



ERO Plenary Session

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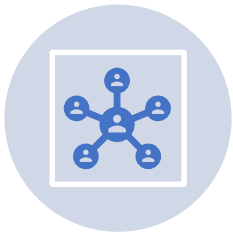


23.09.2022

Geneva, Switzerland

- Dear Mrs. President,
- Dear Board Members,
- Dear Delegates,
- Dear Colleagues,
- Dear Friends,

Let me briefly introduce the vision of our WG about integration.



As you know,
integration means
“union”, “connection”



This process is not
easy and it takes time



Humans, of course, *can* exist and survive without each other. No one will die because of it.



However, we are social creatures, and our success is in cooperation and integration.

This is necessary for everyone.



There is no doubt that “Strength is in Unity”, just as State Emblem of Georgia states.

- Integration means sharing positive experience of successful countries (individuals) and getting new energy, new ideas.



- We, representatives of Non-EU Countries, are grateful to ERO, for the idea of integration came from ERO.
- I am sure this process will be useful for both sides.



- ERO is not a political organization and its mission is successful without politics.
- However, current world political processes affect us all and influences our daily life and work, independent of us.



- Political changes of the 90s of the previous century led to creating WG ERO Enlargment and then ERO Integration.
- It is clear, that more fluctuations and changes are expected due to ongoing processes in Europe.



- You know that Ukraine and Moldova received the EU Candidate Status few months ago.
- In near future Georgia may also get the same status. This fact will influence us all.



- Therefore, I think that modifications and updated working processes for the dentists of the Non-EU Countries must be implemented by support and guidance of ERO
- This mainly influences National Dental Associations (NDA).



- As you know, few years ago, I conducted the survey among the ERO member NDAs which brought us to several important conclusions.
- All this was presented at ERO plenary sessions in 2018-2021 years.



- It is very important to increase the role and function of NDA's in Non-EU Countries.



- We know that NDAs are led by experienced professionals with huge international organizational, practical, and scientific experience.
- However, current regulations of those countries don't allow NDAs to perform their duties as needed.



I want to tell you that

- NDA's have very limited rights, thus cannot perform their duties as expected.
- This particularly influences
 - postgraduate education
 - specialization
 - licenses
 - certification



- NDAs of Non-EU Countries are not involved in monitoring the quality of postgraduate education.
- Monitoring is controlled by and depended on the Ministry of Health.
 - However:
 - Ministry is overloaded with all kinds of different work
 - Ministry has low relevant competence due to lack of dental professionals on the right positions for monitoring the dental related questions
 - Thus:
 - those processes are not successfully guided and implemented.



- Although, it has to be mentioned that in most cases, Ministry asks appropriate associations for recommendations when addressing the above-mentioned processes.
- Unfortunately, this is only a formal step and cannot be realistic, because it is impossible for any association to issue an objective recommendation on a matter, in which it is neither involved to implement nor to monitor.



- Also, very important for Non-EU countries is continuing dental education to be mandatory.
- Dentistry is a permanently developing and progressing field.
- Hence, continuing professional education is essential for dental practitioners in order to maintain high quality of dental care.



- Unfortunately, in most Non-EU countries continuing dental education is not mandatory, which hinders increase of the quality of dental care.



In order not to make my presentation too long,
I will summarize briefly what I wanted to ask your support for:

- ERO should implement and distribute Policy Statement for Non-EU Countries by allowing NDAs to maintain and improve oral health of people living in these countries.



- Ministry of Health should share and transfer the power of control in specific fields to NDAs.
Specifically:
 - postgraduate education
 - specialization
 - licenses
 - certification
- This will increase the role and authority of NDAs in above mentioned countries.

Due to this,

- Dental practitioners will be actively involved in NDAs, which will increase the financial and mental independence of NDAs.



- Mandatory continuing dental education is essential in all countries in order to maintain high quality of dental care.



- All the above-mentioned activities will support
 - **improvement of oral health** and
 - **increase the quality of dental services** for people in Non-EU Countries.





World Dental Federation

**Thank
you!**



EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
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