

EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION PLENARY SESSION

April (27/28) 29-30 2023, İstanbul / Türkiye

Dear FDI President Prof. Ihsane Ben Yahya, ERO President Simona Dianiskova and esteemed Members of the Board, Respectable Delegates... I would like to thank you for choosing our country for the Spring Session ERO Plenary Session.

Welcome to our country.

It is my great pleasure that we are with you at this particular year of the 100th Foundation Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye. 1996, We met in İstanbul. It is our great honour to host you in İstanbul once again.

Actually, I would like to make another speech. Still, due to the earthquake we experienced in February, considered the biggest natural disaster of the century, my first agenda item will be the earthquake and the post-earthquake process.

In a geography of 100 thousand square kilometres, approximately 14 million people were directly affected by 400 Km of fracture that occurred in one blow. A great disaster occurred in our country with earthquakes of magnitude 7.7 at 04.17 on February 6 and 7.6, 9 hours later. The earthquake was followed by 183 aftershocks with magnitudes of 6.4 and 6.6, and at the end of the first two days, 10 provinces turned into ghost towns. In the region where there are currently more than 50,000 deaths and nearly 150,000 injured people, around 4,000 dentists and their families and about 3500 dental students studying in 8 dental faculties in this region have been affected in the same way. According to the available information, 28 dentists, 38 dental students and 2 dental technicians have lost their lives as of today.

As Turkish Dental Association, we have reached out to our colleagues in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Adana, Malatya, Malatya, Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Diyarbakır, Osmaniye, Kilis and Şanlıurfa, which were affected by the earthquake and tried to determine their situations. In the region where production, industry and economy almost collapsed, approximately 500 clinics, equipment and materials of approximately 2400 of our self-employee colleagues were also damaged, and the savings of dentists obtained by their hard labour were destroyed.

Therefore, while some of our colleagues who desire to escape from the effects of economic devastations try to go to the other provinces by domestic migration, others keep trying their initiatives in the hope of being appointed to a public institute.

On the other hand, with the COVID-19 Pandemic, we witnessed together the difficulties experienced by many of the students of the Faculty of Dentistry, whose educations were suspended in 2020-2022 during their active professional practices after graduation. Then, with the earthquake disaster, it was announced by the Council of Higher Education that the 1st, 2nd

and 3rd grades would continue their education remotely, while the 4th and 5th grades could only take their applied courses face-to-face. Prior to this announcement, students who had been removed from their dormitories, particularly 4th and 5th grades and those from the earthquake zones, emerged as housing problems.

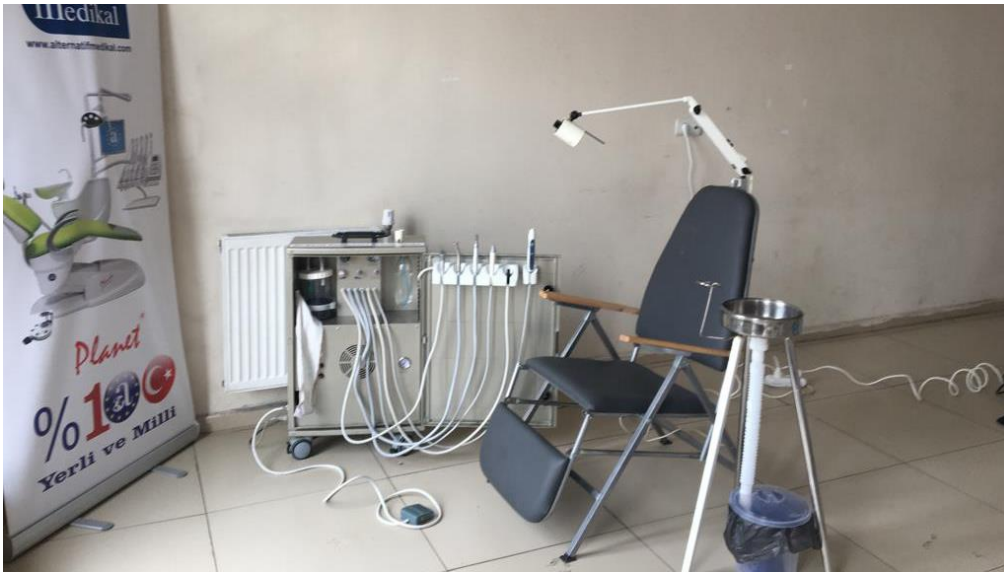
With this practice, psychological burden of being away from the Faculty atmosphere, especially for a group that experienced COVID-19, will create a lack of dexterity, difficulties in focusing and concentration, will cause lifelong self-confident problems. Correspondingly, students will have to confront legal responsibilities due to malpractice after graduation.

