



## ***Regional European Organisation of the FDI***

### ***National Report 2017***

**Country: ESTONIA**

**Association: ESTONIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

**Venue: Salzburg**

**Year: 2018**

#### ***Changes***

*in the association and its organisation*

No changes in EDA in 2016

Two new societies founded:

Estonian Society of Endodontics and

Estonian Society of Periodontology

#### ***Trends and developments:***

*in professional politics*

Membership is increasing (956 = 71% of dentists)

We had two-days brain-storming about the development directions and needs for Estonian dentistry

*in health and social politics*

Our president dr. Marek Vink was titled as one of the most influential figures in Estonian health politics in 2017

New arrangements for financial compensation for dental treatment for Estonian adult population by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund have been introduced

*in educational politics*

A curriculum for dental assistants is being prepared by the Tallinn Medical High School to educate dental assistants with no medical education (currently trained locally in dental clinics). The course will be open for registration in October 2018

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

New fees were fixed for dental treatment by Health Insurance Fund 01.07.2018

New compensation system for dental treatment for adults was introduced. Refunding for the treatment cost is possible only in case of existing contract between the dental clinic and Health Insurance Fund. Less than half of practicing dentists have signed this contract, because of complicated accounting and time consuming reporting. Also the fees for treatment are in most cases not cost-related. It means that compensation for treatment is not available for major part of citizens, as it can be applied only in case of service with fixed by Health Insurance Fund fees.

*in dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees*

The refugees are provided with medical insurance as persons living in Estonia by virtue of a temporary residence permit or by the right of permanent residence i.e. when the refugees have been officially registered they are on the same terms with Estonian citizens concerning dental emergencies and treatment.

### ***Migration:***

*of dentists: problems and possible solutions*

Close to 25% of registered dentists work abroad. Therefore access to dental treatment is growing worse. Dental clinics are concentrated in the cities. Very few clinics stay open in rural areas.

*of persons applying for asylum or refugees: problems and solutions in dental care.*

For the unemployed people access to dental treatment is poor due to financial reasons. It is similar for refugees and local people, as there is no community dentistry in Estonia

### ***Changes in fees:***



New fees were fixed for dental treatment procedures by Health Insurance Fund 01.07.2018, but not accepted by the majority of dentists. Fees for dental care have been free in Estonia since 1991, as we have 100% private dentistry.

***Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:***

Concerning oral health, we have a running project “Oral Health School” financed by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund and carried out by dentists. 280 lectures to 101 201 children, and 2940 parents and caretakers have been delivered during the year 2017. 80 000 printed items (workbooks, calendars, newsletters) about oral health have been distributed for the schools and kindergartens, both in Estonian and Russian languages. 10 000 toothbrushes have been delivered to boarding schools, and families with limited resources.

World Oral Health day in Estonia will be celebrated as follows:

- During full month there are many lectures about oral health in schools and in the museums, frequently visited by children.
- Using social media, questionnaires about oral health are presented. Participation is motivated by an award.
- On 20<sup>th</sup> of March Estonian broadcasting companies are employed to deliver oral health messages to the population
- A book for children with oral health messages will be introduced also on 20<sup>th</sup> of March

***Private dental health insurance***

has been founded first time in Estonia by Northern1 International Insurance Brokers OÜ

<http://english.hambaravikindlustus.ee/contact-about-us/>

***Events organised by EDA in 2017***

- *Estonian Annual Dental Meeting, held on 24-26.08.2017 in Tallinn, was a great success with 610 dentists (45%), 200 auxiliaries and 69 exponents participating.*
- *EDA Summer school in Saaremaa 04-05.08.2017*

- 11 board meetings and two council meetings (April 7, September 28-29.08.2017)
- 10 numbers of professional journal “Hambaarst” (The Estonian Dentist) have been produced and distributed to members
- Two conferences for Estonian Dentists have been organised
  - 1) Conference “Contemporary dentistry” supported by FDI, on March 10, 2017 in the Dorpat Conference Centre in Tartu
  - 2) December 1, 2017 in the National Library, Tallinn
- 115 certificates of competences have been awarded to dentists
- Annual meeting of CDOs, CMOs and CMWO was organised in Tallinn 3-5.05.2017
- Website address: [www.ehl.ee](http://www.ehl.ee)
- Facebook address: [www.facebook.com/eestihambaarstideliit](https://www.facebook.com/eestihambaarstideliit)

### ***What are your 3 main concerns?***

- Dental chamber instead of EDA
- Migration of dentists
- Changing non-monetary refunding system by Health Insurance Fund into monetary with no obligation to work with fixed price-list which could lead to worse quality of treatment

### ***3 points you would like to discuss***

- Licensing dentists from the third countries
- Language requirements for the dentists willing to practice in Estonia

05.03.2018



Mare Saag  
EDA, board member