

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

### **National Report 2020**

Country: Estonia

Association: **Estonian Dental Association (EDA)**

Venue: web conference

Presented 03.03.2021

#### Changes

Number of members is increasing - 1094, vs 1071 in 2019

#### Trends and developments:

##### **in professional politics**

- A questionnaire was sent to the members of EDA looking into their needs in professional life. Most of the members expressed their wish to get legal advice
- A meeting with the Head of the Radiation Department of the Environmental Board on radiation licensing took place to reduce bureaucracy for dental clinics
- Critical evaluation of marketing in dentistry

##### **in health and social politics**

- EDA had a leading role in reorganising dental treatment during COVID-19 break-out in Estonia by:
  - Proposing Health Board of Estonia to stop regular treatment of patients until the clinics were provided with personal protective equipment
  - Developing specific guidelines on how to provide first aid and emergency care to patients in the circumstances of COVID-19 breakout in March and April 2020
  - Procuring personal protective equipment for the members
  - Proposing possibility of e-consultation in orthodontics and dentistry
  - Fast vaccination of all dentists and dental staff in clinics in co-operation with Health Insurance and Health Board
- Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs on the topic of process and conditions for registration of dentists from third countries as health care professionals. Justification and possibility of clarifying the language requirements for health care professionals and entry in the register of dentists in Estonia
- Meeting in the the National Audit Office on the topic of adult dental care benefit audit

##### **in educational politics**

- Discussion about vocational training of dental assistants with the staff of Tallinn Health Care College.
- Oral health knowledge is improved by a series of courses for teachers and parents, also in ICT environment: [www.suukool.ee](http://www.suukool.ee)

## **In the insurance system (incl. the public health insurance and private insurance schemes)**

A private dental insurance has been introduced in Estonia: Cavitas Northern1 International Insurance Brokers OY [www.cavitas.ee](http://www.cavitas.ee)

## **Corporate Dentistry**

- position of NDA towards dental chains:  
We have one big chain of dental clinics, consisting of 11 dental clinics located in different parts of Estonia “Unimed's United Clinics”. Ownership is investments Funds Based on the experience of other member countries – we are concerned about the future trends.
- problems with dental chains – currently most of the dentists do not complain openly but changes in the daily working of dentists are noticed continuously
- possible solutions - to limit chairmanship in corporation ( 51% dentists)?

## **Changes in fees:**

Fees for dental care have been free in Estonia since 1991, as we have 100% private dentistry. New fees were fixed for dental treatment procedures by Health Insurance Foundation in 2018, but not accepted by half of the dentists. Cost-effective fees for direct dental restorations are currently being recalculated in cooperation by EDA and Health Insurance Fund of Estonia

## **Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:**

As part of Oral Health Day, we publish all-Estonian articles and posters and run a kick-off campaign: we collect smiles and inform about the connection of oral health with general health.

In 2020 Estonian team won the award of FDI for the “**Most Educational Activity**” during the World Oral Health Day, in particular for releasing Suukool’s toothbrushing song in three languages and all the media work. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z11Uqg0rpcg>

## **Further information (activities):**

- Two council meetings and 25 board meetings were held
- Two conferences were held (06.03 and 04.12.2020)
- A brainstorming session was held in the Pirgu Mansion house on 28<sup>th</sup> of August to develop future strategies for the EDA. Health Board, Ministry of Social Affairs, media representatives and president for the Medical Association were invited to discuss.
- Two interdisciplinary webinars were held for the members

Website address: [www.ehl.ee](http://www.ehl.ee)

Facebook address: [www.facebook.com/eestihambaarstideliit](https://www.facebook.com/eestihambaarstideliit)

*In 2020, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the EDA with multiple events*

## **3 main concerns:**

We are proceeding with following topics:

- Regulation of migration of dentists from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries
- Changing non-monetary refunding system by Health Insurance Fund into monetary with no obligation to work with fixed price-list which could enhance the quality of dental treatment
- Regulation by implementation of legislation on nitrogen dioxide (laughing gas) sedation.

On behalf of the Estonian Dental Association

Mare Saag

NLO for Estonia in FDI