

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: ITALY

Association: ANDI

Venue: Lungotevere R.Sanzio 9, Roma 00153

Year: 2023 (reporting previous year)

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

- In May 2022, ANDI elected the new board that will manage the national association for the following 4-years mandate. Dr Carlo Ghirlanda was re-elected as National President: to visualize the new Board consult the link attached. Dr Ferruccio Berto was confirmed as head of ANDI Foreign Office.
<https://www.andi.it/who-we-are/>
- With the end of the acute phase of the pandemic, most of the regional dental congress were kept in person; however, to extend participation, they were broadcasted to our associates through our platforms. ANDI seldom holds a national dental congress, due to the fact that continuing education and scientific congresses are held in each region, to bolster participation among the associates. However, ANDI is currently programming a national congress for 2024.
- In 2022, ANDI reached for the first time 28.000 associates. Its central offices are located in Rome, but ANDI is deeply embedded locally, with 115 departments.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

in health and social politics

in educational politics

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

- In line with European regulation, Italy has normalized the recruiting of chairside assistants (ASO and CSO). To answer the training and cultural needs of the ASO, ANDI is organizing base and continuing education courses (700 h course, theoretical and clinical, with final exam; continuing education mandatory starting from 3 years after the license).

- In 2022, the habilitation exam that followed the university degree and, if passed, enabled to practice dentistry ceased to be in place; therefore, Italy has now an habilitating degree, adjusted to compensate for the coursework that was examined during the habilitation exam.
- Dental amalgam was phased out of use in July 2022: however, is still employed in rare cases for therapeutic reason (uncooperative patients etc). It should be noted how, even before the ban, dental amalgam has been rarely used within dental cabinets at least for the past 15 years.
- The public and private insurance scheme system registers no variation. In Italy, the NHS provides for minimum dental health requirements of the population (LEA) and the needs of some fragile patients, but it is unable to ensure all citizens with check-ups or hygiene procedures. 95% of dentists and dental medicine is private, payed out of pocket by patients. However, ANDI is approaching the world of dental insurances with one of its branches, FAS (Fondazione ANDI Salute). FAS policies will guarantee the free choice for attending physicians and build a practice of informed consent between dentists and patients, providing a deontologically sound approach to the world of dental insurances.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

problems with dental chains

possible solutions

ANDI opposes dental chains and corporate dentistry. The constitutional principle of corporate dentistry makes it answer to market opportunities instead – and sometimes against – clinical considerations; this is incompatible with the dental profession. The ancillary position that trained medical personnel occupy within the decisional framework of these ventures makes it impossible to uphold any control by the National Chamber or Health Ministry; this often leads to a void in regulation that creates grey deontological areas within the national practice of oral health.

Moreover, as reported in the recent CED document on dental tourism, dental chains are constitutively incapable of constructing meaningful therapeutic pacts with patients, rushing instead health procedures and basing most of their appeal on misleading advertisement practices.

In 2018, Italy approved a series of regulations on medical advertisement: pushed forward by ANDI, the law also explicitly states that all health clinics must nominate a medical director. Medical directors must be members of a professional medical chamber (CAO, Commissione Albo Odontoiatri in the case of dentistry), making them subject to the deontological regulations and disciplinary procedures of said chamber. Following this principle, ANDI is advocating for the necessity to conform all health-providing institutions, including dental chains, to the model of a professional association. In this way, at least 2/3 of the shared capital invested in a health clinic would be provided by medical specialists, ensuring the capability of the Health Ministry and the competent National Chamber to regulate all health providing clinics through medical regulations and deontological codes.

Moreover, promoting sound models of dental practice and associationism among young dentist is the core principle for depriving dental chains of their main employees. For this reason, ANDI professionals chair courses and seminars during the 6th year of dental school to introduce dental student to the professional landscape, from a legal, managerial and deontological perspective.

Changes in fees:

No change in fee for dental services, nor for subscription to the Association and the Chamber

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

WOHD will return in presence in 2023, with initiatives in schools to promote oral health. This activity will pair with a social media campaign.

Further information (activities):

- Dentista Sentinella: national programme to guide dentists in recognizing, supporting and reporting cases of domestic and gender based violence.
- Diritto alla Prevenzione: in partnership with the Red Cross, ANDI has equipped and is providing volunteers to a mobile dental clinic unit (a truck with 2 complete dental cabinets), to extend dental health coverage to remote areas or risk patients (migrants, homeless, seasonal workers..).
- Oral Cancer Day and Month of Prevention: in 2022 the 19th and 42nd edition of these awareness campaign took place with in person events, news coverage and free dental check-ups. More than 12.000 ANDI members participated to these initiatives.
- ANDILab: ANDI has opened in 2022 its tech company, ANDILab, to manage all digital aspects of the profession. BRAIN, our broadcasting platform/social network/continuing education platforms (and much more..) reached 22.000 subscribers in December 2022. MIND, ANDI management software for the dental study, was launched in 2022 on market, and is growing considerably among the profession.

What are your 3 main concerns?

- 1) Ensure the generational turnover for the profession
- 2) Capabilities of dental chains market and promotional practices
- 3) Ensure the accessibility for dental procedures in a time of social and economic uncertainties

3 points you would like to discuss

- 1) Ageing Population: how to provide optimum oral care for elderly and fragile patients
- 2) Quality in Education: how to recognize titles and qualifications on a transnational base to ensure mobility without decreasing the quality of dental services
- 3) Sustainability: how to reduce the carbon mark and waste production of dentistry globally
- 4) E-Health: how to guide the digital revolution in dentistry following deontological and clinical considerations