

Council of European Dentists

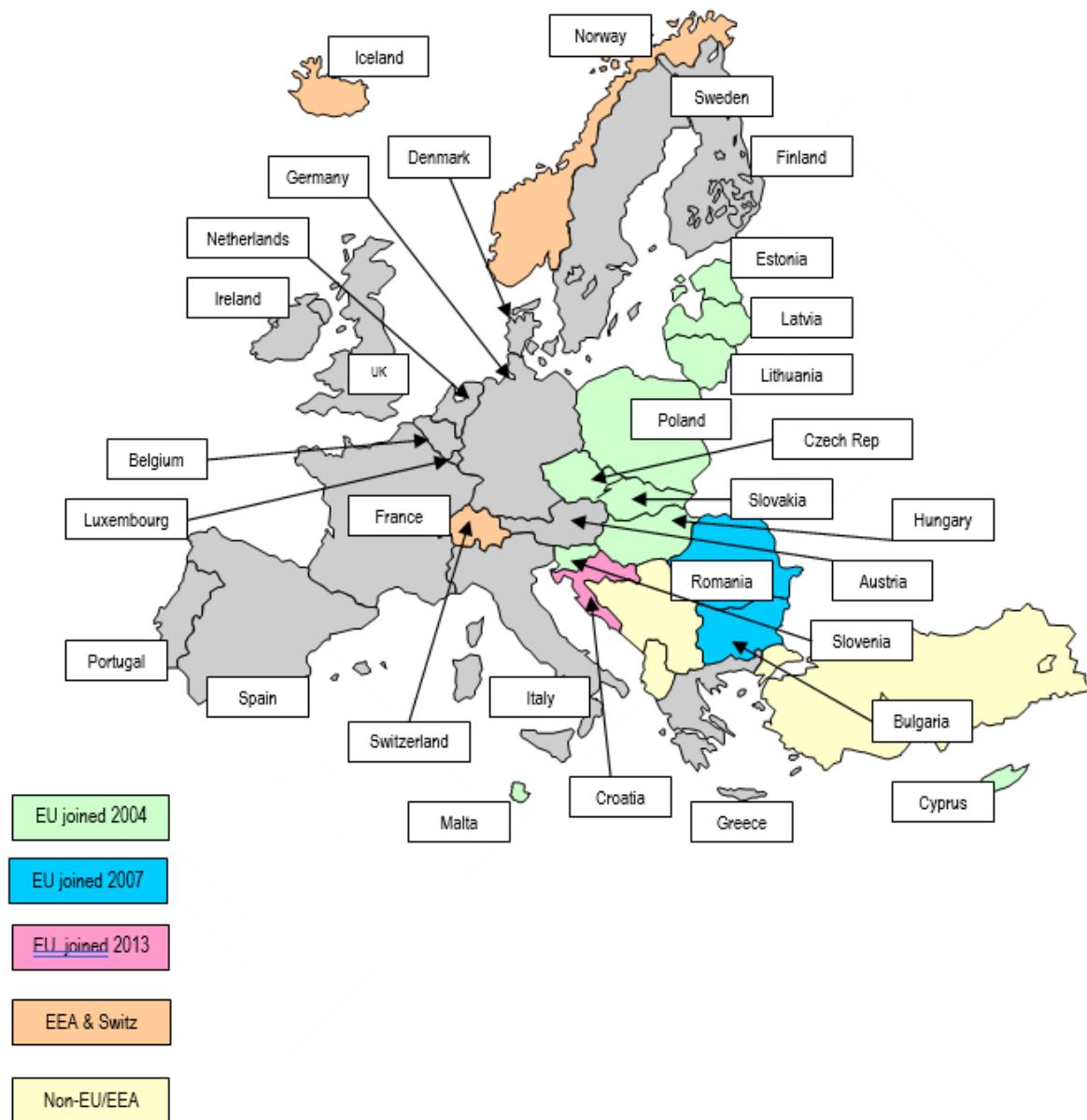
MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

Hungary

Foreword:

