

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Poland

Association: Polish Dental Association (www.pts.net.pl)

Venue: 1951

Year: 2020

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes in the association and its organisation

Particularly noteworthy is the complete change in the functioning of the society since 2018. After taking the presidency, prof. Marzena Dominiak (FDI Educational Committee), the PTS statute was updated, new priorities and tasks were set. According to many independent observers, the PTS has emerged from the shadows, becoming the most active dentist group in the country. PTS has become an organization that represents many of the interests of dentists, and - which was new - took care of broadly understood education of the public in the field of oral health.

PTS has undergone major changes in terms of the organization itself. Among others, accounting issues of the PTS headquarters and PTS branches, a mobile application was implemented, the information service was expanded, a store with products for offices was launched, offering discounts for PTS members.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

There is a noticeable further development of the private dentistry sector at the expense of the public dental care system. Dentists are reluctant to sign contracts with a national payer. The reason is high bureaucracy and low cost of procedures, and thus serious limitations in the possibilities of developing the practice.

in health and social politics

Unfortunately, the trend that would indicate a priority for oral health in the Polish health care system is still imperceptible. The clinical and educational burden is transferred to private dental care. Of course, it should be emphasized that in recent years, the rulers have started resuscitating school dental care and care within a network of mobile offices, the so-called Dentobuses. Unfortunately, legal conditions do not allow for this care to be implemented in an effective manner. It is worth emphasizing that the ideas of the rulers are very rarely introduced after consulting the dentists' community.

in educational politics

There have been no major changes in the national dimension. Dentists are educated at 10 medical universities, all of them public. Every year, universities record a very high interest of candidates (sometimes even 50 people for one place).

This situation causes that more and more talk about setting up private dental schools. For the time being, however, no specific details on this matter.

In terms of professionals, there is an expansion of the private sector of training for dentists. The offer and the number of organizers of conferences, workshops etc. is growing. Polish dentists learn willingly. The leaders of dentistry from all over the world are often invited to the country.

An important fact to note is the growing popularity of "master" postgraduate studies. The Polish Dental Society offers three such projects: implant-prosthetic studies, lasers in dentistry, and law and management of dental practice.

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

— No change. We do not have a private health fund in PL. The Polish health care system guarantees everyone access to a doctor and dentist, however, the range of guaranteed dental care benefits is very limited. This is the reason why the private dentistry sector is developing. The institution that signs contracts with dental practices is the National Health Fund

Corporate Dentistry position of NDA towards dental chains problems with dental chains possible solutions

— In recent years, there has been a clear increase in the importance of the network of dental offices. On the Polish market, we identify about 4-5 large players who encourage dentists to join the network on individual terms. The network's offer varies. The networks are not members of the PTS, and individual physicians are. The Polish Dental Society cooperates with some entities, e.g. as part of the celebration of the World Oral Health Day. Thanks to the involvement of networks such as Enelmed, Medicover or Luxmed, preventive and educational initiatives are undertaken.

Changes in fees:

— In 2022, the annual membership fee will be increased from PLN 200 per year to PLN 400 per year (from EUR 50 to EUR 90).

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

WOHD has become a very important element of PTS operations in Poland. Since 2019, as part of WOHD, a nationwide campaign "Poland says #aaa!" Has been organized, during which dental clinics undertake educational and preventive initiatives aimed at patients. The campaign also educates doctors of various specialties.

PTS prepares, among others: an interactive map of initiatives, promotional spots, educational materials, events. See more at www.polskamowiaaa.pl

Further information (activities):

— The priority at the end of the term of office of the current Main Board is to refine the rich offer for PTS members. It assumes cooperation with the broadly understood business and providing PTS

members (as part of the membership fee) with a pool of well-discounted offers for products and services.

It is worth noting that the contract was signed with PZU - the largest insurance company in the country, which gives PTS members access to a very attractive compulsory and voluntary insurance package, including insurance against loss of income in the event of illness or accident.

What are your 3 main concerns?

1. Low government awareness that health begins in the mouth.
2. Unwillingness on the part of governments to prioritize oral health in the national healthcare system.
3. Low valuation of guaranteed benefits for Poles.

3 points you would like to discuss

1. The situation of dentists during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Exchange of international experiences (education)
3. Ways of NDA's Real Influence on Governments.