

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Greece
Association: Hellenic Dental Association
Venue: Salzburg, Austria
Year: 2018

Changes

in the association and its organisation

A major effort has been made by the Hellenic Dental Association to update and modernize the existing *Law on the Organization and Administration of Regional Dental Societies and the Association and on the Dental Ethics Regulation*. To this end, two General Assemblies of the Association have taken place in order to finalize our positions after a two-year's consultation process.

Concerning Ethics, *advertising* has been a dominant issue - especially nowadays with the use of modern electronic media- and another crucial issue has been the investors' relations with dentists and patients.

We estimate that the government will proceed with the legislation of our proposals within 2018, which is also a year of elections for the Association.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

Legislation is now in force enabling the Hellenic Dental Association to handle and monitor the whole procedure of the Continuing Professional Development.

in health and social politics

The Government makes efforts to change patient care and patient management Systems, through existing State structures and personnel, using European biannual funding programs. Insured persons will be required to choose their family-doctor whom they will consult whenever ill and they will not be able to seek hospital treatment without their doctor's referral.

An individual electronic Record for every insured person is being endeavored to be updated by their doctor (public or private medical practitioner). There has also been announced the introduction of the "contactless prescription", namely the electronic indication of a prescription by the doctor and its performance by the pharmacist, without ever been printed. There has been also an effort to cover prescription drugs with generic medicines in lowering the cost.

in educational politics

There is a recognized difficulty in finding resources for the operation of university dental schools, in combination with a reduction in staff, due to recruitment limitations imposed by our international lenders. Nevertheless, the level of studies remains high, according to International evaluation bodies.

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

In Greece, there is no state funding for insured persons in receiving dental services from private dentists. A few months ago there was an initial proposal by the state insurance institution, EOPYY, for a disposal of 50 million €, but it was not implemented because of the difficult economic circumstances. So, state dental care funding remains at zero.

in dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees

Migration:

of dentists: problems and possible solutions

The immigration of Greek dentists to the European Union countries has been existing for over a decade.

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

The Hellenic Dental Association along with the Regional Dental Societies support and strengthen the action of charities and NGOs in their efforts to provide dental services to migrants. The problem is the lack of infrastructure and funding in this social area, coupled with the absence of permanent and stable health personnel, as well as the temporary settlement of these people.

The majority of these actions are based on voluntary participation with its consequences.

The Association has established two fully-equipped dental clinics in organized hospitality camps to cope with a part of the needs (e.g. emergency cases) of immigrants. Our proposal is that the State should take over this sector of requirements and treatment, through its Dental Care Structures.

Changes in fees:

Annual fees have been remaining the same for the last eight years. However, the number of registered dental practitioners with the Regional Dental Societies decreases, due to the retirement of senior dentists and non-inclusion of young ones. There is an increasing difficulty for members of the Societies to pay their annual subscription.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

Most of the Regional Dental Societies organized a number of events such as speeches, presentations and interventions in the Media, TV shows, advertising printing material to raise public awareness (FDI posters and videos), leaflets, press releases, on-line postings, etc.

Further information (activities):

Hellenic Dental Association is working for its next 38th Panhellenic Dental Congress to be held at the city of Ioannina, in October 2018.

What are your 3 main concerns?

- A) The adaptation of recent developments in science and of the profession by the Greek dentists.
- B) Improving the level of oral health of Greek citizens and policies that can implement such efforts.
- C) Improving living standards by increasing the personal income of Greek dentists.

3 points you would like to discuss

- 1) The transformation of the dental profession as a liberal one after the potential investors' participation.
- 2) Homogenization and harmonization of dental professions in the European countries in relation to the European legislation. Establishment of single occupational rights.