

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2024

Country: Poland

Association: Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

No changes in the reporting period.

The Polish National Committee for ERO FDI is formed by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and the Polish Dental Society.

The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists is the main professional organization in Poland. It is the organizational body of the professional self-government of physicians and dental practitioners who are associated in the chambers with equal status. Membership is mandatory. Every physician and every dental practitioner who holds the right to practice the profession in Poland is a member of the chamber by virtue of the law. There are 23 Regional Chambers and a separate chamber of military physicians and dentists. The Polish Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists coordinates the work of regional chambers.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

In May 2024 the General Medical Assembly adopted the new Code of Medical Ethics which applies to medical doctors and dental practitioners. It entered into force on 1 January 2025, replacing the former Code of Medical Ethics.

Key modifications include rules of using the AI in medical/dental practice, guidelines for providing telemedicine, rules on activities of medical doctors and dentists in social media. The new Code introduces a more liberal approach to advertising, emphasizing transparency and honesty.

For dentists, significant changes relate to medical documentation, obtaining informed consent and application of new technologies both in diagnosis and treatment.

The Code maintains the fundamental principles of medical ethics, as primacy of patient welfare, and dignity of the profession.

in health and social politics

After many years of legislative works, and numerous drafts that have been discussed, the law on certain medical professions has been finally adopted and entered into force in 2024.

This legal act regulates the access to and exercise of a number of healthcare professions (other than those already regulated like doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, physiotherapists, laboratory diagnosticians, paramedics), in particular 2 dental auxiliary professions – dental assistants and dental hygienists (initial drafts also included the profession of dental technician, but the final text does not cover this profession).

The main issues this law envisages are:

- setting up of a Central Register for these professions (only persons who get registered will be entitled to exercise the given healthcare profession) run by the Minister of Health;
- introduction of a legal requirement of continuing education evidenced by educational points (200 points every 5 years);
- creation of a system of professional disciplinary liability.

The law defines the following frame scope of professional activities:

- for dental assistants – assisting the dentist and maintaining the dental office in readiness for work;
- for dental hygienists – activities in the field of prevention and promotion of oral health and co-participation in the treatment process.

The Minister of Health is to specify, by regulation, a detailed list of professional activities, taking into account the necessary qualifications, the required range of skills and the need to ensure patients safety. The legislative work on that regulation is still ongoing.

in educational politics

Besides the possibility of completing specialist training and gaining formal title of specialist in certain fields of dentistry it is now also possible to organize training for dentists leading to award of formally recognized certificates confirming professional skills in dental implantology, maxillofacial radiology, pain medicine as well as aesthetic and restorative medicine.

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

No major changes in the reporting period.

Corporate Dentistry

The Chamber has not taken any official position towards dental chains.

What are your 3 main concerns?

Insufficient public funding of dental care services.

Insufficient number of specialist training posts for dentists.

Growing bureaucratic burdens on dental practitioners and rising costs of managing the dental office.