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National Report to the ERO Regional European Organisation of the FDI

Country: Italy
Association: Associazione Italiana Odontoiatri, AIO,
Italian Dental Association
Venue: Berlin, Germany
Year: 2013

I. Changes in the association and its organisation

Prefax:

To date **Italy** counts more than **58,000** registered dentists in the professional register for dentists of the National Order for Physicians and Dentists. Approximately **two thirds** of them are physicians and most of them are also listed in the professional register for **physicians**. The **dentist patient ratio varies between ~ 1:400 in some urban centres and ~ 1:1800 in the rural areas**.

AIO has decided to change its constitution and the new one will be presented in the next general assembly in June. AIO's role in the National Continuing Education Program of the Italian Ministry of Health is that of a provider for dental and medical continuing education. AIO is the only dental association in Italy with this status on a national level and in the field of residential and practical continuing education and e-learning.

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AIO counts more than 7000 members who practice dentistry exclusively and are registered only in the professional register of dentists by the end of 2012.

AIO is preparing for the next National Board elections.

II. Trends and developments

a) in professional politics

Professional politics are mainly focusing on a prevention model to be integrated more and more into a therapy model of dentistry. AIO has delivered politically valid contributions in the last meeting of the “Tavolo del Dentale” (round table of stakeholders in dentistry).

In 2010 the Italian Ministry of Health has involved the dental associations in defining the **Clinical Recommendations** for dentistry in our country. According to this AIO has realized a program, which will spread the Prevention Guidelines, as a first step, all over the country.

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AIO is involved actively in the definition of the new profile of the Chair-side Dental Assistant (CDA). It has developed a document regarding Training and Minimum Requirements for the CDA. **By no means**, so AIO, shall the **CDA** become a **health care provider**.

“Prospettiva Odontoiatrica”, PO, AIO’s political magazine has reconfirmed to be a reference point in dental journalism in Italy and is distributed free of charge to all AIO members. It is available in digital form for non-members to all Italian dentists on the AIO website. The **AIO website** has a new layout and an upgrade in functions and information.

b) in health and social politics

The effect of the global economic and financial crisis together with the liberalisation of the market and advertising in the field of professions defined by a national law has encouraged third parties to invest consistently in the dental sector. Many “business-oriented” dental clinics do not fulfil the requirements for the delivery of high quality dentistry in a regime of patient

safety. Several clinics have already been closed by the health authorities.

Internet business organizations as “dental chains” use any kind of media to advertise their business. AIO, together with the Order is working on the lacking ethics in the communications as some of them accuse single non-organized professionals of lower quality care. AIO has started an information campaign about the risks of adhering to commercial initiatives as Groupon. Disciplinary procedures cannot be avoided on a long term.

AIO has published a **CHART OF ETHICS** for all AIO members.

AIO has participated in the FDI World Oral Health Day 2013 with an outstanding success in terms of participation of the public, press conferences and round tables with the authorities.

c) in educational politics

AIO is about to receive the status of *standard provider* for the National continuing education program in medicine and dentistry in Italy.

In the last year AIO has obtained the ISO – 9001 certification, in order to assure all procedures for its members.

AIO continues to be the most important provider of the CE system with the competence to distribute autonomously CE credits of the **Italian Ministry of Health**.

AIO is offering also e-learning in its CE program.

III. Changes in the insurance system

In the last year a law decree declared insurance compulsory for everybody.

AIO is now working with all the scientific associations to give a common answer for the next law decree about insurance minimal standards.

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IV. Changes in fees

No change in fees.

Members have been offered more benefits in order to motivate their membership.

V. Further new information

AIO has increased its collaboration with other dental societies taking benefit from its Lecturer Board.

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Pierluigi Delogu

