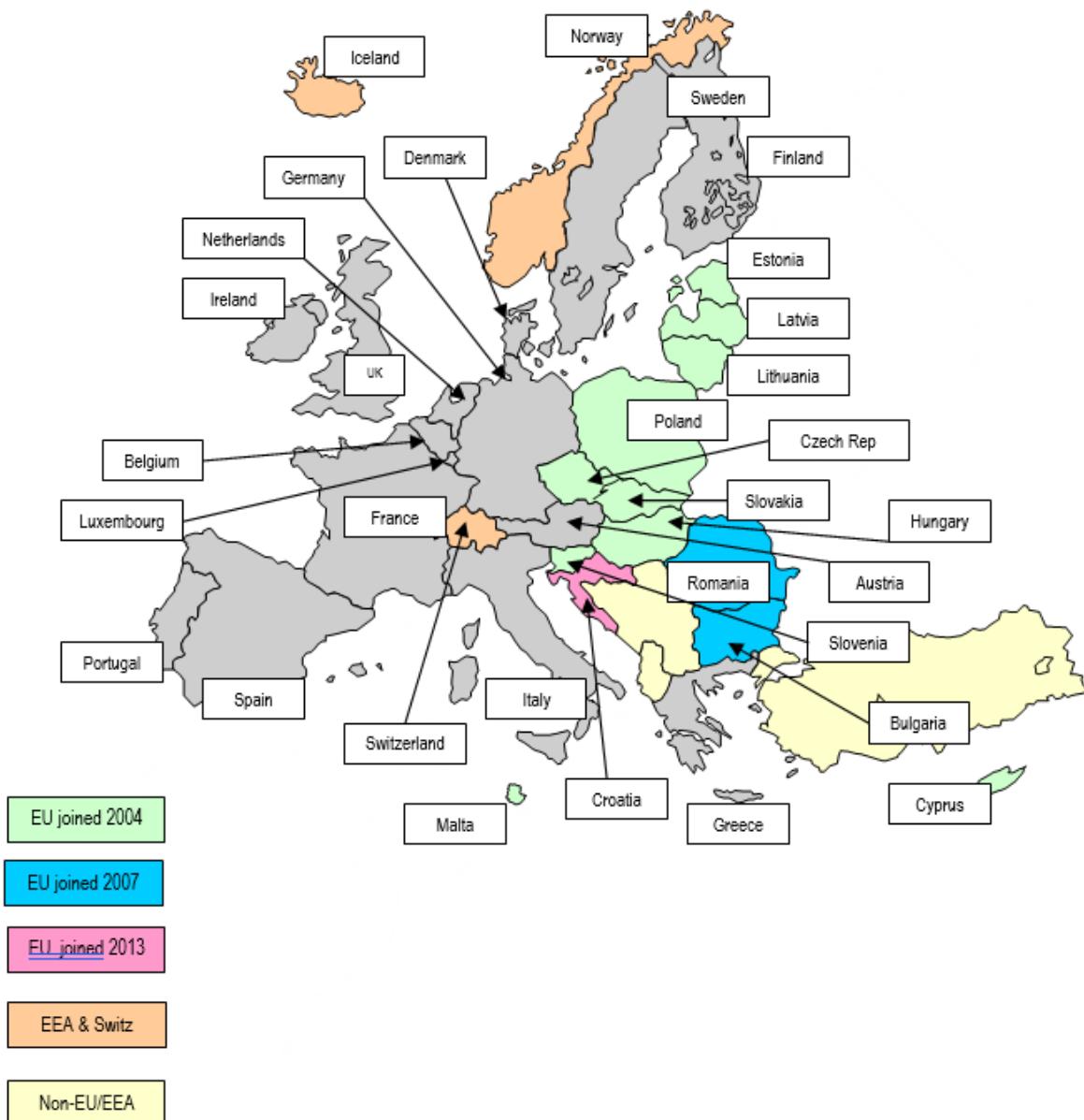


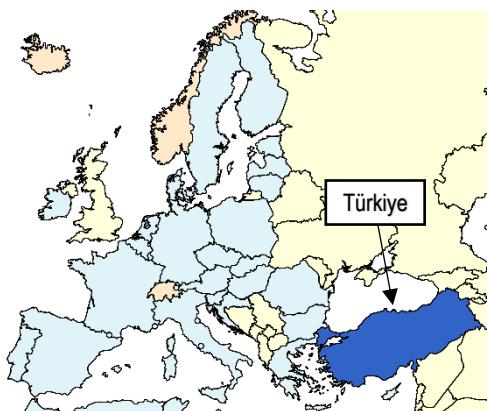
Council of European Dentists

MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

Türkiye

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2026





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Status in Europe/EU	EU candidate country since 1999
Population (2024)	85 372 377
GDP PPP per capita (2025)	\$ 42 450
Currency	Turkish lira (TL) ₺ 45.53 TL = 1€
Official language	Turkish
The Turkish health system is strongly centralised, particularly since political reforms in 2019. The President is responsible for decision-making on health policies. Implementation and management of the healthcare system is carried out by the Ministry of Health and its Health Directorates. Statutory health insurance is available under the General Health Insurance Scheme and administered by the Social Security Institution (SGK), which covered 98.8% of the population in 2023. Co-payments remain limited. Some dental care is covered by public insurance in some hospitals and health centres but is mostly paid out-of-pocket and through private health insurance.	
Number of dentists (active)	54.062 (31.445 private; 22. 617 public)
Active dentist to population ratio (per 100 000)	63
Members of Turkish Dental Association (TDA)*	40,765 (01 August 2025)
<i>*Mandatory for private sector dentists</i>	
9 dental specialities are recognised. Dental technicians and dental chairside assistants are recognised and practice widely across Türkiye. CPD is not legally mandatory but is promoted, delivered and regulated by the TDA.	

