

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report 2018

Country: ESTONIA

Association: ESTONIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Venue: Frankfurt

Year: 2019

Changes

in the association and its organisation

No changes in EDA board and council in 2018

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

Membership is increasing - 1014 (956 in 1917)

Active discussions with leading political groups to explain the needs of dentists standing for dentistry as a liberal profession, free movement of patients and dental care financing aspects. Higher interest of politicians was in connection with the elections of Estonian Parliament.

Events organised by EDA in 2018:

- Oral health survey of 3-, 6- and 12- years old children
- Estonian Annual Dental Meeting, held on 29-31.08.2017 in Tartu, was a great success with 950 participants
- EDA Summer school in Harjumaa 02-04.08.2018
- 9 board meetings and two council meetings (April 7, September 28-29.08.2017)
- 10 numbers of professional journal "Hambaarst" (The Estonian Dentist) have been produced and distributed to members
- Two 1-day conferences for Estonian Dentists have been organised
- 1) A joint conference of dentists and otorhinolaryngologists (total 4 societies), on March 9, 2018 in the Estonian National Museum in Tartu
- 2) "Contemporary dentistry" supported by FDI, November 30, 2018 in the National Art museum in Tallinn, concentrating on oral health of the elderly
 - 115 certificates of competences have been awarded to dentists
- Annual meeting of CED was organised in Tallinn 24-26.05.2018 By EDA

Website address: www.ehl.ee

Facebook address: www.facebook.com/eestihambaarstideliit

in health and social politics

EDA proposed Health Insurance Foundation to:

1. Finance a cross-sectional study to evaluate oral health status as in children (2018) so in adults (1019-20) to evaluate objectively the needs for manpower in dentistry

2. Concentrate on financing cost-effective prevention of dental diseases instead of covering costs of symptomatic treatment.

in educational politics

A curriculum for dental assistants will be open for registration 1st of September, 2019 by the Tallinn Medical High School to educate dental assistants with no medical education.

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

1. New fees were fixed for dental treatment by Health Insurance Fund 01.07.2018
New compensation system for dental treatment for adults was introduced. Refunding for the treatment cost is possible only in case of existing contract between the dental clinic and Health Insurance Fund. Less than half of practicing dentists have signed this contract, because of complicated accounting and time consuming reporting. Also the fees for treatment are in most cases not cost-related. It means that compensation for treatment is not available for major part of citizens, as it can be applied only in case of service with fixed by Health Insurance Fund fees.
2. Private dental health insurance has been founded first time in Estonia by Northern1 International Insurance Brokers OÜ
<http://english.hambaravikindlustus.ee/contact-about-us/>
3. *In dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees*
The refugees are provided with medical insurance as persons living in Estonia by virtue of a temporary residence permit or by the right of permanent residence i.e. when the refugees have been officially registered they are on the same terms with Estonian citizens concerning dental emergencies and treatment.

Migration:

of dentists: problems and possible solutions

346 dentists registered in Estonia work abroad. Dental clinics are concentrated in the cities. Very few clinics stay open in rural areas. 139 foreign dentists have been registered in Estonia, 11 in 2018

of persons applying for asylum or refugees: problems and solutions in dental care.

For the unemployed people access to dental treatment is poor due to financial reasons. It is similar for refugees and local people, as there is no community dentistry in Estonia

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

World Oral Health day in Estonia will be promoted as follows:

- During full month there will be lectures about oral health in hospitals and schools
- On 20th of March, Estonian broadcasting companies have agreed to deliver oral health messages to the population. One radio interview - and one TV-broadcast, with a dentist & cardiologist sharing knowledge about the

bidirectional connection of oral and cardiovascular diseases, have been agreed upon

Corporate Dentistry

- *position of NDA towards dental chains* - We have one chain of dental clinics, consisting of 8 dental clinics functioning in different parts of Estonia “Unimed's United Clinics”. Based on the experience of other member countries – we are worried about the future.
- *problems with dental chains – currently dentists do not complain openly*
- *possible solutions - do not see any at the moment*

Fees:

New fees were fixed for dental treatment procedures by Health Insurance Fundation 01.07.2018, but not accepted by half of the dentists. Fees for dental care have been free in Estonia since 1991, as we have 100% private dentistry.

What are your 3 main concerns?

We are proceeding with concentrating on:

- Dental chamber instead of EDA
- Migration of dentists
- Changing non-monetary refunding system by Health Insurance Fund into monetary with no obligation to work with fixed price-list which could worsen quality of dental treatment

05.03.2019



Mare Saag
EDA, board member