

## ***Regional European Organisation of the FDI***

### ***National Report***

**Country:** GREECE

**Association:** HELLENIC DENTAL ASSOCIATION

**Venue:** BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

**Year:** 2022

*Please classify your national report by following subjects:*

#### ***Changes***

##### ***in the association and its organisation***

A new Law regarding the elections of Regional Dental Societies' representatives in the Hellenic Dental Association's (HDA) General Assembly has been voted in the Hellenic Parliament. The total number of General Assembly participants increased from 193 to approximately 220. HDA will decide how many representatives each regional Society will elect, according to its registered and active members.

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

##### ***in professional politics***

- The management of the crisis resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic that leads to the suspension of dental activities. The new plans significantly changed the cost of dental services, mainly due to PPE and Infection Control strengthened protocols.
- Unvaccinated dentists have been suspended from all public health centers and hospitals under the threat that they will be fired after March 31 and freelance dentists are not allowed to provide dental services by governmental decision. Unvaccinated dentists - as well as every Greek citizen - over 60 years old, are obliged to pay a fine of 100 euros per month, as long as they remain unvaccinated.
- We continue negotiating with the Ministry of Health for the abolition of N<sub>2</sub>O use banning by dentists.
- The legislation about the amalgam phase-down compliance and any improvement in it is applied in Greece through the EU legislation. HDA is in opposition to the amalgam phase-out status and informs all stakeholders and consumers of its opinion and will [EU (CED), WHO, FDI, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment].
- Rules for Amalgam Separators.
- A new legal framework exists in digitalizing private practices' financial transactions ("my-data" state file) by submitting them directly to the Ministry of Financial Affairs.

### *in health and social politics*

- The emigration of mostly young dentists pursuing employment opportunities, in other European countries, due to the economic and pandemic crisis.

### *in educational politics*

- No developments happened in pre-graduate educational politics in Dentistry in 2021.
- We remind you of the establishment and operation of the independent “Institute of Professional Affairs”, under HDA’s supervision and responsibility, where all continuing education scientific events are certified and credited and certified dentists’ records are kept.
- There are in progress the legal procedures for the completion of the process of recognition and training of the two newly recognized specialties, namely “Hospital Dentistry” and “Oral Surgery”.
- For several years now, there are no institutions providing students in the profession of dental chairside assistant. HDA presses the Ministry of Education to modify the relevant legal framework for the recognition of respective certified Schools and of their graduated students.

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

The State Insurance Scheme (EOPYY) continues not to cover any kind of dental treatment to all insured Greek citizens. HDA succeeded in persuading the Ministry of Health and through it the WHO to declare in its «Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases», that every State has to predict and allocate an oral health clause of public health expenses. Defining the minimum level of dental treatment services to be provided by the National Insurance Systems, will improve people's oral health and develop patients’ safety.

### **Corporate Dentistry** *position of NDA towards dental chains*

Investors must be registered in a separate to the dentists’ registry in every Regional Dental Society for each “chain” that has established clinics.

### *problems with dental chains*

No significant problems have been reported till now. We underline the need of setting the boundary between advertising and information and protect both, dentists and the public, from unlawful, unfair, and misleading practices.

## *possible solutions*

- A) Licensed dentists must obligatorily obtain 51% or more of every dental entity.
- B) The dentists' Code of Ethics must be applied to the investors as well. Similarly to dentists, sanctions for Code of Ethics violations must be applied to the Investors by the same Disciplinary Body.

## *Changes in fees:*

Fees have remained the same for the last 9 years. The number of registered and active dentists increased to 12.200 last year. We expect this number to rise a little more in the next year.

## *Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:*

### **A. World Oral Health Day**

#### Target:

Raising public awareness of the relationship between oral and general health and the overall personal image #MouthProud#.

#### Activities

- Utilization of the FDI resources and tools.
- Regional Dental Societies' involvement in spreading the messages through "lighting public buildings" activities.
- Funding of Regional Dental Societies' activities.
- Creation and projection of a televised message - Participation in TV and radio programs by HDA Council members.
- Scientific events in collaboration with Medical Societies on the topic "*The mouth is the center of the body*".
- Complimentary dental clinical examinations, by the Greek dentists, for a ten- days period.
- Press conference (invitation extended to the Presidents of the private sector employees, the public sector employees, Doctors, Pharmacists, etc).

#### Stakeholders

HDA, FDI, regional Dental Societies, Medical Societies, local authorities, Media.

### **B. Informative campaign for the public and the dentists**

#### Target:

The promotion of the dentist's role as a consultant on general health and well-being.

#### Axons

- Nutrition, brochure for sugar consumption, educational material.
- Smoking, informative material for the public and the dentists.
- Sports, Booth in a classic Marathon race.
- Contacts with population special groups (elderly, pregnant, vulnerable, etc.)
- Visits in Elementary Schools.

Production of audiovisual material, posters, and brochures and development of dentists' skills in integrating in their daily practice the coaching on general health issues.

#### *Further information (activities):*

### ***What are your 3 main concerns?***

- Establishing an oral health clause in public health expenses. Identifying the minimum basic number and kind of dental procedures that a (state or private) Insurance Fund must provide (or freely offer) to safeguard the oral health and Safety of its insured citizens.
- How the COVID-19 pandemic influences the dental profession in general and specifically, the provision of dental procedures, the economic transactions - income, and the oral health indicators.
- The effort of the dental technicians to be organized according to the Dentists standards, in order to claim a separate compensation by the insurance funds for a provided dental work to an insured patient.

### ***3 points you would like to discuss***

- Grading a single European point system for Continuous Education events.
- Grading an oral health clause of public health expenses. Defining the minimum level of dental treatment services to be provided by the National Insurance Systems, will improve people's oral health and develop patients' safety.
- Homogenization and harmonization of dental professions in the European countries in relation to the European legislation. Establishment of European Single Market occupational rights.

\*\*\*\*\*