

2023 ERO General Assembly

NDA's Reports of 2022 / İstanbul

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Trends and Developments for the year 2022..

*** Professional politics;

- Belgium; the name of chamber changed from Chamber Syndication Dentaire to Chamber de Medecine Dentaire...
- Estonia; had also elections in 2022 and Dr. Katrin Metstak elected as President.

*** Professional politics

- French Dental Association; held its triennial elections on 2022 and Julien Laupie and Doniphan Hammer were elected as Secretaries Generale and Sophie Darteville as Treasurer.
- Italy; AIO elected its new board and Dr. Gerhard Seeberger is again elected as the National President.
- ANDI elected the new board for the following 4-year mandate and Dr. Carlo Ghirlanda was reelected as National President.

*** Professional politics

- Poland ; Chamber name was changed to Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists....
- Portugal; There is a legislative proposal of the government that reduces the autonomy of the 'Dental Chamber'.
- Romania; Prof. Dr. Paulo Perlea was elected as a president for a four year mandate.

***** Professional politics**

- **Spain;** Dr. Oscar Castro Reina was elected as president.
- **Slovakia;** The other development but positively is the cooperation of the three largest medical Chambers in Slovakia..The Slovak Medical Chamber, Pharmacy and Dentists Chambers are signed a memorandum to improve the cooperation between individual medical profession and strength the competences of individual professional self-goverments by state authorities.
- **Swiss Dental Association;** Dr.Jean Philippe Haesler was reelected.

*****Educational politics:**

At many NDAs reports like Armenia, Check Republic, Portuguese and Türkiye highlighted the increasing numbers of dental students and dental schools. Private and also public dental faculties are rapidly increasing. The excessive numbers of dental students, as they may result in limited opportunities for hands-on clinical training, ultimately compromising the quality of educational and unproficient future practice of dental professionals.

***Educational politics:

The dramatically increasing numbers of dental professionals which may result to an excessive need (over saturation) of the market and affect the quality of dental care provided for patients. We also need to keep in mind that the whole community of the dental profession will face with very serious ethical problems, too..

*****Educational politics:**

Such educational politics of the governments are threatening not only our profession also public health into the danger. And it will lead dentistry and dental workforce to a cheaper level beside lowering the quality. At those countries, which are facing with these problems with the increasing number of dental schools, NDAs should definitely needs to take action with the organizational dental communities...

***Educational politics:

Besides this, I should also mention, that in line with EU regulation, many countries in Europe (Italy, Germany, etc.) are ahead to modernise the training regulation for the dental chairside assistants..The new training regulations are in force since in the middle of 2022

***Educational politics:

Last year, on my recent report presentation; I underlined a challenge in France. This year on their report, they highlighted that periodic certification comes into force on 1st January 2023 and it will be implemented progressively of all the members of dental profession ..Training activities undertaken to achieve

1-Continuing professional development..

2-Continuing education and

3-Accreditation will aim at updating knowledge and skills and reinforcing professional practices and their quality. And all the activities will be monitored by a competent professional governing body

***Educational politics:

Dear delegates, here I would say to you that our French friends done a great job, it was my dream to realize such a project in Türkiye since 2010 during my presidential period , but I couldn't manage to comply with the governmental authorities. And I felt very dissappointed for that...But I'm happy now with French Dental Association with the Periodic Certification Programme which will be a very efficient leading example for other European organizations.

***Educational politics:

I should say from the NDAs reports, for every country member of ERO, raised high value on the the Continuing Education, since the delegates are all highly aware that the citizens can receive better oral care only due to the increased quality of Continuing Education (CE) or Continuing Professional Developments (CPD). Here in ERO we have NDA member of the 35 countries..only 19 of them had a mandatory professional Education with mandatory requirements. There are 6 countries, whilst not having a mandatory requirement, but although they have formal systems in place..

