

ERO COUNTRY REPORT

Plenary session on 29 and 30 April 2016 in Baku

Country: Germany

Member - Association/Chambers: Bundeszahnärztekammer/German Dental Association

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1. Developments in dental Associations / Chambers

The health insurance system

There is an urgent need to reform the German healthcare system. The dental profession believes that this necessary vital healthcare reform should aim for a moderate yet targeted evolution of the dual healthcare system (comprising statutory and private schemes) in terms of statutory health insurance, treatment and reimbursement. Statutory health insurance must create a healthcare system which guarantees equal treatment across all generations, whilst private health insurance must offer a social and competitive healthcare system.

2. Changes in national legislation affecting dentistry, including implementation of EU legislation

Since many years of discussion the **Law for prevention and health promotion** passed the Parliament and is in force since January 2016. It unifies different regulations in the prevention field in one Social Code.

In addition emphasis has been put on the following:

- The focus is more on health promotion.
- The focus is more on setting approach.
- Oral health for children under 3 years has been strengthened: Dentists get a systematically early detection check-up for toddler between the 6th and 30th life month payed by the SHI (until now from 30th life month to 6 years). Aim is to reduce the prevalence of early childhood caries (ECC) in Germany

3. Changes in financing for oral care

See point 2:

Early dental check-ups are scheduled in Germany now from the 6th life month of the toddler, covered by statutory health insurance-system (SHI).

4. Dental education and training, including undergraduate, vocational, specialist and CPD level education and training etc.

The Federal Government prioritizes currently the work on the Master plan "Medicine 2020" it has decided on. Therefore, the adoption of a new licensing regulation for dentists was unfortunately postponed again.

There is an urgent need to update the dental curriculum to foster closer ties with medicine studies in the first years of university education and to reduce the sizes of groups for clinical training.

To allow a modernization of the study in parts, the legislature has created by a change of the Dentistry Act, the possibility of setting up model programs. But these could hold the risk of fragmentation of the dental education in Germany.

Educational Training

The contents of dental education are newly described in a national catalogue of Learning Objectives in Dentistry (NKLZ). Universities and dental associations were involved in its acquisition. The NKLZ was adopted together with the National Catalogue of Learning Objectives in Medicine in 2015. First experiences of the implementation will be evaluated in the coming years.

5. Dental assistants and dental teams

The BZÄK wants to develop the education of the dental assistance personnel. The principle "Delegation yes – Substitution No" is fundamental. The dentist is and remains the first contact person in all oral health matters.

Registered dental assistants can qualify for dental specialist assistant, dental administrative assistant, dental prophylaxis assistant or dental hygienist (DH). The German Dental Association (BZÄK) has coordinated an update of the EU training schemes according to the requirements of the European Qualification Framework (EQF).

6. Association / chambers' lobbying activities within the political aspect of the CED

The German Dental Association (BZÄK) is organizing – alternating Brussels and Berlin – its annual European Day to raise awareness of the European issues interacting national policy, the dental profession and other interested parties. Concurrently we would like to integrate with the format of the European Day the growing importance of the European Policy in and for Germany and document our interest in the European developments to the outside world.

The European Day of the German Dental Association will take place in Berlin on 1 June 2016. As regards the content we will discuss - against the background of the new EU internal market strategy- the developments around the regulated professions on European level.

7. Other

FDI in Poznan – 2016 – German Evening

In cooperation with the Association of German Dental Manufacturers (Verband der Deutschen Dentalindustrie – VDDI), the German Dental Association (BZÄK) cordially invites to a German Evening as part of the FDI Congress 2016 in Poznan, Poland. This event takes place on Thursday, 8 September 2016.