

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: *Italy*

Association: *AIO Italian Dental Association*

Venue: *ERO Spring Plenary*

Year: *2022*

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

AIO has elected the members for the mandate 2023-2025 in December 2022. The new AIO Executive Team is composed as follows:

Dr. Gerhard Konrad Seeberger	National President
Dr. Danilo Savini	Secretary of Union
Dr. Maria Giovanna Cotugno	Treasurer
Dr. Vincenzo Musella	Secretary Continuing Education
Dr. David Rizzo	Vice-president

AIO has run two successful congresses in Chia, Sardinia and Rome and its first AIO Expo.

Enrico Lai has been confirmed ERO Auditor.

AIO has started a campaign for refugees in collaboration with Caritas offering oral health care and oral disease prevention. This included assistance also for bureaucratic processes and offering institutional housing and private homes for refugees from colleagues.

Dr. Roberto Santopadre, Director of the Caritas Dental Clinic in Rome, has been awarded with the Waterfalls Global Award in the UAE for his humanitarian engagement especially in the COVID-19 years 2020 and 2021.

AIO dentists did not create any malpractice case related to infection with the corona virus in 2020/2021.

AIO Immediate Past-president Fausto Fiorile signed an agreement with the Italian Dental Students Association opening to their leaders an observer position in the AIO provincial head offices. The aim is that 70% of AIO provincial head offices shall be presented by leaders less than 40 years old until 2025.

Trends and developments: in professional politics

May 2022: Rules for Chairside assistants adopted as proposed by AIO.

The legislation for chairside assistants is simplified: anyone who proves to have worked as a chair assistant for 36 months in the 10 years prior to 21 April 2018 maintains their contract, role and duties.

August 2022: AIO asks the competitors in the elections campaign to protect single practices, not to favor commercial chains, to safeguard the dentist-patient relationship based on trust, not to encourage low-cost treatments, and to examine stronger tax deductions for dental expenses.

September 2022: Advertising in healthcare: the EU commission on competition indicates the policy of the European Commission, which is in line with AIO positions: No to misleading advertising messages; yes to controls on advertisements by the professional order.

November 2022: Court rulings (and National Institution of Assistance and Welfare for Dentists and Physicians, ENPAM) prove the AIO position right. Dentists can reunite the contributions paid to several pension funds (example National Institute of Social Welfare + ENPAM), which is continued to be denied by INPS.

in health and social politics

January 2022: Anti-Covid office check of employees' vaccination obligations. Dentists are overseen by the professional order, and they cannot practice if they are not vaccinated, also in reference of recommendations by Council of European dentists. Based on input given by AIO in March 2022, the Government decides that unvaccinated healthcare professionals and personnel recovered from Covid-19 can return to work.

March 2022: The dental technician is not a healthcare professional in Italy, says the Administrative Court (of Italian State, Lazio) legitimizing two notes from the Ministry of Health of September 24th 2018, which expressed an opinion not in favor of the request to identify the position of the dental technician as new healthcare professional.

May 2022: Two crucial amendments for the development of dentistry in Italy were rejected: the first made professionals equal to companies in accessing benefits to cushion energy costs, the second required supplementary funds to leave registered citizens free to choose the dentist trusted even among those not affiliated with the membership fund.

July 2022: Covid-19 new indications simplify life for practices. Telephone triage was stopped for symptomatic patients.

September 2022: Circular from the Ministry of Health on accidents in the practice: it is necessary to notify the Ministry of any serious accident, even if only suspected, within 10 days and also report it also to the manufacturer of devices, instruments and materials, or his agent and even his distributor.

in educational politics

July 2022: Continuing education: The national commission decides that two thirds of the credits are enough to stay on the line. New rules specify that who needs to catch up with the credits for the triennium 2020-2022 can comply with collecting credits throughout 2023. This includes also the triennia 2014-2016 and 2017-2019. The rules for CE will be revised shortly and quality education, meant to guarantee quality prevention and care in patient- and team-safe environments, is the goal to reach.

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

No changes so far, but during this year changes are to be expected in terms of redefining the treatments of essential levels of care and the supplementary funds.

position of NDA towards dental chains

AIO does not accept realities that are not subject to stay under the supervision of the professional order, e.g commercially driven clinics. However, AIO is connecting to the younger colleagues and keen to give assistance in order to maintain the exclusivity of the medical act and the liberty in diagnosis and treatment.

problems with dental chains

According to an investigation carried out by an association assisting and defending the rights of patients and consumers, it came to light that dental visits were often not as accurate as in single dental practices, the focus was mainly on missing teeth and their rehabilitation with expensive treatment plans, and other conditions as gingival, periodontal and mucosal disorders were not detected. Motivation and instruction of patients was often times falling behind. Fees were comparable to those in single practices showing no advantage in affordability of care. Remuneration of service was generally low.

possible solutions

Patients will show on the long-term the score of value of the dentist-patient relationship. Dental Service Organizations run by professionals could be a future solution to downsize the administrative load of single practices and better conditions for negotiating prices for devices, instruments and materials.

Changes in fees:

No change in fees

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

AIO will celebrate the day with political meetings, awareness and service actions in clinics of charity organizations and private practices, and with campaigns on social media.

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns?

- Increasing costs for devices, instruments, materials, electricity and prostheses. The latter are charged with 4% of tax if realized through the intervention of a commercial treatment center.
- 50% of citizens do not go to the dentist and treatment costs rise as the severity of decays increases.
- The government is still considering oral health as a cost and not an economic opportunity to downsize healthcare expenses on a larger scale guaranteeing savings higher than the costs.

3 points you would like to discuss

- The benefit of integrating dentistry into Electronic Health Records – sharing experiences
- Patient literacy as a prerequisite for better patient outcomes.
- The meaning of “innovative workforce” in dentistry – a topic for a European think tank.