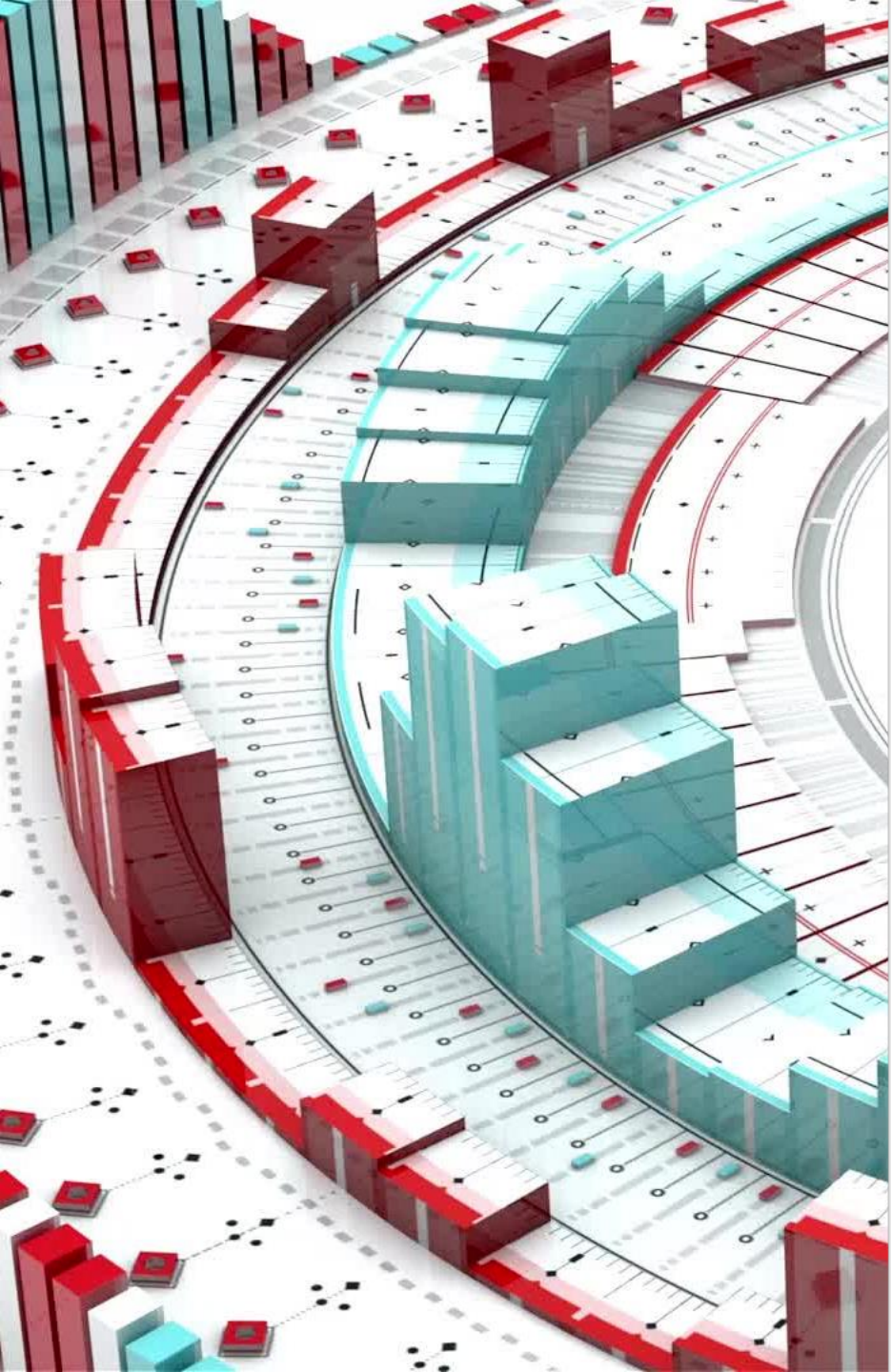
sustainability of healthcare systems is a growing concern

