

# NATIONAL REPORTS 2019



## **Country: Armenia**

### **Association: Armenian Dental Association**

#### **Trends and developments:**

##### In health and social politics:

Prevention: Nationwide Oral Hygiene Education of the children in schools, and the parents in community centres are continuing. In laws of collection all medical/dental data of patients from all physicians and dentists of the country without patient's consent were abolished.

##### In educational politics:

The graduation system should be regulated to:

- Limit the number of the private universities
- Check the quality of teaching programs
- Limit the total number of students

##### Corporate Dentistry:

Regulated and controlled by the Health Ministry of Armenia and the Armenian Dental Association.

##### 3 main concerns:

- High number of private dental schools and
- High number of graduating dentists
- High educational tuition

## **Country: Austria**

### **Association: Austrian Dental Chamber**

#### **Trends and developments:**

##### In educational politics

- the number of foreign (dentists from Germany) students in Austria is increasing. Austrian students have to do their studies in the 2 existing private dental universities.
- a shortage of dentists in the next years.

##### In the insurance system

with the end of 2019 more than 20 existing social security funds were merged into 3 remaining ones:

- one for all employed persons
- one for civil servants
- one for self-employed

### Corporate Dentistry

due to quality reasons against the establishment of dental chains.

### 3 main concerns

- corporate dentistry
- migration of dentists
- quality of university training

## **Country: The Republic of Azerbaijan**

### **Association: Azerbaijan Stomatological Association**

#### **Trends and developments:**

Association and Health Ministry jointly get to develop and adopt a legislative framework for dental health of the population.

#### In educational policy

Masters in the field of dentistry has expanded in the following specialities: pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, orthopaedic, periodontics, endodontics, restoration dentistry.

#### In the insurance system

The expansion of state medical insurance services, including those in the field of dentistry.

The Azerbaijan Stomatological association is actively involved in the conduct of World Oral Health Day (WOHD) of FDI.

## **Country: Bulgaria**

### **Association: Bulgarian Dental Association (BgDA)**

#### **Trends and developments:**

Established new agency - Agency of Medical Supervision. A process of creating standards for each one of the 11 dental specialties is going on by Ministry of Health.

#### Corporate Dentistry

A resolution on Third parties was signed by German Dental Chamber, Austrian Dental Chamber, Macedonian Dental Chamber, Croation Dental Chamber, Federal Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina Dental, Slovenia Dental Chamber and Bulgarian Dental Association.

## **Country: Croatia**

### **Association: Croatian Dental Chamber**

#### **Trends and developments:**

- new Code of Dental Ethics and Deontology
- implementation of a binding EU directive on the use of amalgam for pregnant women, breastfeeding women and children under 18 years of age

#### 3 main concerns

- Regulation of the Dental Hygienist profession
- Dental healthcare contracts
- The recognition of foreign professional qualifications

## **Country: Czech republic**

### **Association: Czech Dental Chamber**

#### **Trends and developments:**

- Good cooperation with government in health and social politics
- Association controls Corporate dentistry through control of “responsible dentists”
- Physical control and disciplinary penalty to “responsible dentists”- who are members of chamber

## **Country: Estonia**

### **Association: Estonian Dental Association (EDA)**

#### **Changes**

New board election, on November 1, 2019 Dr. Piret Väli is the President of EDA 2020-2022.

#### **Trends and developments:**

- The law concerning health care management in Estonia was changed in 2019.
- Many educational events organised by EDA in 2019:
  1. EDA carried out a cross-sectional study to evaluate oral health status in adults and the needs for manpower in dentistry.
  2. Private dental health insurance has been founded first time in Estonia.
  3. The refugees are provided with medical insurance as persons living in Estonia by virtue of a temporary residence permit.  
If the refugees are officially registered they are on the same terms with Estonian citizens concerning dental emergencies and treatment.

4. In Estonia one big chain of dental clinics, consisting of 11 dental clinics is located.
  - currently dentists do not complain openly

### 3 main concerns

- Dental chamber instead of non-profit organisation EDA
- Regulation of migration of dentists from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries
- Changing non-monetary refunding system into monetary with no obligation to work with fixed price-list

## **Country: France**

### **Association: French Dental Association (ADF)**

#### **Changes :**

Dr Joël Trouillet and Dr Julien Laupie were elected to the position of Secretary General, Sophie Dartevelle to the position of Treasurer.