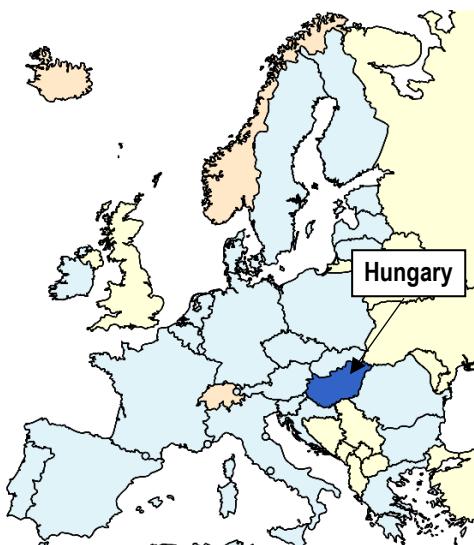
The data presented below is based on publicly available information on dentistry and dental education in Hungary. Please note that there may be gaps or inaccuracies due to the lack of comprehensive and publicly accessible national statistics.

All information has therefore been provided and reviewed by the National Committee for Hungarian Dentistry (including the Dental Section of the Hungarian Medical Chamber and the Hungarian Dental Association)





Hungary



Date of last revision: 22 September 2025

In the EU/EEA since	2004
Population (2024)	9 584 627
GDP PPP per capita (Euros, 2022)	27 259
Currency	Hungarian Forint 1.00€ = 399.5 HUF
Official language	Hungarian
<p>Hungary is based on a highly centralised health system, governed by the Ministry of the Interior since 2022. A single health insurance fund, providing basic healthcare coverage and some dental care for 95% of the population, is administered by the National Institute of Health Insurance Fund Management (NEAK). Further oral care services are provided free of charge for children up to 18, students over 18, pregnant women and residents over 62.</p>	
Number of dentists (active)	4 693 (2024)
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab)	48.9
Members of Dental Association	100%
<p>Seven specialities are recognised in Hungary, with 3 years of specialist training. Continuing professional development is mandatory and assessed every 5 years.</p>	

Government and healthcare in Hungary

The Republic of Hungary is composed of a President with a largely ceremonial role, an elected unicameral National Assembly, and a Constitutional Court.

Hungary operates through a very centralised health system, with public health care being delivered by a single health insurance fund. This Health Insurance Fund is managed by the National Institute of Health Insurance Fund Management (*Nemzeti Egészségügyi AlapKezelő*, NEAK), under the Ministry of the Interior. The health budget is adopted annually by Parliament.

Between 2011 and December 2022, the Local Government Act divided the responsibility for the ownership and management of all health and social services between local and municipal governments, and the state. A recent reform adopted in 2022 redirects and centralises some responsibilities around primary care. Local governments are responsible for concluding agreements with primary care dentists.

The supervision of primary care dentists, however, falls under the jurisdiction of the National Hospital Administration, a government agency.

Statutory health insurance is based on universal health care principles, with 95% of the Hungarian population benefiting from basic health care coverage. The remaining share of the population include non-residents as well as Hungarian nationals working outside of Hungary.

The Health Insurance Fund is financed by compulsory payroll contributions from both employers (13%) and employees (18.5%), as well as through government funding. All Hungarian residents benefit from public health insurance, including insured residents (paying social contributions) and other eligible residents (including students, pensioners, unemployed persons and socially disadvantaged groups).

Private health insurance can be purchased from NEAK but provide access to a reduced number of services and excludes dental care and cross-border treatment.

Dental care accounted for an estimated 12% of out-of-pocket spending in Hungary in 2021.

Public health expenditure in Hungary is one of the lowest among

	Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	4.1%	2023 OECD
% of this spent by government	72.5%	2023 OECD
% GDP spent on dental care	0.1%	2023 National statistics

European Union countries. Statutory private insurance as well as direct payments to private healthcare services take up an important share of the health care expenditure, with private services providing faster care, avoiding long waiting times, and more targeted and personalised care.

