

April 2021



## ERO-News 26



Dear colleagues,

The Corona pandemic has changed many things, but nothing as much as the way we encounter each other. Distance and social distancing determine our everyday life and our work. Although it is difficult for us dentists to keep our distance from our patients, we have also recognized that many things can work well even over long distances - especially in the field of professional politics. When the ERO Board decided on 27 January 2021 to hold the General Assembly planned in Bucharest online rather than in person, we did so with a heavy heart - not knowing how well such a large meeting can be held thanks to modern communication technology. There will be larger meetings again in the near future, but Corona has also shown us alternatives that preserve resources. We would like to present the most important results of our first online general assembly in this newsletter.

### **ERO-Plenary Session as Livestream**

A total of 31 countries participated in the Assembly on Saturday, 17 April 2021. Following the decision of one and a half years ago, a meeting of the ERO Executive Board with the chairs of the working groups took place between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m., during which the details of the cooperation of the working groups among each other as well as with the Executive Board were discussed. The actual plenary meeting was held between 10:00 and 16:00. There were a few problems with the technical implementation as there were (after a short rehearsal) with the electronic voting, which was practiced for the first time and had been legally checked beforehand. The agenda did not differ from other General Assemblies with reports on the work of the Board including the finances, which were presented by Oliver Zeyer. Taner Yücel presented a summary of the national reports and highlighted the most pressing issues of concern to our members.

### **Greetings and guests of honour**

At the beginning, FDI President Gerhard Seeberger and EDSA President James Coughlan addressed the Assembly. ERO President Michael Frank welcomed the guests of honor at the Assembly, former World Dental Federation President Michèle Aerden (Belgium) and his predecessor in office, Anna Lella from Poland. Patrick Hescot

**April 2021**

and Philippe Rusca were unable to attend due to other commitments.

### **Report of the President**

The dominant topic was the pandemic and its consequences for dental practice in the ERO member states. Dr. Frank showed the participants how the work of the Executive Board had developed under pandemic conditions and then devoted himself to individual topics from this context.

### **Infection incidence**

The ERO survey on the consequences of the Corona pandemic in cooperation with the CED unfortunately did not yield the desired response. Nevertheless, the different surveys on Corona in general and on the incidence of infections in Europe and worldwide showed that dental practices were and are not places of increased risk of infection, neither for patients nor for the entire practice team; and this despite the very different general situation in the different countries, especially at the beginning of the pandemic.

### **WHO Message**

Another issue was the temporary confusion caused by the WHO's announcement in August 2020 that all unnecessary treatments should be postponed in order to prevent infection. Prompt intervention by the FDI corrected this on the part of the WHO, substantially supported by activities of the ERO Board.

### **Vaccination campaigns**

It is incomprehensible that in two thirds of all ERO member countries dentists are still excluded from participating in national vaccination campaigns. One of the declared goals of the ERO Board and the ERO member states is to continue to work towards changes in this area.

### **Vision 2030 and World Health Day**

The Assembly took a global perspective with the report on the challenges facing dentistry in the current decade to improve access to oral medicine and health care for all, and the WHO's goals to create a more just and equitable world.

Read more about the FDI Vision 2030 Report [here](#).

ERO's World Health Day press release can be found on the [ERO-Website](#).

### **Cooperation with the CED**

ERO President-elect Simona Dianiskova reiterated the good cooperation with the CED on the topic of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the clear intention to identify further topics for relevant joint work in the future.

### **Candidacies for the FDI**

Another item on the agenda of the Online General Assembly was the presentation of the candidates for the positions of Council members and Speaker for the elections of the World Dental Federation.

Candidates were:

Prof. Paulo Melo (Portugal), Dr. Michael Sereny (Germany), Dr. Sophie Darteville (France), Dr. Duygu Ilhan (Turkey), Dr. Anna Lella (Poland), Dr. Susie Sanderson und Dr. Victor Chan (United Kingdom).