As the Turkish Dental Association, within the context of the container-mobile clinic's projects that, we planned to eliminate the acute oral and dental diseases of our citizens in the region who were scattered in despair, to continue their treatments started before the earthquakes and to enable our colleagues who lost almost all their assets to begin their professional practices as soon as possible, oral and dental care service units were organised with 3 of them are mobile vehicles, 1 of them inside of a ship, in total 50 containers and 200 volunteer colleagues.

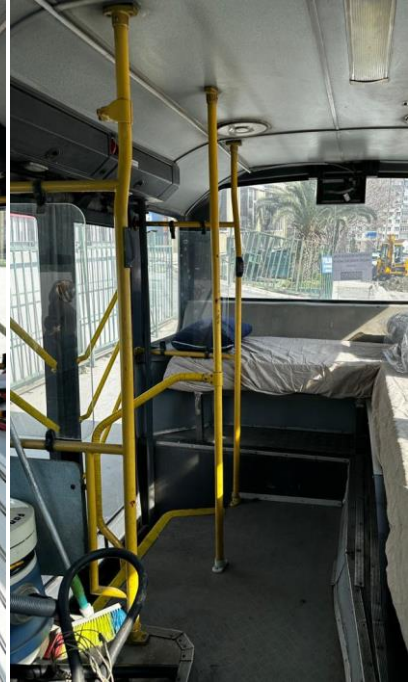
The support provided to our Association from abroad in order to lift the devastation of the earthquake, which is called the disaster of the century, at least the slightest on our people and our colleagues, will never be forgotten.





