

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2024

Country: Switzerland

Association: Swiss Dental Association

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

There have been no changes. The whole Board of SSO was re-elected.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics:

Overregulation of the profession by the authorities. Example: The Swiss health authorities want to implement a quality contract. Dentists should be obliged to show and prove how they improve the quality in their daily practice. The negotiations between SSO and the authorities started one year ago and are still ongoing.

in health and social politics:

one of the main focuses is still on the oral health for elderly people. We have a working group, like the ERO WG Ageing Population. We try to raise awareness and to get to the people in the retirement homes.

in educational politics:

SSO is lucky to have time slots at all 4 universities to give lectures about dental politics. Almost all students of the last 2 years are “junior members SSO” (free from membership of course)

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

Negotiations with insurance for accidents have been a big concern in 2024.

In Switzerland patients pay dental treatments out of their pocket's in more than 90% of the cases. Exceptions are accidents, disabilities or social welfare. The accident insurances cancelled the existing tariff by end of last year and a new system had to be renegotiated and implemented by beginning of 2025.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains:

SSO is against investor-owned dental chains. Unfortunately, the Swiss health authorities don't see the problem yet, but we are discussing the issues with them.

problems with dental chains:

"Best Smile" one of the biggest dental chains in Switzerland was owned by Migros, the biggest retailer in Switzerland. Best Smile specialised in aligner therapies and veneers, but they had a lot of failures due to the fact that they hired inexperienced dentists. In 2024 they had to close 36 dental offices and over 200 people lost their jobs.

possible solutions:

SSO thinks it is important to talk with politicians about the issues and risks and the legislation should be the same for regular dentists and investors. Dental chains should be Dentist owned by at least 51%.

Changes in fees: No changes

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:
The WOHD has been promoted via social media of the SSO

Further information (activities):

What are your 3 main concerns?

Increasing bureaucracy and administration that are imposed by the authorities.

Medical Device Regulation and the consequences

3 points you would like to discuss: Same as concerns

Increasing bureaucracy and administration that are imposed by the authorities.

Medical Device Regulation and the consequences