*****Educational politics:**

It is figured out from the CPD survey of CED, which is made on 2021 at EU member countries. ..Coordinating body can be changed either it could be Ministry of Health or a professional organisation or also an independent regulatory body.. Requirments should be based on the credits to be certified every 3 between 5 years. It is an ethical obligation for the dental professions to attend the CE programms and but although the controlling and the monitoring of the regulations and requirements of CPDs are very important..

***The insurance system:

Most country in ERO zone demand more realistic reimbursement for dental and medical procedures from health insurance funds. But the reality what is happening in the countries are totaly controversery.

*****The insurance system:**

For exp. NH Fund of Poland allocates for dental care in 2008 budget 4.4%,and 2023 is planned 1.87%. There are many other countries like Estonia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Romania, Slovakia, Portuguese, Türkiye almost at every country NHSs are making low payment for dental treatments than inflation rate.

*****The insurance system:**

Overall in many countries, governments are still considering oral health as a cost and especially at these days, which mostly economics are quite affected due to the high inflation rate; they start like always to decrease healthcare expenses from oral health care.. for example ,even the new regulation for systematic treatment of periodontitis in Germany in force since July 2021, is currently financially limited by the Statutory Health insurance..As received in National reports lots of similar attempts are occurred in most of the countries

*****The insurance system:**

Low government awareness that health begins in the mouth is a general opinion of politicians all over the World, which was mentioned at the first sentences of the Vision 2020 of FDI..such a challenges is not easy, yes but we ERO as strongest body of FDI should to continue to the roadmap of Vision 2030..Therefore ERO board take the decision and make the proposal to FDI for organizing an advocacy and capacity-building workshop in İstanbul..And many great thanks for FDI,tomorrow we will discuss together, how to develop an advocacy roadmap for oral health at home with our national governments.

tomorrow morning at 09.00 o' clock we will meet here and give the start of this important workshop....

*****Corporate Dentistry**

Most of the NDAs in ERO are seen still, that the investor-driven dental chains are very problematic for the future.. It is not a danger only for our liberal dental practices but also for public interests... As NDAs in ERO we are not supporting that the third party intrusions into our profession it could damage our diagnostic and treatment decisions since most of the corporate dentistry is guided by business rather than health interest ..

*****Corporate Dentistry**

We already observe it in many European countries, that dental medical care centers hope for a high return income...Dentistry shouldn't become a field for profit maximising investors. As a result of commercialization and aggressive advertising misleading the patients. Their interest is focused on costly implant dentistry and aligner therapies. Therefore to avoid the uncontrolled manner which caused several health scandals, as NDA's, we should alert actively public authorities and try to make some changes at the regulations on profit sharing, on voting rights, on accreditation, on appointment of a dentist, on controlling of work contracts by chamber supervision.

*****Corporate Dentistry**

On the other hand we have to urge the authorities to strengthen the role of liberal profession and support their competences. By willing this, NDAs should also keep working very carefully and without stopping on the standards and on the monitoring of dental practices. Although the threat of patients complaints is probably still the strongest control on the standard dental care..Other mechanism for monitoring dental practices are external prior approval of complex treatments, incentives for participation in continuing education, basic controls on the level of billing and patterns of treatment of individual practitioners. Monitoring is of course not of the quality of care, but it is simply an administrative control, to ensure that the patient has been charged the correct amount for the type and treatment received..

*****Corporate Dentistry**

And we also need to keep strict professional regulations about protection and safety of dental workers and patients, about radiation etc...

At that point, I want to mention that how digitalization could be a challenge of our liberal profession. For example by this approach, in Holland, they changed the conventional informed consent into 'shared decision making'. These means that the given information must be suitable and understandable for every patient. At the same time by the digitalization, an opportunity was given to the patients not only to access to their electronic files but also to take an electronic copy of that files.. Thus, the trust-based relationship between the patient and the dentist will reach a higher level.

We should keep in our mind that digitalization can be a powerful weapon during our fight with corporate dentistry.

Thank you for your attention...