### **Reports from the Working Groups**

We had already provided you with short summaries of the reports of the different groups in our ERO-News issue 24 of November last year. Here is some more information to complete it.

### **WG Dental Team**

The group is currently working on adapting the descriptions of the working methods and environment of dental staff in European practices to the

April 2021

changed conditions resulting from the Corona pandemic.

### **WG Digitalisation in Dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence**

The vision of the group around ERO President-elect Simona Dianiskova and Assoc Prof. Dr. Roman Smucler, is to create a foundation via a website, which could belong under the ERO system. Goal is to share and update regularly all information regarding digital stomatology and artificial intelligence in stomatology. The group is looking forward to organize at least twice a year a congress which would unite experts on this issue within the ERO.

### **ERO/CED Joint Workforce on AMR**

A podcast on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was released at the start of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (November 18th 2020). The link was sent to ERO, CED, FDI and made available for member associations.

### **WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe**

For the working group, the question of how to deal with a predominantly economically oriented dentistry, which is backed by financially strong investors, is closely linked to the question of how future generations of dentists want to practice their profession: dependent or free and self-responsible. Surveys of students have been reflected in the publication „Expectations Regarding Dental Practice: A Cross-Sectional Survey of European Dental Students“.

### **WG Relations between dental practitioners and universities**

The group presents the results of a survey on the project "Interprofessional education and collaborative practice" in 25 countries (28 NDAs). The aim of the survey was, among others, to evaluate current spread of knowledge about IPE and CP and the status quo by member

countries. The results showed the barriers to cross-professional teaching and practice in the countries as well as many examples of good practice in achieving both goals.

### **WG Ageing Population**

Decided was to give priority to supporting the staff in nursing homes and to proceed with developing a first draft of a toolkit for cleaning by nurses based on the available information.

It was also decided that the chair of the Working group would seek contact with WONCA, the organization of family doctors in Europe. The next meeting of the Working group will be planned in June 2021.

### **WG Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry**

In addition to a lot of information related to the FDI Vision 2030, the group presented a work plan for 2021, which includes a survey of dental students that will address, among other things, gaps in theoretical and practical education that result also from the current situation.

### **WG Quality in dentistry**

A survey conducted by this WG showed interesting answers. Most countries have measures to improve the quality and safety of care and are included in the initial training curricula in universities. In many countries the measures are legally binding and non-compliance is often sanctioned.

### **WG Integration**

The WG focusses on promoting the process of harmonization of regulations and legislations, between European countries oral health and new democratic countries.

The full reports of the Working Groups can be found on the ERO website in the [reports for the Spring 2021 Plenary session.](#)

**April 2021**

### **Membership developments**

The Danish Dental Association has left ERO despite all attempts to persuade them to stay. We are all the more pleased to welcome the Hungarian Dental Association as a new member. We are looking forward to working together!

### **WDC as Special Edition online**

The FDI World Dental Congress in Sydney from 26 - 29 September 2021 will be held as a virtual event due to the pandemic. All information is available on the [Congress-Website](#). This means that the second ERO General Assembly, originally planned as part of the WDC, will not take place. We hope to be able to hold our General Assembly again next year, then in Bucharest at the invitation of the NDA.

\*\*\*

The pandemic and the restrictions associated with it are not over, but even though we still have to exercise caution and restraint and many people are still falling ill, the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel is visible. First countries in the ERO, such as Israel, have returned to a certain normality thanks to a successful vaccination campaign and this will also await us in the coming months. Let us continue to face this historic challenge with discipline and foresight and thus master it with confidence. I wish this for all of us, our families, friends and of course our patients.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Michael Frank  
President

### **Dates**

#### **FDI World Dental Congress**

Sydney, Australia  
Special Edition online  
26 – 29 September 2021

#### **ERO Plenary session**

29 and 30 April 2022  
Bucharest, Romania