

*Regional European Organisation of the FDI  
National Report 2011*

*Country: Estonia*

*Association: Estonian Dental Association*

*Venue: Prague 2012*

I. *Changes in the association and its organisation.*

There are no big changes in the structure of the Estonian Dental Association.

II. *Trends and developments:*

- *in professional politics;*

Dense cooperation with the Association for the Dental Students has been established

Discussions with the Estonian Health Foundation concerning governmental support to the citizens

Cooperation with creating new approach to the oral health statistics is in process

Migration of dentists to other countries is increasing (Finland, England, etc)

- *in health politics;*

**Introduction of the Estonian healthcare system**

After regaining independency in 1991 many reforms and fundamental changes in the structure and economy of dentistry have taken place in Estonia. New dental clinics, supplied with high quality equipment have been founded. Number of citizens of Estonia is 1 340 021. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *per capita* in Purchase Power Standards for Estonia was EUR 10 243 in 2009 with average gross monthly earnings of EUR 780.

Healthcare expenditure made up 5.0% of Estonian GDP in 2008 compared to an EU average of 8.8% .Dental treatment makes up 3.5% of total healthcare costs at EUR 18,350 (= 192350 EEK per dentist p.a = 12290 EUR in 2009).This ratio is now being challenged through constant and growing dissent by all major stakeholders: citizens, service providers and health professionals.The Minister of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Finance recently projected that healthcare expenditure will rise to 6.5% of GDP only by the year 2050 (PRAXIS)

The number of dentists has increased from 753 in 1990 (4,8 per 10 000 inhabitants) to 1493 in 2010. 12,8% of dentists are men, 87,2% are women. Total number of dental auxiliaries is 1496, of whom 350 are nurses (23.4%) and 1145 (76.7%) dental assistants. 39 dental hygienists are registered. There is no schools for dental assistants and hygienists today in Estonia.

Average dentist to population ratio in Estonia is 1: 897 (2010), whereas average number of citizens in the European Union is 1532 per 1 dentist.

Number of valid licences for practicing dentistry is 491. Most common are small clinics with 1-5 practicing dentists (89%).

There is no state-sector in dental medicine. 100% of dentistry is private. Individual contracts between the Estonian Health Insurance Fund and selected clinics, willing to cooperate. Estonia is one of the countries in the European Union where dental treatment is least supported by the State. Healthcare costs made up for 5.0% of the Estonian GDP in 2008 compared to 8.8% EU average.Dental treatment is covered by 3,5% from total healthcare costs = 18,350.159 (= 192350 EEK for 1 dentist annually= 12290 EUR in 2009).This ratio is now being put on test through constant and growing dissent by all major stakeholders: citizens, service providers and health professionals.The Minister of Social Affairs together with the Ministry of Finance recently projected that healthcare costs will rise up to 6,5% of the GDP only by the year 2050 (PRAXIS).

- *in educational politics;*

Dentists are taught in The University of Tartu, where is Department of Stomatology in the Medical Faculty. There are 32 dental students on one course. Curriculum has been developed towards dentistry. Curriculum consists of 53% of dental subjects and 47% of basic sciences and general medical subjects.

Education of dentists is underfinanced. There is acute need in increasing the budget for dental education on State level

Need for initiating education of dental hygienists in Estonia has been thoroughly discussed during the last year. This 3 year educational program should be based on Tartu University.

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

Employers pay 13% of salary of their workers to the Estonian Health Insurance Fund. There are no private insurance schemes for dental treatment at the moment

Estonian Health Insurance Fund pays for:

- 1) all dental treatment procedures in children up to 19 years
- 2) professional preventive check-up of oral health in 6, 9 and 12 year old children.
- 3) adults in emergency cases in life-threatening cases (extractions, incisions only)
- 4) reimbursement for dental prosthesis of retired people – 255 EUR once in three years
- 5) all expenses for orthodontic treatment in persons under 19 years of age if the following are diagnosed:
  - ✓ Angle Class II division 1 in case of an overjet more than 9mm
  - ✓ Angle Class III
  - ✓ Retained incisors or canines
  - ✓ Missing incisor or canine or missing more than 1 premolar or molar on each side of the jaw
  - ✓ In case of cleft lip and/or palate or additional malformation

- ✓ Open bite with contacts only in molar area

If the patient is over 19 years of age, the Estonian Health Insurance Fund does not cover any expenses for orthodontic treatment.

If orthodontic treatment is in progress when the patient becomes 19 years old, the insurance will continue to cover the treatment cost for one year.

For adults, orthodontic treatment costs are not covered by the insurance fund. However, in a case of orthognathic surgery, the hospital surgical fee is covered.

### *III. Further information (activities, concerns).*

1. EDA Council meeting will take place on 13th of April in Tartu
2. Annual Dental Meeting 2012 will take place 24-25.08.2012 in Pärnu
3. Brainstorming of the board and active council members concerning the future major tasks and perspectives of the EDA will be organised in Narva on 25-26.05
4. Summer Days of The EDA in July is being organised
5. The 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic Dental Research Meeting will be on 19.-20.10.2012 in Tartu
6. New Oral Health Prevention project has been initiated
7. 11 leaflets for the patient information + the form for signed informed consent have been written. One is published/available, the others are being graphically designed and printed during 2012