

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

### ***National Report on the activities of 2024***

***Country:*** Hungary

***Association:*** Hungarian Dental Association

*Please classify your national report by following subjects:*

#### **Changes**

- Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Uganda Dental Association.
- Our international conference (SymposiumSzegeed) was organised for the 17th times in 2024 with worldwide known lecturers and with almost 1000 visitors. With the help of some really generous supporters we were able to provide an opportunity for some dental teams in Uganda to participate in the SymposiumSzegeed free of charge. As a part of volunteer program, our president, Professor Katalin Nagy spent a week in Uganda.
- In 2024 the Hungarian Dental Association together with the Uganda Dental Association applied for the WDDF (FDI) grant, on the bases of their earlier collaboration. The end result of this application was successful, and the project will be carried out in 2025.
- From the end of 2023, in cooperation with HALEON, we have been organizing webinars to the Hungarian dentists and dental hygienists, the aim of which is to explore everyday problems and issues related to the given topic, unlike the usual lectures, involving the audience. This makes it easier to understand, illustrate what they hear with practical examples and everyday cases. Last year we had held 4 webinars with nearly 1000 participants, the speakers of which were outstanding professors from Hungary and we are continuing these webinars in 2025, too.

## **Trends and developments:**

**Professional Politics:** In recent years, there has been a significant shift towards **privatization** in Hungarian dentistry. The proportion of state and local government-operated clinics has fallen below ten percent, with around ninety percent of dental surgeries now being private practices. The **Hungarian Dental Association** has been actively involved in organizing webinars and promoting digitalization to keep up with modern trends.

**Health and Social Politics:** The Hungarian government has implemented several changes in health policy, particularly in publicly funded primary dental care. The establishment of **primary care dental clusters** aims to improve access to preventive dental services and the quality of care. However, there is still a significant challenge in **oral prevention**, with both NEAK (National Health Insurance Fund of Hungary) contracted and non-NEAK contracted practices showing little interest in prevention activities.

**Educational Politics:** Hungary has a strong tradition of dental education, with high-quality theoretical and practical training. The country has become a popular destination for foreign students pursuing dentistry.

**Insurance System:** The Hungarian dental insurance system has undergone significant changes. The previous Bismarck system, which maintained an independent state insurance company, has been replaced by the Beveridge system, where healthcare funding is managed by the state apparatus. Private health insurance is not allowed in Hungary, and the number of NEAK contracted practices is decreasing due to insufficient public funding.

## **Corporate Dentistry**

**Position of the National Dental Association (NDA) towards Dental Chains:** The National Dental Association (NDA) in Hungary has a cautious stance towards dental chains. While recognizing the potential benefits of economies of scale and improved access to dental care, the NDA emphasizes the importance of maintaining high professional standards and ensuring that patient care remains the top priority.

### **Problems with Dental Chains:**

1. **Quality Control:** One of the main issues with dental chains is the lack of consistent quality control across different clinics. This can lead to variations in the standard of care provided to patients.
2. **Profit Motive:** There is a concern that the profit-driven nature of corporate dentistry might prioritize financial gains over patient well-being, potentially leading to unnecessary treatments or cost-cutting measures that compromise care quality.
3. **Work Environment:** Dental professionals working in corporate chains may face high workloads and pressure to meet targets, which can lead to burnout and reduced job satisfaction.

### **Possible Solutions:**

1. **Enhanced Regulation:** Implementing stricter regulations and regular inspections can help ensure that dental chains maintain high standards of care and patient safety.
2. **Professional Training:** Providing ongoing professional development and training for dental staff can help maintain high standards and keep practitioners up-to-date with the latest advancements in dental care.
3. **Patient Feedback:** Encouraging and facilitating patient feedback can help identify areas for improvement and ensure that patient concerns are addressed promptly.
4. **Collaboration with NDA:** Working closely with the National Dental Association to develop guidelines and best practices for corporate dentistry can help balance the benefits of corporate structures with the need for high-quality patient care.

HDA would recommend a much stricter professional supervision of dentists specialising only for foreign clients and carrying out treatments with much shorter time than needed.

### **Changes in fees:**

Unfortunately, the income of Hungarian Dental Association has decreased, but because of the current economic situation it is very difficult to increase the membership fee.

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

The Hungarian Dental Association organises and takes part in several different actions on and around WOHD. We raise attention for prevention in homes for the elderly, in schools and kindergartens. We involve dental hygienist, dental students as well as students of health translation. We translate FDI resources into Hungarian and spread awareness on our Facebook, web and Instagram pages actively from 16-20 March each year. Moreover, it will be the second time that the Hungarian Dental Association and the Haleon Health Partner organizes an online webinar for dentists and dental hygienists on the World Oral Health Day, the topic of which will be diseases affecting the oral cavity and their prevention.

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

- It has been 18 years since our association organizes every year one of the top dental events in Hungary, the SymposiumSzeged scientific training conference, which will be held in April 2025. The prime goal of the 18th SymposiumSzeged conference is to invite world-renowned lecturers to give Hungarian and European dentists a chance to see and hear the top of the dental profession at an affordable price. The conference brings excellent dentists and scientists with unique knowledge to Hungary, thus providing an opportunity and a forum for scientific discussion and exchange of experience with the participation of distinguished and respected speakers from the international palette. World-renowned speakers from a number of countries represent a wide range of dentistry, from periodontics through aesthetic dentistry to orthodontics. In addition to lectures on all areas of dentistry, participants will be able to meet well-known exhibitors and unique product presentations during the two-day

scientific conference. One day before the conference, on 24th April, the participants take part in a hands-on course as well as a training for dental hygiene colleagues and students.

- In 2024, Prof. Dr. Katalin Nagy, president of Hungarian Dental Association, and Dr. Ildikó Pinke, board member of Hungarian Dental Association, received the 15th anniversary plaque for their several years of activities in the comprehensive health screening program.
- As a member of the FDI's Education Committee, and the Board of Directors of the CED, Professor Katalin Nagy, president of Hungarian Dental Association, participated in the following events and meetings in 2024:
  - Board Meeting of CED, Brussels, March 2024
  - General Meeting of CED, Athens, May 2024
  - Board Meeting of CED, Brussels, September 2024
  - General Meeting of CED, Brussels, November 2024
  - Mid-Year Meeting of FDI, Costa Rica, April 2024
  - World Dental Parliament of FDI, Istanbul, September 2024

The experiences and knowledge gained from the events and meetings mentioned above create a significant link between CED, ERO, and FDI. Through these connections and collaborations, we can anticipate further achievements and successes in the future.

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

see below

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

1. Oral health and tobacco
2. Oral health in connection with general diseases
3. Finding more opportunities to increase the role of dental hygienist in prevention of oral diseases