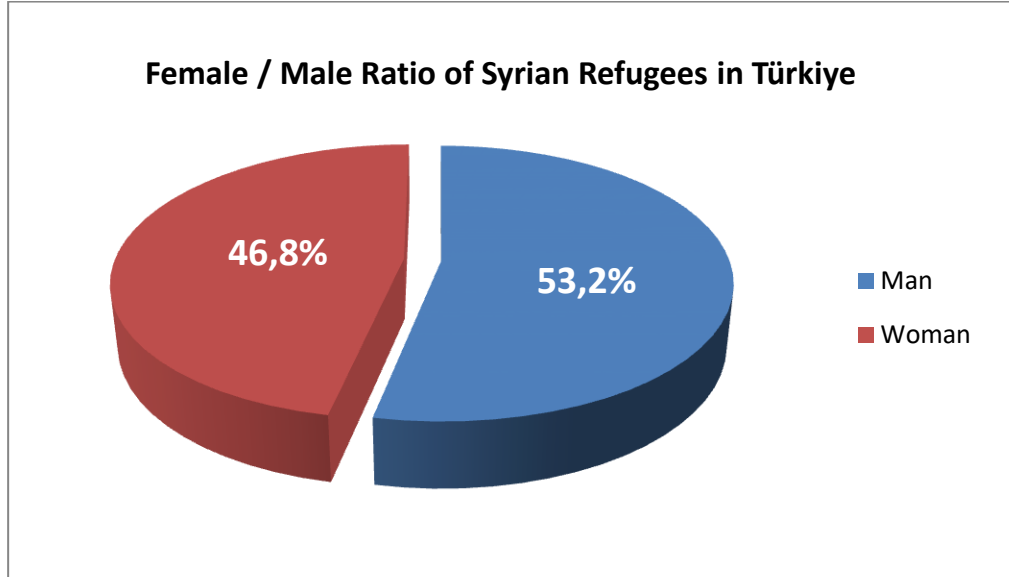






SYRIAN REFUGEES

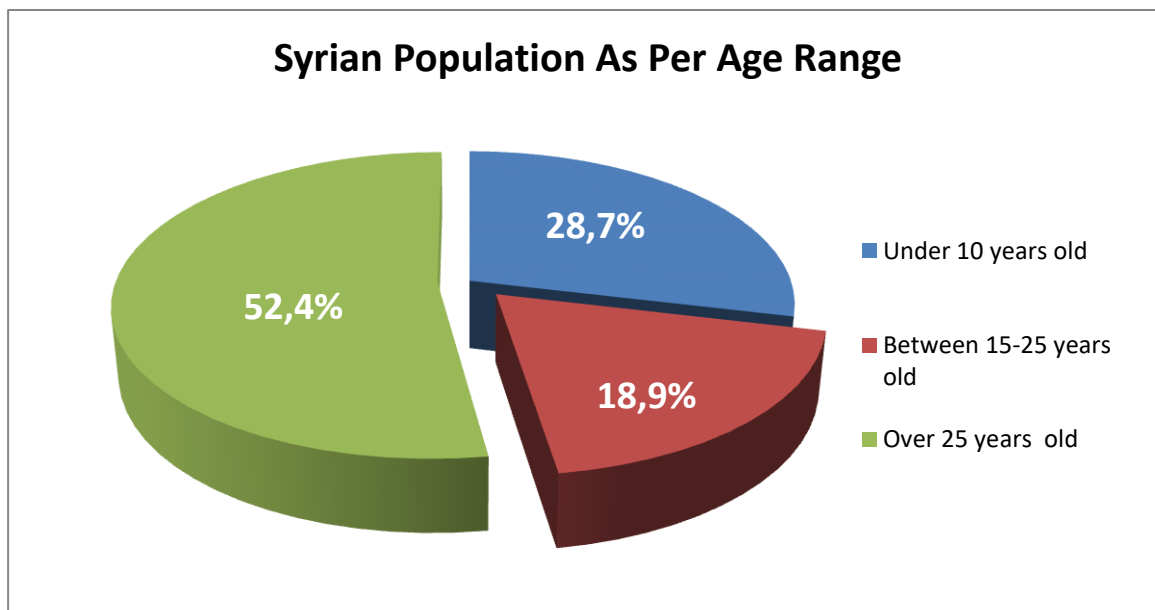
As we all know, the problem of migration and immigration is on the agenda of the whole world. Our country has been struggling with the issue of migration for many years due to its geography.



The number of Syrians under temporary protection is; as of March 16 2023, **3 Million, 447 thousand and 837 people.**

According to the age range chart published by the Directorate of Migration Management, Syrian men constitute 53.2 per cent of the total Syrians. The rate of Syrian women is 46.8 per cent.

