

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Denmark

Association: Danish Dental Association (DDA)

Venue: Copenhagen

Year: 2015

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

- I. Changes in the association and its organisation.

- II. Trends and developments:
 - in professional politics;
 - in health politics;

The Minister of Health, Sophie Løhde, decided to intensify the supervision of health-care professionals, including dentists. The Minister divided the National Board of Health into five new agencies. The supervision is now placed in the Danish Patient Safety Authority. The DDA responded by pointing out that the increased focus on control and punishment instead of quality and education threatens the legal rights of the health-care professionals.
 - in educational politics;

Budget cuts to dental schools continued in 2015 and the DDA continued its efforts to convince politicians and deans of the faculties that it is problematic to implement repeated cuts in the dental educating. At the end of 2015 the deans of the health science faculties produced a discussion paper in which they expressed concern for the dental education.

Aarhus University has announced that the Board of the University has decided to merge the School for Dental Assistants, Hygienists and Clinical Technicians and the Institute of Odontology to the Institute of Odontology and Oral health. The fusion is supposed to create an optimal framework for the dental team. The DDA reacted strongly on this decision, and in a response to Aarhus University expressed concern for the dental education especially for an academic weakening of the dental education.

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

III. Further information (activities, concerns).

- The DDA launched in July an offensive in the media on the possible damaging effects of drugs such as cocaine, amphetamine and ecstasy on teeth and mouth. The offensive which was planned in cooperation with the Dental School in Copenhagen had its starting point in a paper in The Danish Dental Journal. A daily national newspaper brought an extensive article on the subject and many other media platforms followed up on the subject.
- Early detection of diabetes can save lives, and dentists can play an important role in this regard. This message was widely spread among both members of the DDA and the public when the DDA, in cooperation with the Danish Diabetes Association put the matter on the agenda in the autumn of 2015. Based on a paper in The Danish Dental Journal a national daily newspaper mentioned the relationship between periodontitis and diabetes on the front page as well as in an article in the paper. A number of other media followed up on the story.