

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Portugal

Association: Portuguese Dental Association (PDA)

Venue: Porto

Year: 2015

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

I. Changes in the association and its organisation.

The Portuguese Dental Association's new Statutes were published. This Statute is a regulatory guide of the greatest importance not only for the profession and for all dental practitioners, but also for the public.

Last December, President of the PDA was reelected for a four years mandate.

Also very important, was the recently approved legislation concerning unfair business-to-consumer health advertising practices in Portugal. This concerns misleading and comparative advertising and prohibits traders from creating a false impression of the nature of services as well as products, this way **boosting patients confidence**.

II. Trends and developments:

- in professional politics;

The rules for applying for the new PDA's specialities, oral surgery, periodontology and pediatric dentistry were published.

The application process was launched on August 10th, through an electronic platform. In Portugal, the granting of a dental practitioner title or a specialised dental practitioner title is an exclusive competence of PDA.

- in health politics;

PDA published in some of the main national newspapers an open letter to the candidates for Members of the Portuguese Parliament drawing attention to the repeated lack of solutions for oral

health in the Portuguese National Health Service and to the difficulty of the Portuguese population, mostly the less fortunate, in accessing oral health care.

A very important law regarding health advertisement was published

PDA presented the II National Oral Health Barometer about, knowledge and perception on oral health by the population treatment needs.

The conclusions revealed that 46.7% of the Portuguese population do not consult a dentist in over a year. When questioned about the frequency of visits to the dentist, 9.5% said never.

There is still 7.7% of the Portuguese population that haven't been to the dentist for at least five years and 34.3% have never gone to a dentist or only do so in case of emergencies.

- in educational politics;

In a moment in which dental medicine undergraduates are preparing to finalize their studies, PDA, for the sixth consecutive year, has visited the seven institutions that teach the course, with the objective of informing future professionals about how PDA works and important issues for the practice of dentistry.

During these sessions, the undergraduate students have a first chance to contact with that which will soon be their professional association.

PDA has reinforced its continuous professional education programme, nationwide, under the framework of hands-on courses organised by PDA, together with the ongoing commitment to PDA's annual congress.

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

In 2015, the dentist-voucher Programme was extended to 18 year olds.

Besides 18 years olds, the programme was also extended to those with HIV and that have not undergone any oral treatment for over two years.

III. Further information (activities, concerns).

On March 20th, the Portuguese Dental Association and the Ministry of Health and of Education and Science celebrated the World Oral Health Day in a ceremony that took place in Lisbon.

Under the theme, "Smile for life" the commemorations joined the areas of health and education with the objective of promoting the population's literacy.