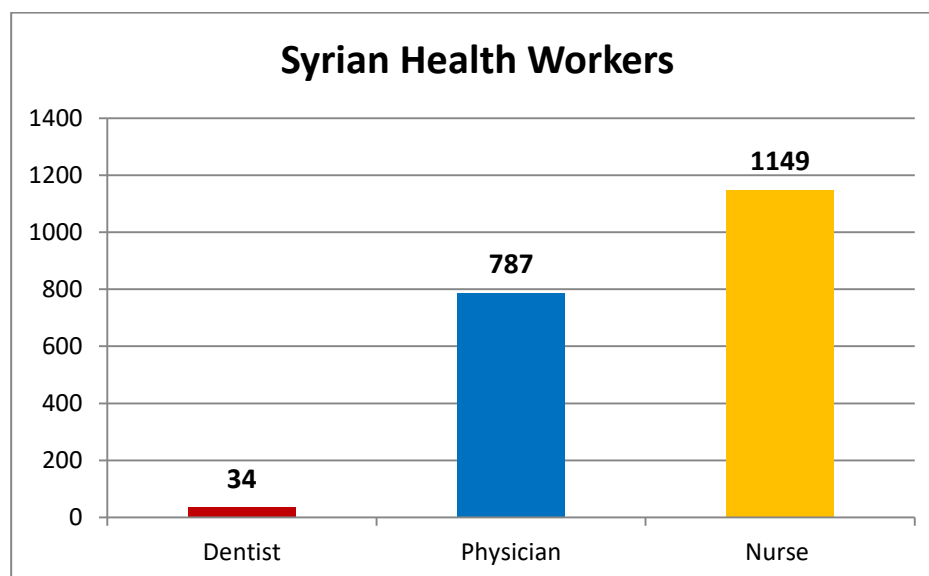
There are 654,855 people between the ages of 15-24, which is defined as the young population. The ratio of the Syrian youth population to the total number of Syrians is 18.9 per cent. The number of Syrians under 10 is 989 thousand 837 (28.7%).



The average age of registered Syrians is 22.7.

Our city with the most populated Syrians is İstanbul, with 531,816 Syrian people.

In migrant health centres, approximately 4 thousand Syrian health workers, including 787 physicians, 34 dentists and 1149 nurses, who had to migrate to our country, are employed after the necessary adaptation trainings are provided.



In order to provide preventive and essential health services more effectively and efficiently to Syrians in our country, to overcome the problems arising from language and cultural barriers, and to increase access to health services, Migrant Health Centres (MHC) are established as a unit of the district's community health centre in the places where these people live intensively.

Migrant Health Centres, similar to the family practice in our country, contain migrant health units consisting of one physician and one assistant health personnel to serve every 4,000

people on average and meet the physical and technical standards defined for family medicine.

Reinforced Migrant Health Centres are established in temporary accommodation centres with relatively high populations that are far from a full-fledged public hospitals and in settlements where the number of Syrians exceeds 20,000.

Reinforced Migrant Health Centres provide internal medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, oral and dental health and psychosocial support services in addition to primary health care services; services are supported by displaying units and basic service laboratories. Thus, it aims to increase access to services and reduce the burden on hospitals.

In addition to Syrian health personnel, bilingual (Arabic-Turkish) patient guidance staff and support services personnel also work in Migrant Health Centres.

These centres were established in line with the “Regulation on Community Health Centres and Affiliated Units”.

Syrians, under temporary protection, benefit from public health services as Turkish citizens.

Demographic Distribution of Dentistry in Türkiye

Since the data and information on oral and dental health in Türkiye will be included in tomorrow's workshop, I will focus more on the demographic data of our colleagues in our country.

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVELY PRACTISING DENTISTS

Self-Employed	27.863
Public Sector (Not a Member of a Dental Chamber)	18.515
TOTAL	46.378

The oral and dental health care services provided by 135 Oral and Dental Health Clinics and 90 Dental Faculties are within the context of National Health Insurance.

Number of Universities with Faculty of Dentistry

There are currently **104** dental faculties. In 14 of these, education has not started yet. Education is provided in 90 Faculties.

Dental Faculty	Public	Private (Foundation)	Total
Provides Education	65	25	90
Does not provide Education	10	4	14
TOTAL	75	29	104

Monitoring the public/foundation/private distribution of dental faculties (65 public, 25 private (foundation)) is essential for the future of our profession.

