

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

### ***National Report***

**Country:**

**Association:**

**Venue:**

**Year: 2021**

*Please classify your national report by following subjects:*

#### **Changes**

*in the association and its organisation*

No changes in the Board. Dr Jean-Philippe Haesler was re-elected as President as well as the other board members. The voting was done via mail by the delegates.

The homepage, the logo, and marketing strategy of SSO has been reformed and modernised.

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

*in professional politics*

The board of the Swiss Dental Association SSO has reinforced its efforts to take younger dentists on board. A working group has been created to find out about the needs of students and young dentists. At the end of summer, a special event for dentists under age 35, was organised.

*in health and social politics*

As the year before the 2021 was a special one due to the pandemic. Specially elderly patients. Despite the efforts by the Swiss Dental Association have been increased to access this part of the population, it was difficult to get them in the dental clinics, as they are very vulnerable to the covid 19 virus.

*in educational politics*

2021 was also a special year for the students and the dental schools due to the pandemic. A lot of lectures were held online. 137 students graduated. 67% were females 13% males. 20% of them will do a specialisation training at universities, which lasts between 3 and 4 years.

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

There are still several referenda for a mandatory insurance for dental care. In Canton Vaud and Geneva the referendum has been rejected but in several Latin cantons it hasn't been voted yet. The SSO is fighting this referendum because SSO stands for a free and independent relation between patients and their dentists. Due to the pandemic the political process concerning this matter, has more or less stopped in 2021.

**Corporate Dentistry**

*position of NDA towards dental chains*

The Swiss Dental Association SSO is not favourable dental chains because we fear the same problems that occurred in Spain, France and other countries. Dentistry shouldn't become a field for profit maximising investors.

*problems with dental chains*

Aggressive advertising, misleading the patients occurs frequently with such chains. Their interest is focused on costly Implant dentistry and aligner therapies. Investors buy dental offices for a price that is way over the market price and therefore make it difficult for young dentists to open their own office.

*possible solutions*

Owners of the office should be dentists. Limited number of employed dentists per office. Change in law is needed.

*Changes in fees:*

None

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

SSO promoted the World Oral Health Day via social media and press releases.

*Further information (activities):*

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

- Immigration of dentists and the differences in their qualifications.
- Dental chains offering aligner therapies and badly trained young dentists providing them.

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

- Immigration of dentists and the differences in their qualifications
- How to collect reliable data about dental training (hours in theory and chairside with the patient)
- How to create a good environment for future dentists