



European Regional Organisation of the FDI National Report

National report for France 2022

*** French Dental Association/Association dentaire française (ADF) ***
ERO Plenary Session – Istanbul – 27-30 April 2023

Changes in the association and its organisation

The French Dental Association held its triennial elections on 8 April 2022

- Julien Laupie and Doniphan Hammer were elected Secretaries General.
- Sophie Darteville was re-appointed to the position of Treasurer.

All ADF working committees were also renewed.

A new scientific society has joined the association, the French society of paediatric dentistry (SFOP).

The ADF currently federates 25 national associations and organisations from the oral health sector. Out of the 40,000 dentists practising in France, approximately 30,000 belong to the ADF via one of the ADF member organisations.

Trends and Developments

Professional Politics

National Agreement

Signed in 2018, the National Agreement entered in 2022 a fourth phase in the “dental care and prostheses rebalancing” process:

- third stage in the deployment of the “zero out-of-pocket payments” measure with the implementation of capped rates for metal-based removable dentures and related repairs.
- fourth stage of the revaluation of conservative treatments (restorations).
- reimbursement base increased to €120 for tooth-supported crowns.

Dental Clinics

For many years now, so-called dental clinics, which offer mostly low-cost treatments, have been proliferating in an uncontrolled manner and have caused several health scandals. The dental profession has actively alerted public authorities, and a draft bill has been submitted to the National Assembly proposing:

- accreditation by the general director of the regional health agency (*Agence régionale de Santé* – ARS) that equates to an authorisation to deliver dental care to persons covered by state health insurance.
- appointment in each dental clinic of a dentist in charge of monitoring the managers' decisions and of immediately informing the regional health agency of any breaches or shortcomings.
- submission to the local branch of the dental governing body of copies of the diplomas and work contracts of all the dentists employed in these clinics.
- the possibility for the directors of the regional health agencies to refuse to deliver a receipt for the "commitment to comply" necessary to open a new clinic if the clinic's managing body has already been fully or partially suspended.

Dental Team

Level 2 Dental Assistant

A draft bill submitted at the end of 2022 means progress at last on this matter after ten years of status quo. The scope of competencies, training curriculum and assessment criteria will be specified in 2023. The creation of the profession of Level 2 Dental Assistant is supported by the entire dental profession (French Dental Association, unions, governing body).

Employees' Social Protection

The "salary continuance and redundancy pay/retirement pay" contract is based on a monthly payment system and aims at providing the dentist with the reimbursement of all or part of the compensation paid to an employee who goes on sick leave, is made redundant, or retires. The contract was created by the professional branch of dental offices and is quite unique. However, accounts have been seriously deteriorating since the Covid-19 pandemic and the contribution, paid solely by dentists, has had to be increased. It represents 2.67% of the payroll to guarantee the payment of ongoing cases and to re-establish a secure working capital.

Education/Training

Periodic Certification

The year 2022 was dedicated to organising the implementation of periodic certification with all the members of the dental profession. The decree published on 19 July 2021 imposes periodic certification to all medical professions that have a governing body. It comes into force on 1st January 2023 but will be implemented progressively. The certification period runs over six years, except for professionals already in practice on 1st January 2023 who will have to complete their certification process by 1st January 2032 at the latest.

Training activities undertaken to achieve continuing professional development, (already mandatory on a three-year basis), continuing education and accreditation will aim at updating knowledge and skills and reinforcing professional practices and their quality.

Other compulsory modules will aim at improving patient-practitioner relations and helping practitioners better take care of their own health.

The French national professional council (CNP) is in charge of developing the frameworks of the relevant training programmes in line with these objectives, with a minimum set of activities to be completed by each professional.

The eHealth Agency (ANS) is developing a digital platform where each healthcare professional can trace their completed training activities in their own personal account.

The competent professional governing bodies monitor compliance to the periodic certification obligation. Sanctions for non-compliance are gradual: warning, reprimand, temporary ban and permanent ban from practice.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health day

In 2022, the French Union for Oral Health (UFSBD) conducted an advocacy campaign to establish toothpaste as a health product, in line with the WHO's Model List of Essential Medicines.

The UFSBD went much further than raising the awareness of decision-makers by proposing major public health or fiscal measures such as updating recommendations on fluoride dosage, lowering VAT on toothpaste to the staple-goods VAT rate of 5.5%, and reimbursing the cost of toothpaste for specific population such as those at high risk of caries.

