



Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report 2019

Country: ESTONIA

Association: ESTONIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION (EDA)

Venue: Almaty

Year: 2020

Changes

in the association and its organisation

Elections of the council on 28th of August.

New EDA board was elected by councillors on November 1, 2019

President of EDA 2020-2022 is dr. Piret Väli

Vice-President: prof. dr. Mare Saag

Board members: Kattri Arge, Katrin Metstak, Regina Kuningas, Kristiina Kiisa, Marjo Sinijärv, Anastassia Kuldmaa, Taavo Seedre, Kristjan Gutmann, Martin Martma

Head of the council of EDA: dr. Marek Vink

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

- Membership is increasing – 1071 (1014 in 1918)
- Active discussions with the Health Insurance Foundation and Ministry of Social Affairs to explain the needs of dentists, free movement of patients and dental care financing aspects.
- The law concerning health care management in Estonia was changed in 2019. Administrative order to register as a medical professional (medical doctors, dentists, nurses,) in Estonian Health Board was changed. Language requirement was introduced - exams should be passed in Estonian language

Events organised by EDA in 2019:

- Oral health survey of adult citizens
- Estonian Annual Dental Meeting, held on 28-30.08.2019 in Tartu, was a great success with 1103 participants
- EDA Summer school “Role of physiotherapy in dentistry” in Harjumaa 01-02.08.2018
- 10 board meetings and two council meetings (April 5, November 1, 2019)
- 10 numbers of professional journal “Hambaarst” (The Estonian Dentist) have been produced and distributed to members
- Two 1-day thematic conferences for Estonian dentists have been organised:
 - 1) A joint conference of dentists and family doctors “Dental health and general health”, on March 8, 2019 in the V-SPA conference centre in Tartu
 - 2) “Contemporary dentistry” December 6, 2019 in the National Art museum in Tallinn, concentrating on oral health of the elderly
- 177 certificates of competences have been awarded to dentists
- Oral health promotion program/web-page: www.suukool.ee



FDI Smile Award 2019 was given to the Estonian Dental Association for the project "Children's Dental Health"

Website address: www.ehl.ee

Facebook address: www.facebook.com/eestihambaarstideliit

in health and social politics

1. EDA signed a contract with the Health Insurance Fund to carry out a cross-sectional study to evaluate oral health status in adults (2019-21) to evaluate objectively oral health status and the needs for manpower in dentistry
2. We proceed to concentrate on financing cost-effective prevention of dental diseases instead of covering costs for operative treatment.

in educational politics

A two-year curriculum for dental assistants was opened 1st of September, 2019 by the Tallinn Medical High School to educate dental assistants with no former medical education. Clinical practical training is based on dental clinics, which employ the students. Tuition fee is currently paid by employers. We shall negotiate with the authorities to change this into a state-paid curriculum.

We have initiated a dialogue bringing together oral health and general health professionals by means of joint thematic workshops organised by the association

Oral health knowledge is improved by a series of courses for teachers and parents, also by designing a web-page www.suukool.ee

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

1. About half of the practicing dentists have not signed the Health Insurance Fund contract, because of complicated accounting and time consuming reporting. Also the fees for treatment are in most cases not cost-related. It means that compensation for treatment is not available for major part of citizens, as it can be applied only in case of service with fixed by Health Insurance Fund fees.
2. Private dental health insurance has been founded first time in Estonia by Northern1 International Insurance Brokers OÜ
<http://english.hambaravikindlustus.ee/contact-about-us/>
3. *In dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees*
The refugees are provided with medical insurance as persons living in Estonia by virtue of a temporary residence permit or by the right of permanent residence i.e. when the refugees have been officially registered they are on the same terms with Estonian citizens concerning dental emergencies and treatment.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

World Oral Health day in Estonia will be promoted as follows:

- On oral health day (20.03) there will be lectures about oral health in hospitals and articles in journals and newspapers. We concentrate on early diagnosis and prevention of oral cancer in 2020.
- On 20th of March, Estonian broadcasting companies have agreed to deliver oral health messages to the population. One radio interview - and one TV-broadcast, with a dentist & oncologist sharing knowledge about the etiology, diagnosis and prevention of oral malignant tumors.

- position of NDA towards dental chains

We have one big chain of dental clinics, consisting of 11 dental clinics located in different parts of Estonia “Unimed's United Clinics”. Based on the experience of other member countries – we are worried about the future.

- *problems with dental chains – currently dentists do not complain openly*
- *possible solutions - do not see any at the moment*

Fees:

Fees for dental care have been free in Estonia since 1991, as we have 100% private dentistry. New fees were fixed for dental treatment procedures by Health Insurance Foundation in 2018, but not accepted by half of the dentists.

What are your 3 main concerns?

We are proceeding with following topics:

- Dental chamber instead of non-profit organisation EDA
- Regulation of migration of dentists from 3rd countries
- Changing non-monetary refunding system by Health Insurance Fund into monetary with no obligation to work with fixed price-list which could enhance the quality of dental treatment
- Changing employer-financed dental assistant education into a state budget covered curriculum

23.02.2020



Mare Saag
EDA, board member