



Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Portugal

Association: Ordem dos Médicos Dentistas – Portuguese Dental Association

Venue:

Year: 2018

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

Since February 3rd 2018, PDA's new rules for registration came into force, providing the institution with the necessary tools to proceed in conformity with the Statutes.

Under PDA's new statutes a General Council is now part of the governing bodies and its President, Paulo Ribeiro de Melo, was reelected in March.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

In 2018, PDA celebrated 20 years, with initiatives across the country. These meetings were ideal for Dentists to be aware of the evolution of the profession during these two decades.

in health and social politics

In 2018 PDA published the results of the Oral Health Barometer, a useful tool to analyse oral health status of the Portuguese population and the access to oral healthcare.

in educational politics

In a moment in which dental medicine students are preparing to finalize their studies, PDA, for the eighth 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 their practice of dentistry in Portugal.

During these sessions, the students have a first chance to contact what 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)

Under the framework of the pilot project for integrating dental services in primary health care centres, 50 dentists were distributed throughout 54 health care centres, until December 2018. Last September, the Government launched the project "Oral Health For All" with the objective of having, until 2020, every municipality with oral health care services in at least one health care centre. As



such, protocols were established between the Portuguese Ministry of Health, 65 municipalities throughout the country and five regional health administrations.

On the other hand, dentists are waiting for the approval of the public career in dental medicine by the Portuguese Ministry of Health.

The National Programme for the Promotion of Oral Health (PNPSO) that includes the dentist voucher, continues to provide access to oral healthcare for specific groups of the population. In 2018, 629.178 vouchers were issued.

In Azores, PDA met with the Regional Secretary of Health and recommended a re-evaluation of the oral cancer screening programme, in the sense of doting this autonomous region with an early detection programme of oral cancer.

in dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees

PDA is one of the entities participating in the project developed by the former President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio, designated Global Academic Emergency Assistance Programme for Syrian Students. This programme consists of the award of scholarships to Syrian university students, thus creating conditions for these students to proceed with their studies in Portugal and one day be apt to return to their country and contribute to its reconstruction.

PDA has contributed to this programme in sense of referring these students with urgent dental needs to Portuguese dentists pro bono.

Changes in fees:

No alteration in fees for membership with PDA.

Nonetheless, taxes and obligatory services to obtain the respective license for dental clinics have increased at a yearly rate.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

PDA commemorated the World Oral Health Day with the distribution of 300 oral kits at the *São Miguel* Health Care Centre in the Castelo Branco Region.

The kits included a tooth brush and paste, as well as a brochure and leaflets for the prevention of oral health disease.

Promotion of the World Oral Health Day was disseminated through Portuguese media and social networks.

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns?

According to "Números da Ordem 2018" (PDA Statistical data), Portugal has reached the ratio of one dentist per 1.033 inhabitants, almost the double recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Despite the initiatives carried out in 2018, the liberal profession practice is somewhat unprotected in terms of labour laws, namely concerning professional category, employment, motherhood, protection in illness, work accidents, professional incapacity and retirement. At this moment, in liberal professions, as is the case of dentistry, a significant number of professionals are unemployed or frequently with uncertain employment. This situation has led, as revealed by studies carried out by PDA, to the increase in the migratory flow.