#### **Trends and developments**

The new national agreement signed between the dental profession, the national health insurance fund and private insurance companies in May 2018 came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The new agreement builds a model of dental care more focused on prevention and improves the financial coverage of care and prostheses but, in return, restricts practitioners' fees for several mainly fillings in conservative dentistry and various treatments in paediatric dentistry were revealed fluoride varnish for children aged 6 to 10 with a high risk of caries, pulp capping, and periodontal assessment in diabetic patients. Free preventive oral health check-ups have been extended to include 3-year-old children.

#### Pension reform:

Since 1948, dentists have an autonomous pension fund that guarantees its registered members pension coverage. The French government has proposed to overhaul the current pension system in order to establish a universal system. The dental profession stands united against this reform.

#### Continuing education

The new healthcare bill adopted in France in March 2019 introduces re-certification for all healthcare professionals including dentists. Re-certification should be implemented from 2021 onwards.

#### Corporate dentistry/Dental chains

A new legal text adopted in January 2018 does bring slight changes to the requirements for opening and running a health centre. The ADF organises for

its member associations to digital and new technologies and to artificial intelligence, a (r)evolution already underway in dental offices. ADF wants to discuss the Professional demographics and the quality of training.

## **Country: Germany**

### **Association: German Dental Association**

#### **Trends and developments**

##### In education policy

There are two decisive developments for the dental profession in 2019. On the one hand, an act to modernise and strengthen vocational education and training was passed. Secondly, the new Dental Licensing Regulation (Zahnärztliche Approbationsordnung; ZApprO) was passed by the Federal Council.

Joint training in dentistry and human medicine in the pre-clinical phase was an essential core point, but its implementation to the "Master Plan Medical Studies 2020" has not been achieved yet.

In 2019, there were no changes in the health insurance system relevant to the dental profession. Insurance system: No changes relevant to dentistry occurred in the German insurance system in 2019.

##### Investor driven dentistry

The current developments of the investor-driven chains are observed with concern by the BZÄK; as companies and investors are currently not subject to the regulations of professional law that protects patients. The number of dental investor-managed Medical Care Centres has already increased to 907 such centres. Because of this development the BZÄK are worrying to encounter such problems as :

- An influence on the dentist's freedom of therapy
- Losses in the quality of the treatment
- Higher billing volume for patient treatments; more services are billed as in comparison groups.
- While at the same time dentists are paid a lower wage.

#### **Major challenges for the German Dental Association**

- The adjustment of the remuneration scheme for dentists to Germany's current economic development is of great importance for the German dentists.
- Investor-driven dentistry
- Digitalization of patient files

#### **Discussion points for the ERO general assembly**

- Investor-driven dentistry
- Digitalization of dentistry, protection of sensitive (medical) data

## **Country: Greece**

### **Association: Hellenic Dental Association**

#### **Changes**

In April 2019 a new Council was elected to the HDA for a four-year term. New provisions in Law 1026/80 were voted by the Greek Parliament. There are some changes and HDA are strengthening its rights.

#### **Trends and developments**

In the context of amalgam phase down compliance Greek dentists were informed about the new legislative data of EU.

#### 3 main concerns

1. The invasion of traders-investors in the health system.
2. The non-integration of dentistry into the health policy programs of the international political and social organizations.

#### 3 points to discuss

- A. Determination of a minimum number of dental work that every State must reimburse fulfilling the safeguard of public oral health. Budget quota.
- B. Setting advertisement and information thresholds in the view of new technological communication capabilities.
- C. Establishment of a European Code of Ethics for cross-border professional promotion and advertisement.

## **Country: Israel**

### **Association: Israel Dental Association**

#### **Changes**

Dr. Lior Katsap was elected President of the Israel Dental Association on February, 2020.

#### **Trends and Developments**

The Government enacted a law that provides free dental care for children **under age 18 and aging population above 65**.

The IDA continues to struggle against commercial organizations to open dental clinics and provide non-ethical treatments to patients.

The Continuous Education Program is continuing to expand successfully.

**Country: Kyrgyz Republic**  
**Association: Kyrgyz Republic Association**

**Changes**

Prof. Abibilla Kalbaev the president of the association is re-elected.

**Trends and developments**

The number of private dental clinics are increasing and Kyrgyz Dental Association is going to unite all private dental clinics under the aegis of NDA.