This awareness campaign was disseminated to political decision-makers (senators, deputies, ...), the dental profession, the press and via social media, and proved very effective.

Another campaign was conducted for the general public, using illustrations of a family of tigers to inform on fluoride recommendations and to demonstrate the correct teeth brushing techniques for each age group. These messages enjoyed a wide audience on social media and were shared by many influencers.

The UFSBD also launched a new website, www.maBouchemaSante.fr, the first general-public website 100% dedicated to oral health and its interactions with general health. It explains in a clear and simple manner the relations between the mouth and the rest of the body with reliable, verified information 100% written by dentists. Whether through practical fact sheets, videos, quizzes or podcasts, oral health at last has a showcase worthy of the health issues at stake.

Further information: the ADF

- **The ADF Annual Dental Meeting, *le Congrès de l'ADF***

The 2022 *Congrès de l'ADF* was held from Tuesday 22 to Saturday 26 November at the Palais des Congrès de Paris.

Over five days, 28,104 participants – including 5,737 conference delegates, i.e., 20.4% of all attendees – attended the Meeting. The vast majority were practitioners, but there was also a growing number of dental assistants. The number of foreign participants increased by 3 percentage points, from 10.7% to 13.56%, thanks to partnerships or cooperation agreements with Lebanon, Dubai, Canada, and others. The ADF Meeting will continue to host speakers from various countries to develop its international profile even further.

The 2022 edition of the *Congrès de l'ADF* confirms that this annual get-together of the dental profession is decidedly the premier dental European meeting, combining in one single venue an international exhibition, where 350 exhibitors showcase their products over 12,400 sqm of stands, and a scientific conference, during which over 400 speakers, of whom many are known worldwide, present each year a hundred or so sessions.

The 2022 Meeting, which received the visit from the French Health Minister, offered the opportunity to raise awareness among the dental profession of two major, topical issues. First through an educational Escape Game dedicated to the very serious subject of antimicrobial resistance. The game was a great success and was hailed by the interministerial mission on “Infection and antimicrobial resistance prevention”. Second through a diabetes screening campaign organized on one of the exhibition stands to enable practitioners to take stock of their health.

Save the date for the next Congrès de l'ADF! Tue 28 Nov.- Sat. 2nd Dec. 2023

- **Training**

The French Dental Association, through its training entity ADFDPC-Formation, proposes several online training modules that enable practitioners to meet their triennial continuing professional development obligations.

- **Communication**

As part of its mission to accompany and support the dental profession in its continuing education, the ADF published in 2022 four new issues of its free, online magazine *Tooth*, dedicated to the following topics:

- Dental assistants
- Cobalt
- Cybersecurity
- Antimicrobial resistance

Find out more here <https://adf.asso.fr/tooth>

- **Cobalt**

Under the aegis of the ADF, all representatives of the dental sector – the governing body for dentistry, the dental unions, the dental industry, and the union of dental lab technicians – got together to decide on a course of action to face the consequences of the recent changes in the European legislation on cobalt and its use in many medical devices, particularly in dentistry.

The possible restrictions, currently under discussion, to the use of cobalt in the form of alloys in many medical devices would have grave consequences on access to care, particularly to oral health care.

A common letter was signed, collectively and solemnly urging the French Health minister to consider the worries of the dental sector and to establish a concrete dialog between its representatives and those of the ministry, to think about the impact of such restrictions and about possible alternatives.

This action is in synergy with the one conducted by the dental union Les Chirurgiens-dentistes de France (Les CDF) at the Council of European Dentists (CED).

- **The fight against antimicrobial resistance**

The increase of antimicrobial resistance being a major public health issue, and France ranking as the third largest consumer of antibiotics in Europe, it is essential to educate the dental profession in better prescription practices.

The ADF has developed several practical tools to raise awareness among dentists of the importance of correctly prescribing antibiotics, and to help them adopt good practices and avoid giving out unnecessary or ineffective prescriptions. These tools include:

- A practical online guide detailing the rules of antibiotic prescriptions in dentistry.
- A three-minute Escape Game to help dentists test their knowledge and avoid the pitfalls of antibiotic prescriptions.
- A special issue of the free, digital magazine *Tooth* fully dedicated to the subject.
- An information poster for patients.

Points we would like to discuss

- Activities in relation to eco-responsibility.