



Report of the European Regional Organization of the FDI World Dental Federation (ERO)

September 2015 – August 2016

The European Regional Organization of the FDI World Dental Federation is established in accordance with the FDI Constitution and is registered in the Swiss Canton of Geneva. The official seat of ERO is at the FDI headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The ERO Secretariat is located in Bern, Switzerland, courtesy of the Swiss Dental Association.

ERO associates member organizations of the FDI from the European Geographical Area – currently from 35 countries. ERO's aim is to associate national dental organizations from all 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

ERO's beginnings date back to 1950's. ERO was the first regional organisation of the FDI and thus served as model for the other regional organisations. In 2014 ERO celebrated its 50th anniversary.

ERO promotes the concept of dentistry as an independent profession based on the principle of freedom of choice in the relationship between dentist and patient; adopts resolutions, expressing the views of European dentists, that are valuable documents serving as background and supportive papers for national dental organizations in their contacts with local authorities.

Day-to-day management of ERO is a task of the Board (5 persons) elected for 3 years at the Plenary Session – ERO's supreme authority composed of delegates of all member organizations which gathers twice a year – usually in April and September (as part of FDI World Dental Parliament).

Plenary Sessions

At the Plenary Session in Bangkok on 23 September 2015 the delegates adopted Statement on liberal dental practice in partnerships, practice networks, and medical care units. In this statement ERO acknowledges appearance of new legal and organizational forms of dental practice, however in its view the liberal dental practice should remain the main model of dental work. ERO underlines that it is absolutely necessary to permanently adjust the new forms of professional practice to the profession's ethic principles.

In the discussion it was noted that cooperation with companies using the franchising system are very difficult to control and therefore it is important that the ethical requirements are defined by the profession itself.

Statement on the continuing medical education in dentistry was also adopted in Bangkok. ERO points out the vitality of the continuing medical education in dentistry for the advocacy of global health whereof oral health is an integral part. To this end ERO identifies the need to raise awareness of dental profession of bilateral relationship between oral health and general health; improve collaboration and synergies between different health professionals and enhance the extended role of dentists and dentistry.

The current state of each ERO working group was analyzed and guidance for further activity was given. A new working group which will focus on elderly patients was established in order to collect experiences and information related to the issue of aging population. The goal is to work out a few guidelines or recommendations on how best to deal with this problem.

In 2016 ERO held its Plenary Session in Baku on 29 and 30 April, hosted by the Azerbaijan Stomatological Association.

During the Plenary Session, which was preceded by a meeting of ERO Board and meetings of ERO working groups, delegates adopted ERO accreditation guidelines for Continuing Dental Education Providers and recommendations for national dental organizations to cooperate with dental faculties in the field of clinical guidelines and their use in dental practice as a supportive tool.

ERO delegates approved summary of the results of the questionnaire on Clinical guidelines and their use in dental practice as supportive tool elaborated by the Working Group Relation between Dental Practitioner and Universities. This document, published on the website, indicates that majority of

dentists who provided their responses know and implement clinical guidelines in their work. 81% believed in the benefit of clinical guidelines for dental practice, however differences were noticed among the respondents. More than half of them believed that there is role for NDAs, especially in creating a general awareness on clinical guidelines. It is therefore suggested that NDAs may need to consider collaborating with dental faculties in developing evidence-based clinical guidelines, disseminating clinical guidelines and increasing the implementation of clinical guidelines into practice.

Further, participants discussed a wide range of issues related to dentistry in Europe, in particular the scope of professional tasks of dental hygienists – delegates unanimously reconfirmed that the principle “Delegation – yes, substitution – no” is fully valid and should be applied in all countries of the region.

FDI President, dr Patrick Hescot (former ERO President between 2007 – 2010), attended as guest and informed the delegates about the recent activities within the FDI (focusing on the implementation of the FDI Strategic Plan 2014-2017). Dr. Hescot also underlined the importance of deep cooperation between the FDI and its members - national dental organizations. Personal attendance of the FDI President at regional and national dental assemblies is one of the methods to develop this cooperation.

Finishing his term of office dr. Philippe Rusca (Switzerland) handed over ERO Presidency to dr. Anna Lella (Poland) – first woman elected for the position of the ERO President. The elections for other positions in the ERO Board took place which for the next 3 years will be composed of

- dr. Anna Lella – President,
- dr. Michael Frank (Germany) – President-Elect,
- dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) – General Secretary;
- dr. Bartolomeo Griffa (Italy) – Board Member/Treasurer,
- prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey) – Board Member.

The next ERO Plenary Session takes place on 8 September 2016 in Poznań.

Working Groups

Important part of the ERO work is carried out within the ERO Working Groups which are set up and composed of internal and external experts nominated by the Plenary Session. Working Groups consider and examine in detail matters of particular importance to the dental profession, gather relevant information and prepare drafts of ERO resolutions and other documents.

There are currently 7 ERO Working Groups chaired by respectively:

- WG Dental Team – Edoardo Cavalle (ITA);
- WG Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry – Hande Sar Sancakli (TUR);
- WG Integration – Elena Ivanova (RUS);
- WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe – Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach (GER);
- WG Quality in Dentistry – Roland L'Herron (FRA);
- WG Relation Between Dental Practitioners and Universities – Simona Dianiskova (SVK),
- WG Aging Population – Philippe Rusca (SUI).

At its meeting in Warsaw in June 2016 ERO Board decided to submit a draft statement on medical education in dentistry for adoption at the FDI General Assembly. This draft together with a cover letter is to be found in the FDI General Assembly Binder available for download on the FDI Website – pages 109 and 110.

Comprehensive information about ERO is available at the organization's website: www.erodental.org

Elaborated by: Dr. Anna Lella, ERO President.