2022, Number of Dental Faculty Students

Man	17.378
Woman	22.195
TOTAL	39.573

NUMBER OF DENTAL FACULTIES IN SOME COUNTRIES IN 2018

Country	Faculty Number
33 Countries in the FDI / ERO Region	353
Türkiye	71
France	16
Germany	31
Italy	32
England	16
Russia	57

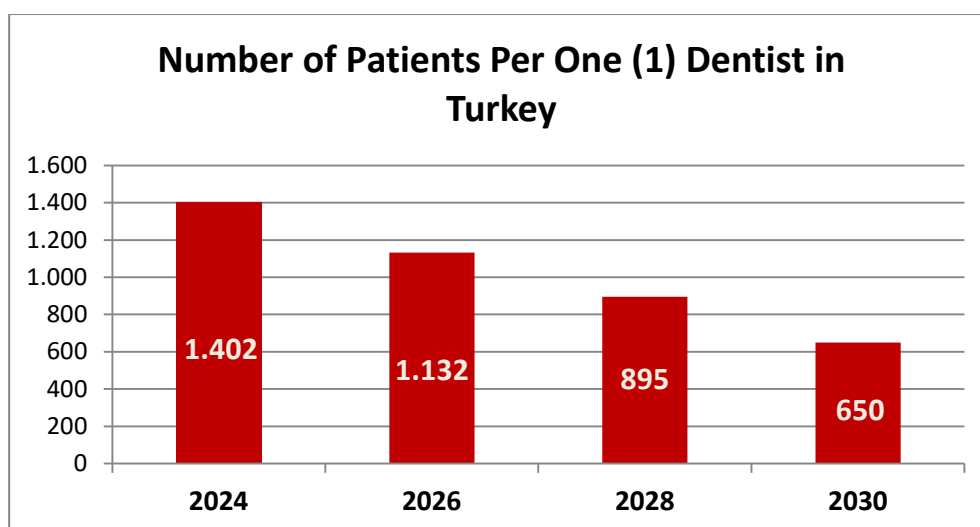
The total number of students enrolled each year in the ERO region was reported to be 14,619.

The total quota number of these faculties is 8,989.

STUDENT NUMBERS

ERO Region (Total number of students enrolled each year)	14.619
Türkiye (In 2022, the number of students in 90 faculties providing education out of 104 faculties)	8.989

While there is one dentist per 1,570 people in Europe, there is one dentist per 2,000 people in our country simultaneously. However, according to the projection below, this ratio will be one dentist per 650 people in 2030 in our country, according to the 2023 calculation.



The negative consequences of this rapid numerical increase will undoubtedly be encountered at different levels in the practical stages of our profession.

In order to facilitate the achievement of the programme output targets in the Faculties of Dentistry, which have rapidly increased in number, preventive medicine should be focused on, student-centred education practices should be increased, interactive participation in courses should be ensured, problem-solving skills and teamwork skills should be gained, ways of accessing correct information should be taught, ways of creating and implementing treatment protocols under the guidance of evidence-based dentistry should be taught.

The content of fundamental medicine courses should be extended to cover the entire body; in this context, collaboration with Medical Faculties should be institutionalised.

Presently, the widespread use of health services increases human life span because the advancement of treatment methods resulted in encountering patients with general health

problems in dental practices.

The scope of non-Communicable diseases has expanded. In order to provide safe primary and secondary stages of oral and dental health services in these patient groups, it is essential to update the contents of medical medicine modules to integrate general health and oral health.

Unfortunately, Continuing Dental Education, which will ensure continuing of knowledge and will improve the quality of oral and dental health services provided to society by updating knowledge, technical skills, professional clinical and behavioural standards and competence, is not mandatory.

However, For TDA to accomplish these goals, ever since 1998, with Continues Dentistry High Council was established by TDA in 1998 and training programs are conducted on a voluntary basis.

These continuing education programmes are credited simultaneously, and this information is monitored in TDB. And dentists who complete 50 credit points within 3 years are given a certificate. As far as we know, this is one of the rare programmes carried out on a voluntary basis.

