

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Slovenia

Association: Slovenian Dental Association (SDA)

Venue: Almaty

Year: 2019

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

New elections in our association (SDA) took place in 2019:

President: Prof. Dr. Ljubo Marion, DMD,

Secretary General: Assist. Prof. Barbara Artnik, DMD,

Officer for educational and scientific matters: Matej Leskošek, DMD.

Trends and developments:

in professional policies

New National Strategy for Better Oral Health 2020–2029 is currently being adopted by the Ministry of Health.

In Slovenia, 1.311 dentists are currently included in the public healthcare network (Medical Chamber of Slovenia, 15 July 2019).

In the field of general dentistry, in addition to the equal accessibility to dental services with reasonable waiting times, the number of dentists and programmes for dental practice implementation should be planned in accordance with the needs of the population and funding capacities.

It is important to clearly differentiate between the numbers of dentists in the country on the one hand and the number of publicly funded programmes on the other, as this is an important indicator of accessibility from a financial point of view. Impeded accessibility, either due to financial issues or remoteness, results in unmet dental care needs (examinations and care). As regards dental checks, the main reason for unmet needs is attributable to

long waiting periods and to a lesser extent to financial reasons. The share of persons with unmet needs for dental checks due to long waiting periods is 2.9% (EU 28 – 0.2%) and due to financial reasons 0.9% (EU 28 – 0.2%) (Eurostat, 2019). Compulsory health insurance covers only a part of prosthetic services, where a significant share is covered by supplementary health insurance, while at the same time in prosthetic as well as conservative treatment there are surcharges for non-standard materials and services that do not constitute entitlements under compulsory health insurance. This implies a significantly higher proportion of unmet needs due to financial reasons, when we focus on dental care. This share is 12.6%, while the EU-28 average is 12.3% (Eurostat, 2019).

in health and social policies

in educational policies

In addition to the Dental Medicine programme, which is carried out at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ljubljana, in the 2019/2020 academic year, a programme for 20 dental students is also launched at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Maribor.

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

Long waiting times are the main driver of unmet medical and dental needs. More people are willing to pay for private dental care services, and around 18% of all dentists work exclusively for direct payment or private supplementary insurance scheme.

Although the network of private dental care providers is centralised, we assume that it is in line with the demand. However, it is difficult to estimate the actual volume of self-paid services, since private (concession) clinics that have contracts with the HHS are considered to belong within the public network. It is not known exactly how many private services these

outpatient clinics perform outside the office hours of the public network, or what proportion of all services rendered are self-paid services. Accessibility at the primary level is a challenge for the future, particularly in terms of funding and setting up the scope of eligible dental services.

Corporate Dentistry

*position of NDA towards dental chains
problems with dental chains
possible solutions*

Changes in fees:

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

The World Oral Health Day is publicly celebrated each year. The translated posters in our language for this year can be already found on the WOHD website:

https://www.worldoralhealthday.org/sites/default/files/assets/WOHD20-ad-ohp-SLOVENIA_v2.pdf. As recommended by WOHD, pledges for different target groups have been written and will be distributed on 20 March in different places across the country.

In 2020, Slovenia will promote World Oral Health Day with a national awareness campaign claiming that every person should look after their own oral health and cooperate with their dentist, who will actively help them to achieve that goal.

This year we will focus on the following five target groups: small kids and their parents, school kids, students, disabled persons (especially blind and partially sighted), seniors (the elderly with chronic diseases who are especially at risk of over-treatment).

The Medical Chamber of Slovenia has invited dentist specialists and their associations (Slovenian Dental Association and Slovenian Society of Paediatric Dentistry of the Slovenian Medical Association, National Institute of Public Health, and Slovenian Dental Students International Committee) to nominate a specialist into working group that will prepare communication materials for World Oral Health Day.

The awareness campaign will include five informative brochures, up to 5 related videos to promote and explain the best steps to obtain oral health in individual target groups (age), and translated World Oral Health Day posters.

All this material will be published on the Medical Chamber of Slovenia web page, FB and YouTube. The dentist specialist will also prepare articles for a publication intended for kids, and a publication for middle aged and seniors.

On the 20th of March we will organise a press conference in the morning; during the day, there will be up to four stands in Ljubljana and Maribor city centre set up, where brochures will be available and some short demonstration will take place for passers-by – especially for those who will be ready to stop for 5 to 10 minutes to learn how to take care of their oral health and the oral health of their loved ones. Also, if possible, workshops and lectures will take place on the same day for seniors, chronic patients and the disabled in cooperation with their associations.

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns?

There are no assessments of epidemiological needs in the field of oral health at the national level.

Public funding for dentistry should be increased with respect to its contribution to general health (prevention, early detection and treatment of disease, social indications, and basic rehabilitation).

3 points you would like to discuss