3 main concerns

- decreasing of public dentistry,
- adapting of new dental technologies,

3 points to discuss

How can we improve CE Programs adapting with new technologies and internet work through international cooperation

**Country: Netherlands**  
**Association: Netherlands Association: KNMT**

**Changes:**

Dr. Joke kwakman was elected in 2019 as member of the board of directors.

**Trends and developments**

Starting January 2020, the Law on medical treatment agreement changed and extended informed consent into shared decision making. This means that the information given must be suitable and understandable for the individual patient. Following EU regulation dental practices must have their Ro- equipment registered until February 6 2020. KNMT can not identify huge problems with corporate entities at the moment, but KNMT is aware of potential risks.

3 main concerns

- the experimental regulation for dental hygienists
- the development of corporate dentistry
- aging population



## **Country: Poland**

### **Association: Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists**

#### **Changes :**

The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists is the organizational body of the professional self-government of physicians and dental practitioners who are associated in the chambers with equal status.

#### **Trends and developments**

Continuing dental education, is obligatory in Poland and there is a wide offer of courses and other forms of education. "Educational Centres" are being opened in many districts. The e-learning is rapidly developing in Poland.

#### In health and social politics

The government announced its plans to introduce a new "sugar" tax which would apply to soft and energy drinks.

#### Corporate Dentistry

There is a growing interest in investing into setting up dental care facilities by commercial entities. There are three largest players in this sector: LUX MED, Medcover and Enel-Med, which have a total of approx. 400 dental offices which amounts to less than 5 % of dental market.

#### 3 main concerns

- too many administrative requirements related with the exercise of dental profession
- lack of understanding among the decision makers of the significance of oral health
- dramatically low level of public expenditure on healthcare

#### 3 points to discuss

- continue the cooperation with universities and young dentists/students (EDSA)
- corporate dentistry
- 3D printing in dentistry

## **Country: Portugal**

### **Association: Portuguese Dental Association(OMD)**

#### **Changes**

In 2019, OMD proceeded to the revision of its Code of Ethics and also its Electoral Regulation Under OMD's new Statutes a General Council is now part

of the governing bodies and President, Paulo Ribeiro de Melo, was reelected in March.

### **Trends and developments**

OMD published a survey which results a useful tool to analyse both the status of oral health of the Portuguese population and their access to oral healthcare. OMD and the seven higher education institutions that provide the integrated master's degree in Dental Medicine under the motto "Dental Medicine: From Education to Profession. Realities and Perspectives".

The pilot project for integrating dental services in primary health care centres which started in 2016, included 111 health care centres in the country.

The National Programme for the Promotion of Oral Health continues to provide access to oral healthcare for specific groups of the population.

In addition the government approved the inclusion coverage of children between 2 and 6 years of age with the dentist-voucher, public oral care programme.

#### 3 points to discuss

- Distribution of the dentists workforce
- Labour protection and liberal professions
- Unemployment in Dentistry

## **Country: Republic of North Macedonia**

### **Association: Macedonian Dental Chamber**

### **Trends and developments**

2019 was marked by several vital changes to Healthcare law articles at the request of the Macedonian Dental Chamber:

- Changes related to the rulebook
- Changes related with licenses
- Changes related to the requirements of the professional license for various dental specialists

Macedonian national report gives us also information regarding promotion of World Oral health day.

#### 3 points to discuss

- Continued education
- Private/ public insurance funds

**Country: Romania****Association: Association of dentists with private practice in Romania (RDAPP)**

World Oral Health Day:

“The Prophylactics Caravan”, is organized yearly by the Faculty of Dental Medicine, from Iasi. It is a very important event for the city of Iasi. Over 50.000 citizens took benefits from this project.

**3 points to discuss:**

- Prophylaxis in dental practice
- Education of the population regarding the prevention of oral diseases
- Specialized assistance for social cases

**Country: Romania****Association: Romanian Society of Stomatology (SRS)****Trends and developments**

In 2019 implemented the EU requirement regarding the phase down of amalgam use.

**3 points to discuss**

1. Digital dentistry
2. Improving access to oral health care
3. Face Aesthetics in dental practice

**Country: Slovakia****Association: Slovak Chamber of Dentists****Changes**

In Autumn 2019 there have been elections in the Slovak Dental Chamber. On the position of President, Vicepresident and Director of Foreign Affairs Department there has not been any change. But as a positive sign many young has been elected for various positions in the leadership of the chamber.