There are about 8 million registered (NHI) patient visits in a year for approx. 9.8 million NHI registered people. It is estimated that 50% of the population will visit a dentist in any one year.

The public health insurance provides some dental care treatments free of charge for all insured persons in all three defined age groups (0-18, 19-62, above 62), including emergency care, examination and diagnosis, conservative dentistry, including fillings and endodontics, periodontal therapy and extractions. Specific coverage is also available for insured residents under 18 years old, students over 18, pregnant women (from the confirmation of pregnancy, up to 90 days after delivery), and persons over 62 years old. Co-payments remain.

Crowns and bridges, implants, fixed orthodontic appliances and other complex or cosmetic treatments are paid for patients. Among those aged 18 to 62 years, in active employment, the patient pays 100% of the dental and technical costs.

Oral examinations are generally carried out annually for regular adult patients, twice a year for children.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

To enter dental school, students must obtain the General Certificate of Education. No formal entrance exams or interviews are required. No other vocational entry is possible. Student intake depends on the results from secondary education.

Dental schools are known as FogorvostudományiKar Dental Faculty (Semmelweis University in Budapest, the University of Szeged, the University of Debrecen); FogorvostudományiSzak Dental "section" (University of Pécs, where there is no separate faculty for dentistry, as it is attached to the Medical Faculty).

Year of data	2024 - 2025
Number of schools	4
Number of graduates a year	≈ 355
Total number of international students (all levels, across English and German courses)	1 518
Total number of Hungarian students (all levels)	1 246
Gender balance (% of female students)	58%
Duration of studies	5

All the dental schools are public and state-funded through a state scholarship, although some of the students must pay their own fees. The title upon qualification is: Fogorvos Dentist (DMD). Compulsory summer internships take places for all students at the end of the 1st, 3rd and 4th year.

A large number of EU and non-EU dentists train in Hungarian dental schools, including in English and German-led programmes.

English-taught courses are available to foreign students in all four universities of Szeged (263 students in 2024-2025), Pécs (88 in 2024-2025), Debrecen (332 in 2024-2025) and Semmelweis University (572 in 2025-2026).

German taught courses are available at the University of Pécs (40 students in 2024-2025) and at the Semmelweis University (223 students in 2025-2026).

More than half of all students studying at the University of Debrecen in 2024-2025 were following international programmes (332 international students, with 24 EU students).

Quality Assurance is monitored and checked by the National Accreditation Committee.

Registration

Dentists must register with the National Directorate General for Hospitals (Országos Kórházi Főigazgatóság) under the Ministry of Health. A registration fee of 3 000 HUF (7 euros) must be paid upon first registration, and a fee of 1 000 HUF (2€50) must be paid every 4 years upon renewal of the licence.

Additionally, membership to the Hungarian Medical Chamber is mandatory to practice. Membership fee to the dental section is 4 100 HUF a month (10€).

For the recognition of non-EU diplomas, it is necessary to pass an exam and a language test.

Vocational Training (VT)

Vocational training is no longer mandatory in Hungary. Subsidised vocational training is however available to dental graduates who are Hungarian legal residents, based on quotas. These quotas are redefined by the state every year. Applications for subsidised vocational training must be submitted to the General Directorate for Human Resource Development (ÁEEK-EFF).

Voluntary participation is possible, at the expense of the dentist.

Full access to practice as a dentist is possible directly after graduation in Hungary.

Language requirements

Examination of proficiency in the Hungarian language is no longer a mandatory requirement.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Participation in CPD is mandatory in Hungary under the 1997 Health Care Act for dentists and doctors.

The system is delivered mainly by the Ministry of Health and the Hungarian Dental Chamber, free of charge. The Universities are responsible for the supervision of courses.

There is a scoring system, with accredited continuing education courses. A dentist must achieve 200 points every 5 years. This represents 200 hours in accredited courses, with some reading of scientific journals and books being authorised. The sanction for non-compliance is suspension from practice, which is rare.

