



European Regional Organisation of the FDI

National Report

ERO Plenary Session Salzburg, Austria 12 – 13 April 2018

Country: Poland

Association: Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists

Changes in the association and its organisation

The Polish National Committee for ERO FDI is formed by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and the Polish Dental Society.

The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists is the main professional organization in Poland. It is the organizational body of the professional self-government of physicians and dental practitioners who are associated in the chambers with equal status. Membership is mandatory. Every physician and every dental practitioner who holds the right to practice the profession in Poland is a member of the chamber by virtue of the law. There are 23 Regional Chambers and a separate chamber of military physicians and dentists. The Polish Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists coordinates the work of regional chambers.

There were no major changes regarding the organization and tasks of the chambers during the last year.

The Polish Dental Society is a scientific association, the membership in the Society is voluntary. The Chamber and Society cooperate in many fields. Following election of new President and Board of the Polish Dental Society in 2017, in order to renew and strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations both on national and international levels an agreement was signed on 26 January 2018 by dr Maciej Hamankiewicz, president of the Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists, and prof. Marzena Dominiak, the newly elected president of the Polish Dental Society, formally laying down the scope and objectives of this cooperation.

In addition a new FDI Polish National Committee Agreement was signed on the same day. This new Agreement replaces the former one concluded by both organizations back in 1999. It is aimed to renew and update the cooperation of the Chamber and

the Society and does not bring any substantive changes to the relationship between the FDI and the National Committee as well as to the FDI membership of the Chamber and the Society.

There are also other, numerous dental scientific societies in Poland, acting within the specific fields of dentistry.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

In the last months of 2017 and beginning of 2018 a strong protest action was carried out by junior doctors in specialist training (so called residents) who called for raising the dramatically low public expenditure on healthcare in Poland. This collective action has gathered significant media and public interest and was supported by other healthcare professionals, including dentists – because the main demand regarded the whole underfunded health care system in Poland, not only the situation of junior doctors. The foremost demand was to raise the level of public expenditure on health in Poland which is among the lowest in Europe and does not correspond to the justified health needs of the population as well as does not ensure proper working conditions of the health care professionals. This regards dental care as well.

In October 2017 we received statements of support from leading international medical and dental organizations, including ERO and CED. We appreciate it very much as it showed the young colleagues the solidarity of the medical and dental community worldwide.

in health and social politics

The Chamber is discussing the necessary legal and factual developments in order to implement in Poland the new EU laws on ionising radiation in dentistry as well as the new EU laws regarding the future use of dental amalgam.

in educational politics

The Chamber and the Society, as part of its cooperation, plan to co-organize series of trainings for dentists, especially focusing on advanced technologies in dentistry, laser therapies etc.

We are also planning to organize educational events under the auspices of FDI through its Global Continuing Education Programme. A good opportunity to commence this cooperation in 2018 is, in our view, the Polish Union Dentistry Congress between in September where a special session with 3 – 5 lecturers could take place as part of the FDI CE Programme. The Polish Union Dentistry Congress organized together with Central European Dental Exhibition CEDE is a natural follow up to the FDI AWDC which took place in Poznań in 2016 and as such is a perfect event to include a session under the FDI auspices.

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

No major changes in the reporting period.

in dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees

The numbers of persons applying for asylum in Poland or refugees is relatively low and these persons are provided basic dental and medical treatment by the healthcare facilities managed by the Ministry of Interior Affairs – the costs are covered by the state budget. Dental care is very basic, mostly centred on pain relief.

Migration:

of dentists: problems and possible solutions

The migration of dentists from and to Poland is not significant now.

However over the last 14 years - after joining the EU – a number of dentists from Poland migrated to other EU Member States – this however had no real effect on access to dental care in Poland.

In Poland the number of foreign dentists is low – app. 1% of active dentists in Poland are foreigners trained abroad, at the same time the number of dentists trained abroad is app. 3% (which means that 2/3 of them are either Polish nationals or foreigners who obtained Polish citizenship after coming to Poland).

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

See above as regards asylum seekers and refugees.

In addition it is to be underlined that currently the number of migrants coming to Poland, mainly from Ukraine, to work is the highest in modern times.

It is estimated that up to 2 million persons from Ukraine are now working in Poland – according to data from Eurostat published in November 2017 regarding first residence permits issued in the EU Member States, in 2016 Poland issued 494 000 permits for employment reasons (which accounts for 58% of all such permits issued in the EU in 2016) and was by far the first destination within EU for employment related permits – vast majority of these permits were for nationals of Ukraine.

(First residence permit means a residence permit issued to a person for the first time which is valid for at least 3 months allowing a non-EU citizen to stay legally on the territory of EU Member State).

Such a large number of migrants will undoubtedly have some impact on healthcare in general and dental care in particular, although it is difficult to estimate it now. As regards dental care more attention should be paid to prevention on oral health promotion among this group of foreigners. They are likely to be reluctant to regularly visit dentists and to undergo dental treatment as most of it is not covered by the general health insurance.

Changes in fees:

No major changes in the reporting period.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

Each year Polish dentists and students of dentistry are celebrating the World Oral Health Day and organize various events to promote oral health and to raise public awareness of its significance.

It will be the same this year – resources prepared by FDI have been translated into Polish and are available for use for all interested in promoting WOHD.

A special website was launched and a number of events are being organized.

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns?

- dramatically low level of public expenditure on healthcare in Poland, incl. oral care – private expenditure, although rising, is not enough to properly cover the oral health needs of population;
- too many administrative requirements related to the exercise of dental profession which are time consuming and costly;
- lack of understanding among the decision makers of the significance of oral health.

3 points you would like to discuss

The issues related to the so called 3D printing in dentistry should be closely followed and discussed also by ERO.