



Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: ITALY

Association: AIO ITALIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Venue:

Year: 2021

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes in the association and its organisation

The AIO Italian Dental Association has elected Councillor Dr. Gaetano Memeo as its new Treasurer during its last General Assembly on October 29th 2021. As such Dr. Memeo is now part of the AIO Executive Council. Therefore, according to the AIO Constitution the first non-elected candidate for AIO Presidential Council fills the vacancy due to Dr. Memeo's election. Dr. Fulvio Gennaro became a member of the Presidential Council.

Two new AIO Sections have been established (Caltanissetta/Enna and Reggio Calabria).

AIO Leadership was present at the first in person Expo Dental during this pandemic in Rimini, Italy. The event was held from September 9th-11th, 2021 due to COVID-19. Expo Dental takes place normally in May every year.

AIO and the Italian Dental Students Association, AISO, have signed an agreement on the value of Presence of young professionals in organized dentistry and Rejuvenation of the dental profession in Italy.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

AIO signed a document for radioprotection and a Vademecum for radioprotection with the National Association of Qualified Experts for Radioprotection, ANPEQ, (signatories: AIO President Dr. Fausto Fiorile and ANPEQ General Secretary Dr. Samantha Cornacchia).

in health and social politics

Since 15th December 2021 AIO supports the “Super Green Pass” (two jabs and a booster or after healing from COVID-19) released by the Italian Ministry of Health and becomes active in monitoring of employees of the dental practice.

AIO has obtained the integration of dentists into the group of medical doctors authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccines as of 24th of March 2021, and thus contributes to nationwide prevention of COVID-19 and decrease of vaccination hesitancy.

in educational politics

AIO has obtained the recognition of online-CE for every single province facilitating Italian CE requirements and thus licensing, which could only be obtained with a certain percentage of in person CE events, not achievable for many Italian dentists during the pandemic.

AIO Secretary for Continuing Education and Founder of “AIO Academy”, Dr. Vincenzo Musella, has been appointed to be the scientific chair of the Sofia Dental Meeting, one of the most important dental CE events in the Balkan area. Furthermore, he has been the lead organizer of a Full-Day Event presenting renown Italian speakers at the 26th AEEDC in Dubai.

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

AIO changed its Insurance Plan “AIO Protection” and is nowadays one of the most attractive and convenient insurance plans for dentists in Italy.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

AIO Italian Dental Association follows the principles presented by the ERO Working Group Liberal Dental Practice. AIO firmly supports the position that no third-party intrusion into diagnostic and treatment decisions is acceptable. It is observed that corporate dentistry often times pushes its employees towards over-diagnosis and over-treatment and is guided by business rather than health interests.

problems with dental chains

Actually, we could observe a precious trend during this pandemic. Italian patients have shown that they trust more the independent dental practice than dental chain clinics. This means that it is perceived that liberal dental practices care more about patient & dental team safety compared to dental chains. In addition, it might be that patients prefer less crowded and organized single practice realities.

Again in 2021, it comes to light that dental practices are among the safest working environments in medicine in Italy.

possible solutions

EU Law 2019-2020 A.C. 26-A is definitively approved by Italian government on December 21st. This implies that private health care facilities need a clinical director who communicates his assignment to the territorial order competent for the place where the facility is located. This

territorial Order is responsible for exercising disciplinary power vis-à-vis the director limited to the functions related to the assignment including the rules of advertisement in the health sector.

Changes in fees:

There were no changes in membership fees in 2021.

There were no changes in fees in public dentistry.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

AIO has organized a major event with its leadership, decision makers in health politics and the Italian Order of Physicians and Dentists, besides Italian and international experts in public and private dentistry on March 20th 2022 in Rome, Italy.

Further information (activities):

AIO General Assembly and Dental Congress was held in person in Bologna, Italy, on October 29th and 30th respectively. During an AIO Executive Meeting held on October 30th Dr. Gerhard Konrad Seeberger was appointed as National Liaison Officer to FDI. He succeeds Dr. Enrico Lai who has been re-elected as a member of the FDI Education Committee. We congratulate both colleagues to their new function and thank Dr. Lai for his service as AIO NLO to FDI.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 11th AIO International Congress has been postponed to June 2022.

What are your 3 main concerns?

- *Increase of severity of oral disease due to postponing dental treatment*

- *Difficult economic situation due to ongoing economic and financial crisis in Italy further worsened by pandemic.*
- *Bad quality at high costs for PPE, especially examination gloves.*

3 points you would like to discuss

How to manage mental issues of our patients and avoid postponing of oral healthcare and prevention?

How to raise awareness that the change of the WHO 5x5 approach (five-by-five approach) is overdue to be changed into a 6x6 approach including oral health besides the main four NCDs (cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and respiratory disease) and mental disease?

How to maintain the dentists' leadership on our walk through the oral health strategy as pointed out in the draft paper and towards universal coverage of oral health until 2030?

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