



## ***Regional European Organisation of the FDI***

### ***National Report***

***Country: ROMANIA***

***Association: Romanian Society of Stomatology (SRS)***

***Venue: Bucharest***

***Year: 2020***

### ***Changes in the association and its organisation***

Our association of dentists was established in 1923.

The main purpose of the association was “to contribute to the progress of dentistry; to defend the professional and material interests of its members”.

Nowadays the Romanian Society of Stomatology has a Board of Directors, elected for a four-year mandate with the following members: Prof. Dr. med. dent. Dr. Habil. Paula Perlea - President, Prof. Dr. med. dent. Emilian Hutu – Vice-President, Prof. Dr. med. dent. Marian-Vladimir Constantinescu – Secretary General, Dr. Ion Bogdan Teodor Georgescu – Administrative Secretary and Ec. Violeta Dumitru - Accountant. The President and the Secretary-General are actively involved in continuing the RSS relations with international organizations.

RSS organizes annual congresses and regularly publishes its journal "Romanian Journal of Dentistry".

### ***Trends and developments in professional politics:***

Currently, Romania has 19.24 million inhabitants (as of United Nation statistics) and there are about 21000 dentists.

In each private practice it is mandatory to have an emergency kit, with equipment and medication listed in a policy statement of the government.

In 2020, the COVID pandemic situation affected all dentists, as dental practices were closed 2 months, by law. Also, the requirements for prevention against COVID pandemic also affected financially all dentists. The number of patients also decreased in 2020. Regarding the dental education, all students did only online courses, without any practice.

### ***Trends and developments in health and social politics:***

The National State Budget Law 2020 provided a 22.8% lower percentage of funds allocated to the national health insurance system, compared with 2019.

Romania continues to have the lowest budget for healthcare among the EU member states. While the EU average for health is around 9.6% of GDP, Romania's health expenditures are less than half of this percentage.

The medical funds of the National Health Insurance House are spent on dental treatments in a very small percentage. Children under 18 years are insured by default. It is estimated that adult patients directly pay at least 90% of the costs of dental treatments.

Free dental care facilities for people with low income have been set up, some of them in cooperation with Dental Medicine Faculties.

There are also several programs available for kids and scholars.

### ***Trends and developments in educational politics:***

In 2020 there were 12 Dental Medicine Faculties in Romania, as follows: 5 traditional ones in the cities of Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Târgu Mureş, Timișoara and Iași, plus 7 newly created faculties in the cities of Bucharest, Craiova, Constanta, Sibiu, Oradea, Arad and Galati. About 1,300 dentists graduates every year nationwide.

To become a dental student, a Romanian citizen must be a high school graduate and pass an admission examination.

It is possible for foreigners to study dentistry in Romania in English, French or Romanian. Admission is based on a file selection, or examination. The main admission requirement is a high school diploma.

The Ministry of Education monitors the quality of the training process and the Faculty Board is directly responsible.

For the graduation examination, any candidate must take a written test containing 100 questions, a practical test and also defend his/her graduation paper.

The general trend of the evolution of medical education in Romania places dental medicine on one of the first places, both in necessity and addressability.

Diplomas from other EU countries are recognized without the need for any vocational training. The Romanian College of Dentists registers all dentists and all dental specialists.

It is mandatory to know Romanian to be registered with the RCD. EU citizens must pass a written and oral evaluation test in order to be able to perform dentistry in Romania.

In 2020, the COVID pandemic situation affected also the dental education, as all students did only online courses, without any practice, since March 2020.

Continuing education program is compulsory for all dentists, included teaching staff. Every dentist must attend 200 hours of continuing education every 5 year. If they do not manage to do it, the Romanian College of Dentists (RCD) has the legal obligation to terminate the right of the dentist to practice.

The regulation of Continuing Medical Education is based on the following mechanism: the RCD annually authorizes the dental professional associations and the lecturers. A lecturer is allowed to provide courses and/or hands-on demonstrations credited by the RCD, on specific subjects only, under the organizational supervision of a professional dental association.

