



## Report of the European Regional Organization of the FDI World Dental Federation (ERO) September 2017 – July 2018

The European Regional Organization of the FDI World Dental Federation is established in accordance with the FDI Constitution and is registered in the Swiss Canton of Geneva. The official seat of ERO is at the FDI headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The ERO Secretariat is located in Bern, Switzerland, courtesy of the Swiss Dental Association.

ERO associates member organizations of the FDI from the European Geographical Area – currently having 47 members from 36 countries. ERO's aim is to associate national dental organizations from all 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

ERO's beginnings date back to 1950's. ERO was the first regional organisation of the FDI and thus served as model for the other regional organisations. In 2014 ERO celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

ERO promotes the concept of dentistry as an independent profession based on the principle of freedom of choice in the relationship between dentist and patient; adopts resolutions, expressing the views of European dentists, that are valuable documents serving as background and supportive papers for national dental organizations in their contacts with local authorities.

Day-to-day management of ERO is a task of the Board (5 persons) elected for 3 years at the Plenary Session – ERO's supreme authority composed of delegates of all member organizations which gathers twice a year – usually in April and September (as part of FDI World Dental Parliament).

The ERO Board for the term 2016 – 2019 is as follows:

- dr. Anna Lella (Poland) – President,
  - dr. Michael Frank (Germany) – President-Elect,
  - dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) – Secretary General,
  - dr. Bartolomeo Griffa (Italy) – Board Member / Treasurer,
  - prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey) – Board Member.
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## Plenary Sessions

### **The ERO Plenary Session within the FDI WDC in Madrid took place on 30 August 2017.**

As usually, it was preceded by a meeting of ERO Board and meetings of ERO working groups which met in the morning of 30 August (except the WG Quality which met on 25 August). Members of the WG Integration, in voting, nominated V. Margvelashvili as WG Chair. Members of the WG Relation between dental practitioners and universities met with prof. Corrado Paganelli and other representatives of the Association for Dental Education in Europe, ADEE.

During the Plenary Session ERO delegates endorsed the application for ERO membership from the Romanian Society of Stomatology; discussed the current state of activities of the Working Groups and their plans for the future.

A brief report about the collaboration between ERO and ADEE was presented indicating that the most important project is the “perspective in interprofessional education” which is expected to lead to the adoption of a joint statement on interprofessional education.

Dr. Óscar Castro Reino, President of the Spanish Dental Association, hosts of the FDI WDC in Madrid addressed the delegates, recalling one of the former ERO Presidents, José Font Buxó from Spain.

**In Spring 2018 ERO held its Plenary Session in Salzburg on 13 and 14 April**, hosted by the Austrian Dental Chamber.

The Plenary Session was preceded by a meeting of ERO Board and meetings of ERO working groups. Over 2 days the delegates discussed the most important issues for the dental profession in Europe, summed up the activities of the ERO working groups and took decisions plans regarding their future works.

ERO discussed in detail its collaboration with the European Dental Students' Association, EDSA – their representatives joined ERO delegates in Salzburg personally.

The delegates approved the admission of Kosovo Dental Chamber as regular member of ERO.

Working Group Liberal Dental Practice in Europe presented the results of their recent activities aimed at analysis of the general conditions of the dental profession and the assessment of the current changes in the practice of the profession and to what extent these changes are in line with the principles of liberal practice. These resulted in publication of an article in "Quintessence International entitled "Is liberal independent dental practice in danger? Assessing forms of dental practice in the European Regional Organization (ERO) zone of the FDI World Dental Federation».

Analysis of country reports carried out by ERO's Secretary General showed that the most "burning" topics for European dentistry include the following issues: plethora of dentists, high number of graduates and universities (public and private), liberal dental practice versus commercialisation, low level of public funding on healthcare, lack of interest from governments for dental health, increasing administrative requirements.

The Plenary Session was attended by a number of guests, including the FDI President dr Kathryn Kell who gave an interesting and informative presentation on FDI matters. Afterwards President Kell provided a detailed and warm account of this event in her presidential letter which is very much appreciated.

Within the reported period two separate ERO board meetings have taken place, in Paris at the end of November 2017 (courtesy of the French Dental Association) and in Warsaw in July 2018.

The next ERO Plenary Session and meetings of ERO Working Groups will take place on 6 September 2018 in Buenos Aires as part of the FDI World Dental Parliament.

## **Working Groups**

Important part of the ERO work is carried out within the ERO Working Groups which are set up and composed of internal and external experts nominated by the Plenary Session. Working Groups consider and examine in detail matters of particular importance to the dental profession, gather relevant information and prepare drafts of ERO resolutions and other documents.

There are currently 7 ERO Working Groups chaired by respectively:

- Dental Team – Edoardo Cavalle (ITA);
- Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry – Hande Sar Sancakli (TUR);
- Integration – Vladimer Margvelashvili (GEO);
- Liberal Dental Practice in Europe – Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach (GER);
- Quality in Dentistry – Roland L'Herron (FRA);
- Relation Between Dental Practitioners and Universities – Simona Dianiskova (SVK),
- Aging Population – Philippe Rusca (SUI).

Comprehensive information about ERO is available at the organization's website:

[www.erodental.org](http://www.erodental.org)

*Dr. Anna Lella, ERO President.*