Specialist Training Requirements

Specialist Training takes place in universities and is 3 years for all specialties, including 26 months, except the medical speciality of Oral Maxilla-Facial Surgery, lasting 6 years. A special committee is responsible for this training. There are seven recognised dental specialties and one dental-medical speciality in Hungary:

- Orthodontics, with the title: Fogszabályozó szakorvos
- Periodontology, with the title: Parodontológus
- Paediatric dentistry, with the title: Gyermekfogorvos
- Dento-alveolar surgery (oral surgery), with the title: Dentoalveoláris szájsebész
- Conservative Dentistry and Prosthodontics - with the title: Konzerváló Fogásza tés Fogótlástan szakorvos
- Endodontics
- Dental Implantology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS)

Aside from the medical speciality of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS), Dento-Alveolar Surgery is recognised as a dental speciality, covering the dentoalveolar region and minor sinus operations.

Workforce

Dentists

Year of data	2022
Total Registered	7571
In active practice	4 693
(Active) dentist to population ratio*	48.9
Percentage female	NA
Qualified overseas	NA
*per 100 000 inhabitants	

The Dental Section of the Hungarian Medical Chamber reports that the workforce is decreasing, as the government is training fewer Hungarian dentists than those retiring or otherwise leaving full-time work as a dentist. The dental association's demographic figures show that there are a large number of dentists (both male and female) over the age of 50.

Over 50% of dentists work privately, outside the State system (2025). Patients pay their dentist directly, under an item of treatment system.

Of the 70% who work in the State system, some will also work privately, part-time.

Movement of dentists across borders

Many Hungarian dentists work abroad.

Specialists

Specialists work in both the public and private sector. Patients may access specialists upon referral from a general dentist (for oral surgery, orthodontics, treatment of periodontal diseases, paediatric specialist care, dental X-rays).

The National Health Insurance Fund will make contracts only with specialists.

Year of data*	2022
Oral Surgeons	NA
Orthodontists	NA
Endodontics	NA
OMFS	NA
Paediatric dentistry	NA
Periodontology	NA
Prosthodontics	NA
Dental implantology	NA

*National data is not available for practising specialists, and is not known by the National Committee for Hungarian Dentistry

Auxiliaries

Year of data*	2022
Chairside assistants (nurses)	NA
Hygienists	NA
Dental technicians	NA

*National data is not available for dental auxiliaries, and is not known by the National Committee for Hungarian Dentistry

Dental Hygienists

Hygienists are permitted to work in Hungary, provided they have obtained a certificate by a Hungarian University.

Dental hygienists follow a bachelor's programme, between 450 and 500 hours, on Healthcare and Disease Prevention and obtain the title of dental hygienist (Dentálhigiénikus).

Some online courses are also available for dental hygienists. Graduate must carry out one year training as a dental assistant in a certified practice upon graduation.

They may work only under supervision of a dentist. Their tasks include tartar removal, cleaning and polishing, preventive care, and oral hygiene education.

They usually receive a fixed fee for each patient treated.

Dental Technicians

Technicians train in one of four state financed training schools and also a couple of private schools; the training period is three years. Theoretical training is undertaken at the school and practical training in special, contracted laboratories. They receive a certificate on the satisfactory completion of their training. Laboratory master technicians are registered by the regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry, while those who are entrepreneurial technicians running a private firm should also be registered by the Hungarian Court of Registration and should have a VAT number.

Technicians normally work in commercial laboratories. They construct prostheses for insertion by dentists and they invoice the dentist for the work that is done.

Dental Chairside Assistants (Nurses)

Dental nurses assist the dentist at the chairside. Dental chairside assistants train in specialised schools for 2 years after graduating middle school, with training divided between theoretical training (50%) and practical training (50%).

