

NATIONAL REPORT 2015

Country: Switzerland
Organisation: Swiss Dental Association SSO
Meetings: ERO Meeting of April 24th/25th 2015 in Tbilisi
CED Meeting of May 29th/30th 2015 in Riga

The immigration of dentists from the European Union to Switzerland is still very important. At the end of 2014 4'187 diplomas of dentists have been recognized by the Swiss authorities!

I. Changes in the National Association and their structures

Dr. François Keller has resigned after 6 years as president of the SSO. As his successor Dr. Beat Wäckerle, dentist in the Zurich region, has been elected. He is for a long time active in the professional politics and has long experience in professional structures and activities.

II. Trends and developments

Immigration of dentists from the European Union

The free circulation of persons between the EU and Switzerland exists since June 1st 2002 according to the bilateral treatments. The immigration is still very strong and has provoked an initiative to reduce immigrants to Switzerland. The initiative has been adopted by the Swiss people on February 9th 2014. The board of the SSO as representative of the liberal professions is confronted with this decision and is in strong contact with the political authorities. In collaboration with the federation of the medical doctors the SSO enforced, that immigrants in Switzerland acting as doctors and dentists are obliged to prove their quality in linguistic competences. This is essential for the quality of dental work and the relation with the patients.

Unique health insurance system: the third no

The Swiss people has rejected the initiative for a unique health insurance system. 62% of the voting people and 19 of 26 cantons have rejected the intention for a "national health service".

Cantonal initiatives to submit dental treatment under the social security system

In Switzerland private practitioners secure dental treatment of the Swiss habitants. The patient himself is responsible for his oral health. Only the fee in inevitable diseases under treatment will be beared by the community through the health insurance. In the french part of Switzerland several interventions by members of the cantonal parliament propose that the full dental treatment will be submitted under the mandatory health security system. In the canton of Vaud an initiative has been placed for the full dental treatment to be beared by the cantonal insurance system. The same motions have been placed in the canton of Geneva and in the canton of Valais. The board of the SSO is in strong contact with the cantonal dentist associations and battles against these initiatives.

Gerodontology

Last year, the SSO has been very engaged in the Gerodontology. Realising that elderly persons do not very much fulfill the caring of their oral health. The SSO is very keen that elderly persons receive equal dental treatment in homes for elderly people. The SSO intends to improve his engagement also in the following years.

Tariff for dental treatment

The negotiations for a total revision of the dental tariff is still going on. The situation is not easy and at this moment the end cannot be foreseen.

III. Further information :

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