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

continuous professional development is mandatory or strongly encouraged in many countries (Ireland, Greece)

education systems are increasingly integrating digital technologies and new treatment methods



DIGITALIZATION AND AI

- digital transformation is progressing rapidly in countries like France and Slovenia
- artificial intelligence is being introduced in diagnostics and treatment planning (Czech Republic, Estonia)
- however, there are significant differences in implementation levels across countries

CORPORATE DENTISTRY

- the influence of dental chains is increasing in several countries (Italy, Spain)
- this raises concerns about professional independence and quality of care
- some countries (e.g. Austria) are actively opposing this trend
- no problem with dental chains so far in countries like Slovenia or Bulgaria

BUREAUCRACY AND REGULATION

high administrative burden is a common issue (Germany, Poland, Switzerland)

complex regulations increase workload without necessarily improving patient care

PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

countries like
Germany and
France
demonstrate
strong preventive
programs and
public health
strategies

other countries
such as Moldova,
Romania and
Georgia lack
effective
prevention
systems

overall,
prevention is
becoming more
important in
European health
policies

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY

Widespread Support: most countries (e.g. Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine) actively support World Oral Health Day (WOHD)

Media Campaigns: many associations use TV, social media, posters, and press releases to promote WOHD (e.g. Armenia, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine)

Public Events: conferences, forums, and webinars are organized to raise awareness (e.g. Azerbaijan, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia)

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY

- **Educational Initiatives:** schools, universities, and public health talks are used to educate the public (e.g. Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine)
- **Free Screenings:** some countries offer free oral health check-ups and cancer screenings (e.g. Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia)
- **Collaboration with FDI:** many associations use FDI materials (posters, informational content) and adapt them for local use (e.g. Slovenia, Turkey, Hungary)

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY

- **Unique Initiatives:**
 - **Greece (HDA & SSG):** organized the 1st Panhellenic Dental Forum and provided free dental services to remote islands
 - **Hungary:** hosted a webinar with 1,500 participants and conducted free oral cancer screenings
 - **Moldova:** organized a flash mob in the capital, Chişinău, and distributed oral health kits
 - **Slovakia:** launched a nationwide roadshow and online lessons for children on dental health

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY

Non-Participating Countries: Germany, Ireland and Israel do not participate in WOHD, often due to existing national oral health days or lack of engagement

Digital Strategies: countries like Turkey use digital communication strategies, including social media and localized FDI campaign materials, to spread awareness

Focus on Prevention: many activities emphasize preventive care, public awareness, and the link between oral health and overall well-being (e.g. Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, Poland)



MAIN COMMON CHALLENGES ACROSS COUNTRIES

- rising costs and financial pressure on dental practices
- unequal access to care, especially for vulnerable populations
- increasing administrative and regulatory burden

FUTURE OUTLOOK

1

reforms are needed to improve access and sustainability

2

greater harmonization across European countries is desirable

3

collaboration between countries and organizations will be essential

CONCLUSION

- European countries share many common challenges in dentistry
- however, national approaches differ significantly
- understanding these differences is key for future improvements



**KEY
DISCUSSION
POINTS**

1. Regulation and Quality
Assurance in Dentistry

2. Digitalization and
Technological Innovations

3. Economic and Political
Frameworks

REGULATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN DENTISTRY

- recognition of foreign degrees and professional qualifications
- challenges in mutual recognition of qualifications within the EU and with third countries
- need for standards for recognizing qualifications and competencies
- unauthorized practice of dentistry

DIGITALIZATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in dentistry
- integration of AI in diagnostics and clinical practice: opportunities and ethical challenges
- transparency of algorithms ("explainable AI") and global standards for AI diagnostics
- digital Health and Tele-Dentistry
- data security and electronic patient records: best practices and challenges

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORKS

- **Corporate Dentistry and commercialization**
- **legal and political measures against the commercialization of dentistry**
- **strategies to address rising operational costs and inflation**