

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Hungary

Association: Hungarian Dental Association

Venue: Szeged

Year: 2022

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

From 2021 our scientific journal Fogorvosi Szemle has become available only online, its old issues are fully digitalized and thus it is open access.

Trends and developments

Hungary has a highly centralised health system. The government has the leading role in all segments of the health system such as setting strategic, controlling financing and issuing and enforcing regulations. This report reviews the basic data on dentistry and oral surgery in Hungary. It describes the number of dental health professionals, the various specializations of dentists and the role of dental professionals in the health system. In light of these, it summarizes the oral health status of the Hungarian population with special regard to DMF-T and the incidence of oral cancers.

The first and most important data is the number of dentists, the development of the number of registered dentists and its comparison with the Hungarian population. In 2019, the number of active dentists was 7,145. This has dropped to 6,578 by 2020. Taking into account the numbers of previous years, there is a certain fluctuation in the number of registered dentists.

According to Hungarian Central Statistical Office, the population of Hungary is 9,890,640 (male: 4,771,677, female: 5,118,963). According to the data of cia.gov in July 2021, the population of Hungary is 9,728,337. The resulting population per dentist is 1,474, rounded to 1,500. The rate is good according to the World's Health Organization (WHO) classification, but this favourable number is negatively affected by the drop-out of domestic dental and oral surgery by dentists involved in dental tourism. Due to the geographical location and the "dental tourism enclave" phenomenon, the population per dentist can rise to over 2,000 people per area. In contrast to the areas abandoned by dentists, their number in the capital and in the western border countries is remarkably high.

Dentistry is clearly diverging, one section is directed towards specialization, in its tendencies and attitudes. This section/part of dentistry is approaching asymptotically towards cosmetology and aesthetic medicine. This section covers certain aspects of aesthetic dentistry, the endodontics, implantology and periodontology.

The other part deals with the general problems of dentistry i.e. prevention of caries, consecutive inflammation of caries and periodontitis, benign and malignant diseases/lesions of oral mucosa in head and neck region and prosthodontic rehabilitation. That is called community dentistry, what is closer to medicine and general dentistry. Of course, there are common overlapping areas that are a significant part of both sections.

Corporate Dentistry

In the coming years, their active practice can be expected to cease, which may also affect the dentist / patient ratio. Gender distribution of dentists: male 34%, female 66%. This does not differ significantly from international trends compared to international data.

Each European Union country decides on the qualifications that can be obtained with a degree in dentistry. Among the numbers of dentists with different professional examinations, the number of those with a specialist examination in conservative dentistry and prosthetics stands out. According to 2020 data, 3,904 people have an active operating record. This will not change significantly, as the acquisition of this professional examination has been abolished by regulation. Graduate dentists can specialize to endodontics and prosthetic dentistry. This is followed by the number of specialists in orthodontics (558 people) and dentoalveolar surgeons (557 people).

In the period before Hungary joined the European Union, almost all dentists passed the examination for dental and oral diseases. The reason for this was that the civil servant dentist thus jumped to a “salary category”, in a higher salary category. The exam itself set a lower requirement than the state exam passed on graduation. At present, in the European Union countries - already where there are professional examinations within the professional qualification of dentists - 5-15% of dentists have some kind of professional examination. A similar rate will be set in Hungary.

It is interesting to note that the number of dentists in the operational register with a certificate of a specialist in dental and oral diseases and a specialist in conservative dentistry decreased by 15.1% (694 people) compared to the data of 2019 and 2020. This can clearly be explained by the retirement of so-called large grades. There is also a significant decrease in the number of people with a pediatric dentistry exam (18.1%, 49 people). The decrease in the number of orthodontists is considerable either (7.3%, 44 people).

Changes in fees

Unfortunately, the income of Hungarian Dental Association has decreased, but after COVID-19 and because of the current economic situation it is very difficult to increase the membership fee.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

The Hungarian Dental Association organises and takes part in several different actions on and around WOHD. We raise attention for prevention in homes for the elderly, in schools and kindergartens. We involve dental hygienist, dental students as well as students of health translation. We translate FDI resources into Hungarian and spread awareness on our Facebook, web and Instagram pages actively from 16-20 March each year.

Further information (activities):

It has been 16 years since our association organizes every year one of the top dental events in Hungary, the SymposiumSzeged scientific training conference, which will be held in May 2023. The prime goal of the 16th SymposiumSzeged conference is to invite world- renowned lecturers to give Hungarian and European dentists a chance to see and hear the top of the dental profession at an affordable price. The conference brings excellent dentists and scientists with unique knowledge to Hungary, thus providing an opportunity and a forum for scientific discussion and exchange of experience with the participation of distinguished and respected speakers from the international palette. World-renowned speakers from a number of countries represent a wide range of dentistry, from periodontics through aesthetic dentistry to orthodontics. In addition to lectures on all areas of dentistry, participants will be able to meet well-known exhibitors and unique product presentations during the two-day scientific conference. One day before the conference, on 4th May, the participants take part in a hands-on course as well as a training for dental hygiene colleagues and students.

What are your 3 main concerns?

see below

3 points you would like to discuss

1. Oral health and tobacco
2. Oral health in connection with general diseases
3. Finding more opportunities to increase the role of dental hygienist in prevention of oral diseases