

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2024

Country: ***Slovakia***
Association: ***Slovak Chamber of Dentists***

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes in the association and its organisation

The Chamber has been striving for several years within legislative reforms for:

- Minimum staffing of dental praxis – practical nurse – dental assistant
- Realistic reimbursement for basic health procedures from public health insurance
- Predictable financing of specialized outpatient care, including dentistry
- Strengthening the position of healthcare chambers

Trends and developments: in professional politics

- Continuing negotiations to improve the position and functioning of dentistry in Slovakia
- Preparation for the amendment of Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic - regulation on minimum standards – personnel and material-technical equipment of dental practices
- Insufficient/uneven regional dental health care coverage – more dentists are concentrated in large cities
- Emergence of dental chains and development of existing ones
- Inflow of dentists from third countries
- Fighting the shortage of chairside assistants
- European health data space – current outputs from national ehealth system are insufficient and not usable for primary or secondary purposes, data is not sufficiently structured, imaging outputs (e.g., X-rays) are not shared

in health and social politics

- Insufficient funding causes extreme burden on patients and inadequate healthcare, which can lead to a long-term deterioration of the oral health of the population (outside of major regions).

in educational politics

- Change in the length of dental studies from 6 to 5 years, to be gradually introduced starting in 2026.
- The Chamber sees the need for a revision of postgraduate and continuous education for graduates, so that young dentists are better prepared for practice.

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

- We are struggling with insufficient funding from health insurance companies, and the increases do not even cover inflation.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

problems with dental chains

possible solutions

- Legislation does not regulate the rules for establishing dental chains and an efficient control system.
- Neither the Chamber nor any other authority has an overview of the dentists working in chains, or whether they meet the necessary standards.
- The Chamber believes that dental chains should be owned by dentists (currently, some chains are owned by non-medical professionals) to ensure professional supervision over the practice of the profession.

Changes in fees: No

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

Slovak Chamber of Dentists promoted WOHD 2024 in our bimonthly journal *Zubny lekar*, web site: www.skzl.sk; on our social media and at schools. The Committee for Prevention of Slovak Chamber of Dentists organized educational activities at medical faculties across Slovakia.

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns?

3 points you would like to discuss



- Strengthening the position and powers of the Chamber with an impact on the active formation of dentistry
- Making the operating conditions of dental chains more transparent
- Achieving an improvement of correct and up-to-date data submission by our dentists into the register kept by the Chamber, specifically simplifying and accelerating the reporting of data changes in order to ensure accurate identification of dentists and their workplace.