

European Regional Organisation of FDI

National Report

Country: GREECE

Association: HELLENIC DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Venue: ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE

Year: 2022

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes in the association and its organisation:

Elections took place at all regional Dental Societies of the HDA in March/April 2022 and new Boards and representatives at the General Assembly of the HDA were elected.

Trends and developments:

- *in professional politics:*

- The management of the COVID-19 Pandemic crisis has reached stabilization of material supply and PPE prices. The cost of dental services remains high in comparison to the pre-covid period and it is still increasing due to high inflation and energy cost.
- All unvaccinated dentists have returned to work after legal decision of the Supreme Court, despite they are private practitioners or employees in the public sector (public health centers, hospitals).
- HDA is anticipating the implementation of the legal use of N₂O by dentists, from the Ministry of Health after a unanimous decision of the Central Health Council.
- The legislation regarding the amalgam phase-down compliance and any improvement in it, is applied in Greece through the EU legislation. HDA is in opposition to the amalgam phase-out status and informs all stakeholders and consumers of its opinion and will [EU - CED, WHO, FDI, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, etc].

- *in health and social politics:*

- The Ministry of Health promotes a Dental Caries Prevention Program financed by EU sources for an annual check-up/scaling/fluoride application of 650.000 children, from 6 to 14 years old for a three years period.
- The management of the crisis resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic leads to suspension of dental activities. The new plans changed the cost of dental services significantly, mainly due to PPE and Infection Control strengthened protocols.
- HDA continues negotiating with the Ministry of Health for the abolition of N₂O use banning by dentists.

- Rules for incorporating Amalgam Separators.
- The new legal framework in digitalizing private practices' financial transactions ("My-Data" application) is completely applied and aims to fight tax loss, by submitting the receipts directly to the IRS - Ministry of Financial Affairs

- *in educational politics:*

- There are no developments in the pre-graduate educational politics in Dentistry in 2022.
- The independent "HDA - Scientific Affairs Institute", under HDA's supervision and responsibility, is fully operative. All continuing education scientific events all over Greece are certified and accredited. Data and all the details of the certified dentists' records are kept in a National Data Base called "MyDentistry" (<https://mydentistry.stepup.com.gr/>) under the HAD's responsibility.
- For the two recently recognized specialties, namely "Dentistry - Special Care" and "Oral Surgery" the legal procedures are going on in completing the process of recognition and of dentist's training. The proposal of a new specialty, namely "oral medicine" is in the process of getting recognized by the State.
- For several years now, there are no recognized institutions training students in the profession of the dental chairside assistant by the Ministry of Health. Thus, no new DCAs have been certified.

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

- The State Insurance Scheme (EOPYY) still does not cover any kind of dental treatment to all insured Greek citizens, thus there are no contracts with private practitioners. The NHS primary and secondary dental healthcare Services theoretically cover any therapeutical need, free of charge. The dental services provision is funded in 98% by pocket money.
- HDA hopes the above-mentioned Ministry's Program for Dental Caries Prevention referred to 650.000 children's annual check-ups to become the starting point for the integration of much more dental praxis in the state insurance funding.
- HDA succeeded in persuading the Ministry of Health and through it the WHO to declare in its «Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases», that every State has to predict and allocate an oral health clause of public health expenditure.
- The definition of the minimum level of dental treatment services to be provided by the National Insurance Systems will improve people's oral health and develop patients' safety.

Corporate Dentistry

- *position of NDA towards dental chains*

Investors must be registered in a separate to the dentists' registry in every Regional Dental Society for each "chain" that has established clinics in the Region. Both Dental Chains and Individual practitioners should follow the National Laws and Code of Ethics.

- *problems with dental chains*

Dental chains publish advertisements despite the limitations of the Code of Ethics and Regional Dental Societies are not able to take measures against them due to certain legal gaps. HDA underlines the need of setting the boundaries between advertisement and information and protect both -dentists and the public- from unlawful, unfair, and misleading practices.

- *possible solutions*

- A) Licensed dentists must obtain 51% or more of every dental entity.
- B) The dentists' Code of Ethics must be applied to the investors as well. Similarly to dentists, sanctions for Code of Ethics violations must be applied to the Investors by the same Disciplinary Body. HDA has lobbied for it to the Ministry of Health.

Changes in fees:

Fees have remained the same since 2014. Although inflation has raised up to 10%, the HDA Board decided to keep fees at the same level. The number of registered and active dentists increased to 12.268 last year.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

After receiving from HDA the FDI Best Media Award for two years (2020,2022) new targets have been set:

Target:

Raising public awareness of the relationship between oral and general health and the overall personal image #MouthProud#, #WorldOralHealthDay, #WOHD23

Means:

- Utilization of the FDI resources and tools.
- Regional Dental Societies' involvement in spreading the messages through "lighting public buildings" activities.
- Funding by Regional Dental Societies various activities (hard copy material production, advertisement campaigns at Media, Public Transport, etc)
- Creation and projection of a televised message - Participation in TV and radio programs by HDA and Regional Dental Societies' Council members.
- Scientific events in collaboration with Medical Societies on the topic "The mouth is the center of the body".
- Complimentary dental clinical examinations, by Greek dentists, for a ten-days period.
- Press conference (invitation extended to the Presidents of the private sector employees, the public sector employees, Doctors, Pharmacists, etc).

Stakeholders:

HDA, FDI, Regional Dental Societies, Medical Societies, Dental Schools, Local Authorities, Media.

Further information (activities):

Informative campaign for the public and the dentists:

Target:

The dentist's role promotion as a consultant on general health and well-being.

Actions:

- Nutrition: Distribution of a brochure for sugar consumption, and educational material.
- Smoking: Implementation of the FDI Tobacco Cessation project, informative material for the public and the dentists.
- Sports: Installation of a booth during the Authentic Marathon Race 2022, distribution of informative material for the public and the participants, emphasis on Dental Trauma.
- Contacts with population targeted groups (elderly, pregnant, vulnerable, etc.)
- Visits in Elementary Schools.

Means:

Production of audiovisual material, posters, and brochures and development of dentists' skills in integrating into their daily practice the coaching on general health issues.

What are your 3 main concerns?

- Establishing an oral health clause in public health expenditure or spending. Identifying the minimum basic number and kind of dental procedures that a (state or private) Insurance Fund must provide (or freely offer) to safeguard the oral health and Safety of its insured citizens.
- The after COVID-19 pandemic era of dental treatment influences the dental profession in general and more specifically, the provision of dental procedures, economic transactions - income, and oral health indicators.
- The effort of the dental technicians to be organized according to the Dentists' standards, in order to claim a separate compensation by the insurance funds for a provided dental work to an insured patient.

3 points you would like to discuss:

- Establishment of a common European point system for Continuous Education events.
- Establishment of a common minimum level of dental treatment services all around Europe. Defining the minimum level of dental treatment services to be provided by the National Insurance Systems, will improve people's oral health and develop patients' safety.
- Homogenization and harmonization of dental professions in European countries in relation to European legislation. Establishment of European Single Market occupational rights. Emphasize the restrictions and implementation of the Code of Ethics regarding the advertisement of dental treatment services.