TDB CONGRESSES

The international TDB congress, which we will hold for the 27th time this year, is the most successful in continuing education in our country. In 2013, TDA held a congress in Istanbul, which took its place in the history of FDI as many of you have witnessed, and on this occasion, I will be pleased to welcome you once again to Istanbul at the FDI congress in 2024.









WORKING AREAS AND EMPLOYEE PERSONAL RIGHTS IN DENTISTRY

Healthcare services are public services. Healthcare services which Private Health Institutes provide are also public.

The public administration should carry out the provision, financing, distribution, planning and supervision of health services. Within this period, Professional Associations and service recipients should be given authority and responsibility in this process.

The share allocated to health from the National Budget should be increased; however,

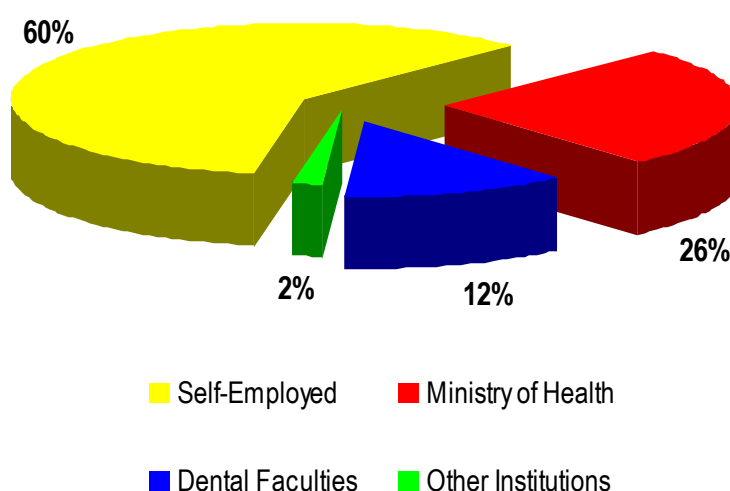
resources must be used efficiently.

Subcontracted work must be prevented and physicians must be ensured to have the working conditions and retirement rights they deserve.

Lack of health literacy in society fuels violence in health. With the support of the Ministry of Health, educational content on oral and dental health should be created by using mass media.

Mass communication tools are very effective methods and they should be used to prevent violence in health.

DISTRIBUTION OF DENTISTS PER PLACE OF PRACTICE



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECTS

Since its establishment, the Turkish Dental Association has carried out many national projects in partnership with public institutions and industry in order to contribute to raising the level of oral and dental health in the society.

YEARS	NAME of THE PROJECTS
1993-1994	National Oral and Dental Health Days (TDA, Ministry of Health, Signal)
1997-2001	Oral and Dental Health Education Project (TDA, Ministry of National Education, Eczacıbaşı-Procter&Gamble)
2001-2002	Oral and Dental Health Education Project (TDA, Turkish Radio and Television Association, Signal)
2000 -2005	Dental Protection Days (TDB, Colgate Palmolive)
2005-2006	Healthy Smile Campaign (TDA, Turkish Social Service and Children Protection Institution, Procter&Gamble)
2008	Health Promoting Schools Project (TDA, Ministry of National Education, İstanbul Şişli Municipality)
2008-2011	National Oral Health Analysis Project (Live, Learn, Laugh Project) (World Dental Federation (FDI), TDA, Signal)
2011-2016	Health Promoting Schools Project (11 provinces) (TDA, Ministry of National Education)
2012-2015	I Brush My Teeth Day and Night (World Dental Federation (FDI), TDA, Signal)

In recent years, together with all our stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, industry, educational institutions and faculties, we have been addressing our country's oral and dental health goals and the non-communicable diseases included in FDI's 2020 vision with a sense of responsibility. Especially with the new definition of oral health determined by FDI, we, as TDA, continue to strengthen the place of oral health in general health with all our hearts and souls.

It is a great pleasure for us to be with you in Istanbul

Greeting you all again with respect, I wish you a successful ERO Plenary Session.

Sincerely Yours,

**A.Tarık İşmen
President
Turkish Dental Association**