

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Portugal

Association: Ordem dos Médicos Dentistas (OMD) – Portuguese Dental Association

Venue: Year: 2019

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

In 2019, OMD proceeded to the revision of its Code of Ethics and also its Electoral Regulation, thus adapting these documents to the provisions of OMD's new Statutes.

Under OMD's new Statutes a General Council is now part of the governing bodies and its President, Paulo Ribeiro de Melo, was reelected in March.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

In 2019 the OMD published an open letter calling on the political parties running for legislative elections, to contemplate in their governmental programs solutions that would improve the public healthcare services in Portugal that currently excludes a large part of the population from accessing oral healthcare.

in health and social politics

In 2019 the OMD published the results of the Oral Health Barometer, a useful tool to analyse both the status of oral health of the Portuguese population and their access to oral healthcare.

in educational politics

In 2019 the OMD and the seven higher education institutions (HEI) that provide the integrated master's degree in Dental Medicine met in Coimbra, under the motto "Dental Medicine: From Education to Profession. Realities and Perspectives". The curricular revision of the integrated master's degree, employability and postgraduate training were some of the themes highlighted at this meeting, which ended with the preparation of a strategic action document.

Upon the occasion of the its 28th Annual Congress, the OMD head representatives meet with the OMDs' Young Dentists Council (CJMD), at a meeting where the ideas and ambitions of those who are starting the profession were exposed and discussed.

OMD has reinforced its continuous professional development programme, nationwide, organizing hands-on courses and theoretical courses, together with the ongoing commitment to OMD's annual congress.

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

Under the framework of the pilot project for integrating dental services in primary health care centres, the pilot project, which started in 2016, included 111 health care centres in about one third of the 91 municipalities in the country until December 2019.

The National Programme for the Promotion of Oral Health (PNPSO) that includes the dentist voucher, continues to provide access to oral healthcare for specific groups of the population. In 2019, 417.000 people were covered by the programme.

In addition, the government approved the inclusion coverage of children between 2 and 6 years of age with the dentist-voucher, public oral care programme, in order to allow the observation and early detection of oral health problems. In this sense, the oral health of the youngest is contemplated in the Program of the XXII Constitutional Government 2019-2023.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

problems with dental chains

possible solutions

Changes in fees:

No alteration in fees for membership with OMD.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

OMD commemorated the World Oral Health Day with the Oral Health Week initiative, in the city of Évora, at the Évora Military Health Center.

The activity was composed of dental screening, decoration of the "oral health mural" with paintings, drawings and collage of elements alluding to oral health themes, as well as education and instruction for health and oral hygiene. A collective tooth brushing action with 150 children was also conducted.

Promotion of the World Oral Health Day was disseminated through Portuguese media and social networks.

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns?

3 points you would like to discuss

1 – Distribution of the Dentists workforce - According to “*Números da Ordem 2019*” (OMD Statistical data), Portugal has reached the ratio of one dentist per 1.058 inhabitants.

2 – Labour protection and liberal professions - Despite the initiatives carried out in 2019, the liberal profession is somewhat unprotected in terms of labour laws, namely concerning professional category, employment, motherhood, protection in illness, work accidents, professional incapacity and retirement.

3 – Unemployment in Dentistry - At this moment, in liberal professions, as is the case of dentistry, a significant number of professionals are underemployed or frequently with uncertain employment. This situation has led to an increase in the migratory flow, as revealed by studies carried out by OMD.