**Trends and developments**

The Law on amalgam use is fully valid. eHealth system is now sure to be adopted for all dentists. There has been an agreement between Dental chamber and all Health insurance companies. The rules have been set clear and are more transparent.

### Corporate Dentistry

Dental chains as a growing problem with very few rules and chamber seeks for cooperation with Higher indemnity office, to control regularly the dental chain offices if they act in accordance with claimed conditions.

### 3 points to discuss

- Corporate dentistry
- Lack of dentists in middle age group, general lack of dental nurses/assistants
- Uneven regional accessibility and distribution of dentists

## **Country: Slovenia**

### **Association: Slovenian Dental Association (SDA)**

#### **Changes**

In 2019 new elections took place. Prof. Dr. Ljubo Marion was elected as President.

#### **Trends and developments**

New National Strategy for Better Oral Health 2020–2029 is currently being adopted by the Ministry of Health. In Slovenia, 1.311 dentists are currently included in the public healthcare network. In the country, impeded accessibility, either due to financial issues or remoteness, results in unmet dental care needs. As regards dental checks, the main reason for unmet needs is attributable to long waiting periods and to a lesser extent to financial reasons. In addition to the Dental Medicine programme, 20 dental students are also launched at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Maribor.

In Slovenia the World Oral Health Day is publicly celebrated each year. The chamber uses it as awareness campaign in the country.

### 3 main concerns

There are no assessments of epidemiological needs in the field of oral health at the national level. Public funding for dentistry should be increased with respect to its contribution to general health (prevention, early detection and treatment of disease, social indications, and basic rehabilitation).

## **Country: Spain**

### **Association: Spanish Dental Council**

#### **Changes**

There was a election in Spain. Dr Óscar CASTRO REINO is elected as President.

## **Trends And Developments**

As a result of commercialization, poor management of clinics and aggressive advertising that served as a hook for many patients, it has generated a reflective effect on society.

The chamber wants to restrict the number of students admitted to the Faculties of Dentistry, establishing a numerus clausus.

The last years' economic recession in the country has caused cost-cutting portfolio of public health services in certain states and regional health services.

**For asylum or refugees** issue has an autonomous management with specific programmes and actions. Immigrant Temporary Stay Centre, in Melilla, basic emergency dental care is being provided.

### Corporate Dentistry

The Spanish Dental Association is concerned about the current situation and urges the Government of Spain to safeguard the rights of patients and professionals.

A mercantile company named as iDental Case created in 2014, 24 clinics throughout Spain with 3,171 employees, 800 of whom were dentists. In October 2017 the business group iDental was sold to the Weston Hill investment fund for more than €25,000,000. The corporate group went bankrupt in 2018. This left patients with unfinished treatments and outstanding payments. The procedure is still in the pre-trial phase.

### 3 main concerns

- Misleading health advertising
- Problems with new models of professional practice
- Professional plethora

## **Country: Switzerland**

**Association:** Swiss Dental Association SSO

### **Changes**

Dr. Jean-Philippe Haesler was elected as new President. Dr. Oliver Zeyer is the head of international affairs and NLO of SSO.

### **Trends and developments**

Since 2002, after the bilateral agreements between EU and Switzerland, more than 6'000 diplomas from Europe have been recognised. Many of these dentists came to Switzerland and started to practise. But now some of the immigrated dentists quit Switzerland after a few years, realising that, due to the high salaries, high costs of living and the lack of patients, practising isn't attractive anymore.

### Corporate Dentistry

SSO is not favourable to corporate Dentistry. Dentistry shouldn't become a field for profit maximising investors.

### Problems with dental chains

Investors buy dental offices for a price that is way over the market price and therefore make it difficult for young dentists to open their own office. Aggressive advertising, misleading the patients occurs frequently with such chains.

### Possible solutions

Owners of the office should be dentists. Limited number of employed dentists per office. Change in law is needed.

World Oral Health Day:

The SSO will finally change the date for the promotion of the WOHD to the official date in March. Until now it was (historically) in September.

### 3 main concerns - 3 points to discuss

- Immigration of dentists and the differences in their qualifications
- Dental chains from investors
- New EU regulations like data protection or medical devices