Each type of scientific event (one-day course, symposium, conference or congress) is credited with a number of credits of Continuous Education. In 2020, all scientific events was held online, after March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## ***Trends and developments in the insurance system (incl. the public health insurance and private insurance schemes):***

General and oral health care depends on the compulsory membership of each insured citizen in the Social Health Insurance System. The whole population is insured and contributes a monthly fixed amount of their salaries to the National Insurance Company, directly proportional to the level of the salaries.

The different level of contribution to National Health Insurance System generated by the different levels of salaries does not affect the quantity or quality of the health care services.

The system of public health insurance provides a standard package of general and oral healthcare as established by law.

At the end of each year, the management of the National Health Insurance Company negotiates with the National Chamber of Dentists and the NDAs and establishes the expenditure for the different medical specialties (hospitals, general practitioners, specialties, emergencies, dentistry).

Almost 90% of all dentists become private practitioners and 60% of dentists are owners of their dental offices and the rest of 30% are employed in the dental offices. 10% of dentists work as employees in primary schools and dental faculties. Just 10% of the Romanian dentists, owners or non-owners of their dental offices, work under the National Health Insurance Company. The other 90% of the dentists work in a completely liberal (private) system, with direct payments from patients only. It is estimated that patients directly pay at least 90% of the costs of dental treatments.

The public health insurance system provides cover for all prevention and treatments for children and young people, until they turn 18.

### ***Corporate Dentistry:***

Dental Health care in Romania is governed by a series of organic laws that emphasize the importance of the patient.

In some countries, the dental practice chain, stand alone or in the structure of national / multinational health service providers, are sometimes managed by staff with no basic training in the medical field, focusing on the commercial aspect (profit) and thus transforms the patient into a client, with the violation of the rules of professional ethics and deontology.

The Romanian legislation does not allow the endorsement / accreditation of a dental clinic without a medical management. The administrator of such a private practice must be a doctor and the activity of the private clinic is represented only by the provision of dental care services, according to a generally accepted code system across the European Union.

Tightening the legislation on accreditation of dental practices, in compliance with the rules imposed by the European Directive 35/2006 on recognition of professional qualifications can be a solution to limit the development of dental chains with nonmedical management.

### ***Changes in Fees:***

In December 2020 the annual fees for dentists have been increased by 50% for 2021 and by 100% in 2022, compared to the fees paid in 2020, without any reason, despite the pandemic situation which affected the incomes of most of the dentists.



The private practices have been closed by law from March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the reopening was conditioned by a significant investment in anti-COVID-19 equipment and protection material. The number of patients also decreased. The announcement of the increase of fees was a surprise for anyone.

### ***Promotion of the WOHD:***

Due to the pandemic situation, our Dent4ALL Congress, planned for March 15-17, 2020, was cancelled.

However, we organised the World Oral Health Day in collaboration with the National Student Organisation.

### ***What are your 3 main concerns?***

1. The COVID pandemic situation affected all dentists, as dental practices were closed 2 months, by law. Also, the requirements for prevention against COVID pandemic also affected financially all dentists. The number of patients also decreased in 2020. We tried to adapt to the new sanitary conditions. Unfortunately, the increase of fees with 50% in 2021 and 100% in 2022 will significantly affect all dentists in Romania.
2. Oral health professionals are currently not permitted to administer COVID-19 diagnostic tests in Romania and will also not be permitted to administer any forthcoming COVID-19 vaccine as part of our country's planned vaccination programme.
3. Botox and Fillers cannot be performed anymore by dentist unless they are attending a course which was never organized until now.

### ***3 points you would like to discuss***

1. General guidance rules, for each country, currently in place for practicing dentistry during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Improving access to oral health care
3. Face Aesthetics in dental practice

***President,***  
***Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea***

***Secretary General,***  
***Prof. Dr. Marian-Vladimir Constantinescu***