

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2024

Country: Azerbaijan

Association: Azerbaijan Stomatological Association

Changes in the association and its organisation: No changes.

Trends and developments:

• *In educational politics:*

In June, 2024 the first group of students from the Military Dental Faculty graduated, marking a significant development in the expansion of specialized dental education. This milestone reflects ongoing efforts to enhance academic opportunities and strengthen the professional landscape within the field of military dentistry.

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

Discussions continue on the integration of dental services into the national health insurance system. Efforts are being made to expand insurance coverage for essential dental treatments, ensuring broader accessibility and affordability for the population.

Corporate Dentistry

Corporate dentistry and dental chains are not practiced in Azerbaijan. Most dental clinics are independently owned and operated by individual practitioners or small private groups.

Changes in fees: No changes.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

The Azerbaijan Stomatological Association actively promoted World Oral Health Day throughout the year through a series of public awareness campaigns, school programs, and free dental check-ups using the 2024 slogan "Happy mouth is a Happy body." To promote the event, we

distributed promotional materials such as posters, toolkits, factsheets, and chairside guides provided by FDI. Additionally, we promoted the event among students of dental faculties during classes and seminars, as well as dental clinic staff and doctors of non-dental profiles.

On the occasion of WOHD2024, as every year, our NDA organized a conference at the Azerbaijan Medical University. Oral health professionals highlighted the importance of preventive dentistry and oral health in the overall well-being of the body. One of the main topics focused on the influence of periodontal health on body wellbeing.

Another speaker addressed the idea of the WOHD2024 campaign.

Additionally, guidelines, tools and best practices for personal oral hygiene were discussed as part of the conference program.

The conference was attended by the university governance, professors, teachers, and students of the dental faculty and faculty of general medicine of the Azerbaijan Medical University. The event was covered by the university's official pages, various media channels, and newspapers.

Further information (activities):

- In line with our efforts to enhance academic communication, we launched the official website for our annual publication, Caucasian Dental News (qsy.az), and successfully secured an online ISSN (3078-3267) for the journal. We are now working to introduce the journal into international academic databases, such as Scopus, to ensure its global reach and impact.*
- Our international engagement was highlighted in September, when a delegation of over 40 representatives attended the World Dental Congress in Istanbul. Our association members participated with two oral and four poster presentations. The delegate and alternate members of our NDA actively participated in the FDI Parliament Meetings.*
- This year was also momentous for our country, as the Azerbaijan Republic hosted COP29. In alignment with this significant event, in October we organized a CME-accredited 3rd Global Oral Health and Climate Action Conference in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania, the Ministry of Health of the Azerbaijan Republic, and the Azerbaijan Medical University. This conference brought together professionals from around the world to discuss the intersection of oral health and climate action, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and sharing innovative solutions. The conference was an extraordinary*

experience, providing a platform for meaningful dialogue and impactful outcomes. At the conclusion of the event, we proudly facilitated the Hand-over Ceremony of COP29 to COP30, which will take place in Belém, Brazil.

What are your 3 main concerns?

- 1. Ensuring the integration of oral health into Azerbaijan's national health insurance system. We also want to highlight that there is no national program on prevention of dental diseases in Azerbaijan, even though our NDA has a recommended one.*
- 2. Lack of public awareness and prevention strategies to reduce the prevalence of oral diseases in population.*
- 3. Lack of international academic collaboration in dental research and publications.*

3 points you would like to discuss

- 1. Strategies to further integrate oral healthcare into primary healthcare policies.*
- 2. How can an NDA gain greater influence in shaping policies, controlling licensing processes, and improving dental education in the country?*
- 3. Collaborative approaches to public awareness campaigns for better oral health prevention strategies.*