

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: ITALY

Association: ANDI

Venue: Lungargine Raffaello Sanzio 9, 00153 Roma

Year: 2020

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

There have been no major changes to the association and its organization.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

in health and social politics

in educational politics

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

2020 was determined by the need to face professionally, clinically and socially needs and impediments born by the COVID-19 pandemic. All measures taken by ANDI were intended to maintain optimal capabilities for dental practices and practitioners following the progression of the pandemic.

After the WHO declaration of pandemic scale for SARS-CoV-2 infection, ANDI and the National Chamber of Dentistry (CAO) formed an internal board to answer the profession's needs. The commission worked to elaborate guidelines and risk assessment documents, organize PPEs bulk orders and distributions, and advocate

the need for a centralized approach to guarantee pain management and urgent dental treatments even during the core of the pandemic (national lockdown: March 9th to May 4th). By the end of March, the Health Ministry officially recognized this board and integrated it into the national response effort.

Socially, the board advocated for a swift reopening of dental clinics, while promoting the proven safety of dentistry and the absolute need to resume preventive care and check-ups. Moreover, the board supported the implementation of e-learning to carry on base and continuing education, while at the same time underlined the importance of clinical, in-person training.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

problems with dental chains

possible solutions

ANDI frontally opposes dental chains and corporate dentistry. The constitutional principle of corporate dentistry makes it answer to market opportunities instead – and sometimes against – clinical considerations; this is absolutely incompatible with the dental profession. Moreover, dentists' ancillary position within the decisional framework of these ventures makes it impossible to uphold any control by the National Chamber. This fact often leads to a void in regulation that creates grey deontological areas within the national practice of oral health.

In 2020, the announced failure of Dentix disrupted the lives of hundreds of Italian patients. As seen in other countries (and as seen before in events such as this one), almost 60 Dentix clinics closed abruptly, often without notifying their patients, who were left with unfinished applications sometimes already paid in full; another example of the absolute inadequacy of the corporate model in dentistry.

In this specific case, ANDI promoted a class action among the patients, providing legal aid in regaining some of the money already invested. In broader terms, ANDI advocates for a radical intervention to answer the rising issue of corporate dentistry

and dental chains to give health professionals complete control over this kind of venture. This change will enable the Dental Chamber to uphold nationally recognized clinical, procedural and deontological regulations to these practices.

Changes in fees:

We are currently experiencing suboptimal access to dental clinics (75% of average operative capacity), impacting negatively over general incomes. However, to promote the transition toward a new standard and guarantee access to dental care in all its forms, fees have not increased during the past year.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

Although we planned numerous in-presence activities for this year's WOHD (aimed to reach underrepresented dental patients, first-generation migrants, elderlies, etc.), the pandemic's current progression forces ANDI to concentrate only on the virtual campaign. Traditional media and social media will be employed to carry on an awareness campaign promoting the importance of oral health as a fundamental aspect of general health and social wellbeing, especially during a pandemic event that undermines physiological and psychological health directly and indirectly.

Further information (activities):

+ Since the beginning of the pandemic, ANDI decided to offer free access to all its associates to the virtual library, providing continuing education courses, webinars and resources. More than 35.000 accesses were registered between March and August 2020.

+ ANDI promoted a study over the effectiveness of PPEs and safety procedures in preventing COVID-19 spread within dental clinics. The study, composed by a team lead by Professor Lamberto Manzoli (Director of Medical Science Department,

University of Ferrara), has since reached global recognition and has been published by several international journals.

+ *Oral Cancer Day*, ANDI long-lasting initiative to raise awareness over the topic of oral cancer, was reframed and encompassed all the month of May 2020. Our associates promoted free scanning to all their patients to determine the risks of developing oral cancer.

+ the *Month of Oral Prevention* was carried on in October as planned. More than 10.000 associates offered to carry out free check-ups to evaluate their patients' conditions, promoting the importance of prevention and a lifelong approach in managing oral health and general well-being.

What are your 3 main concerns?

Effects of the pandemic over general oral health

3 points you would like to discuss

Corporate Dentistry and Dental Chains

Dental Tourism

Continuing Dental Education