They have to be registered with the Hungarian Chamber for Health Care Professionals.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres	
<p>Regional Organisation of Dentists of the Hungarian Medical Chamber</p> <p>Szondi u 100 1068 Budapest Hungary</p> <p>Postal address: 62 P.O. Box 581 1398 Budapest Hungary</p> <p>Tel: + 36 1 353 2188 E-mail: Website: http://www.kamara.fogorvos.hu</p>	<p>Hungarian Dental Association (Magyar Fogorvosok Egyesülete, MFE) (Specialist Association)</p> <p>Vár u. 7. 1/3 6720 Szeged Hungary</p> <p>Tel: +36 30 968 1834 (President: Prof. Dr. Nagy Katalin)</p> <p>Email: info@mfe-hda.hu Website: www.mfe-hda.hu</p>

Competent Authority

National Health Insurance Fund of Hungary (Nemzeti Egészségügyi AlapKezelő, NEAK)
<p>Váci út 73/A. 1139 Budapest Hungary</p> <p>Tel: +36 1 350 2001 Fax: +36 1 298 2403 Mail : neak@neak.gov.hu Website: http://www.neak.gov.hu</p>

Professional Journals:

Magyar Fogorvos	FogorvosiSzemle (Journal of the Association of Hungarian Dentists)
<p>Tel: +36 1 301 3879 Editor in Chief: Dr. Janos Gerle Editor: Prof Peter Hermann E-mail: magyarfogorvos@yoter.hu</p> <p>Website: https://www.kamara.fogorvos.hu/</p>	<p>Szentkirályi u. 47 1088 Budapest Hungary</p> <p>Editor in chief: Dr. Péter Hermann - Semmelweis University Editor: Dr. István Gera - Semmelweis University Tel: +36 1 317 1094 Fax: +36 1 317 1094 E-mail: hermann@fogorvos.hu Website: https://ojs.mtak.hu/index.php/fogorv-szemle/index</p>

Dental Schools:

Semmelweis University, Budapest	University of Debrecen
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<p>Ullói út 26. fsz. 15 1085 Budapest. Tel : +36 1 459 1500 Tel (Dean) : +36 1 266 0453 Fax: 266-1967</p> <p>E-mail : dekan@dent.semmelweis-univ.hu Website: www.sote.hu</p> <p>Total number of students: 1 338 Dentists graduating each year: 156 Number of students (Hungarian): 533 Number of students (English-taught programme): 572 Number of students (German-taught programme) : 223</p>	<p>Nagyerdei krt. 98 4032 Debrecen Hungary</p> <p>Tel.: +36 52 411 600/56653 ; 53693; 56722 E-mail: fokot@dental.unideb.hu ; info@edu.unideb.hu Website: https://edu.unideb.hu/p/faculty-of-dentistry</p> <p>Dentists graduating each year: 66 (2024/2025) Number of students (Hungarian): 293 (2024/2025) Number of students (English-taught course): 332 (2024/2025)</p>
<p>University of Szeged, Faculty of Dentistry</p> <p>University of Szeged, Faculty of Dentistry Tisza Lajos körút 64-66 H-6720 Szeged Hungary</p> <p>Tel: +36 62 54 5299 E-mail: stoma@stoma.szote.u-szeged.hu Website: www.stoma.u-szeged.hu</p> <p>Dentists graduating each year: 71 (2025) Number of students (Hungarian): 359 (2024/2025) Number of students (English or Hungarian-taught programme): 263 (2024/2025)</p>	<p>University of Pécs, Medical School (<i>The Faculty of Pharmacy has been a separate faculty since 2016</i>)</p> <p>Address: 7624 Pécs, Szigeti út 12. Telephone: +36 72 536 001 (fax is not in operation at the Faculty) Central e-mail address: info@aok.pte.hu</p> <p>The theoretical training of the Dentistry Programme is held in the Faculty's Theoretical Block (at the above address), while the practical training takes place in the building of the Clinic of Dentistry and Oral Surgery:</p> <p>Address: 7623 Pécs, Tüzér u. 1. Telephone: +36 72 502 421 Website: https://aok.pte.hu/dentistry</p> <p>Fees: Tuition fee: USD 17,350/year (USD 9,300 for the first and USD 8,050 for the second semester)</p> <p>Number of students (Hungarian): 61 (2024/2025) Number of students (English programme): 88 (2024/2025) Number of students (German programme): 40 (2024/2025)</p>