Government and healthcare in Türkiye

Türkiye, officially the Republic of Türkiye, is a unitary presidential republic since 2019, when it shifted from a former parliamentary system. The Parliament or Grand National Assembly of Turkey (*Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi*) is a unicameral body. It is composed of 600 members, holds legislative power and is responsible for approving the national health budget.

The Ministry of Health is the primary body responsible for public health policy, strategic planning, and the management of healthcare services across the country, including for the delivery of care in state-run facilities. The recent restructuring of democratic and institutional structures has further increased the centralisation of healthcare. Decision-making in this regard is led by the President. The Ministry of Health and the 11 General Directorates (for example the General Directorate of Health Services) are responsible for the implementation and management of the healthcare system.

The country is divided into 81 provinces. Local health authorities and regional offices are responsible for the implementation of public health initiatives, such as emergency healthcare, and rural health services.

Türkiye's healthcare system follows a publicly funded model, based around Universal Health Coverage (UHC). All citizens and long-term residents are eligible to statutory health insurance. It is provided under the General Health Insurance Scheme (GHI), established in 2013, and is administered by the national Social Security Institution (*Sosyal Güvenlik Kurumu* or SGK).

The system is funded through payroll taxation and social contributions. Contributions of children, and students until the age of 25, as well as individuals with an income per capita of less than one third of the Turkish minimum wage are covered by the

state. As of 2024, 89.53% of the population was covered under

	Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	4.7% 2022	TurkStat
% of this spent by government	77.5% 2023	TurkStat

the scheme, representing 76 840 436 Turkish residents. An estimated 9% of the population had purchased voluntary or complementary health insurance.

Public health insurance offers a comprehensive package of healthcare services, including dental care. Emergency dental care and some basic preventative services are covered under the general statutory scheme, including dental check-ups, fillings, root canal treatments and extractions. These services are available to all SGK beneficiaries, covering a significant share of the population.

Voluntary health insurance can also cover additional dental care services under SGK contracted hospitals.

Some vulnerable groups, such as low-income individuals, children, and elderly citizens, may receive additional subsidized or free dental care through government-run programs.

Privatisation of dental care has since a strong rise in recent years with the expansion of specialised dental tourism practices. Many international patients seek high-quality dental treatments at competitive prices in specialized dental clinics located in Istanbul and Ankara.

In 2024, an estimated 2 million patients, or "health tourists," sought healthcare services in Türkiye. Approximately 25% of these were dental tourists, having travelled for crowns, implants, root canal treatments, and other costly dental services.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

To enter dental school in the Republic of Türkiye, a student must have completed secondary education and carry a high school diploma.

Admission to undergraduate dental programs is determined by placement at national exams, the Turkish National University Entrance Examinations (YKS), administered by the Turkish Council of Higher Education (YÖK). Quotas for the number of admitted first year students is set by the Measuring, Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM) every year.

Some Turkish students may also enrol in English-taught programmes by demonstrating addition proficiency in English or by applying to an English Preparatory Year Program in some universities.

International students may study dentistry in Türkiye in either Turkish or English. For admission, non-Turkish nationals must submit an application form, high school transcripts and diploma (translated into Turkish), and proof of completed coursework in biology and chemistry. Some universities may require additional entrance exams or interviews.

To be admitted to university, international students are required to take the International Student Examination (YÖS, *Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrenci Sınavı*).

Year of data	2024
Number of schools ¹	Total 105
Student intake	12.920
Number of graduates a year	7.158
Gender balance (% of female students)	42%
Duration of studies	5

The full list of dental schools can be found [here²](#).

There are 105 dental faculties, with 75 public and 30 private faculties in Türkiye.

58 dental schools accept foreign students in international dental programmes through the YÖS national exam, with 9 programmes offering programmes in English.

Dental education in Turkey is offered under the faculties of dentistry at public and private universities, typically lasting five years and comprising 300 ECTS credits. The final year of undergraduate studies is dedicated to a compulsory one-year internship. Programs are conducted in Turkish and English, with English-taught programmes primarily offered by private universities.

Dental education quality is overseen by YÖK. Some dental programmes in Türkiye also follow the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE)'s dental curriculum framework.

Türkiye

Registration

As criteria for registering, graduates must be citizens of the Republic of Türkiye and legally reside in the country. Upon graduation, dentists are required to register with the Dental Informatics System (DHBS), under the Ministry of Health, for clinical data entry, patient follow-up and for obtaining a work permit. Independent private practitioners must apply for membership to the relevant regional dental chamber in their province of practice, within one month of the opening their dental practice. Dentists employed in public institutions are not legally required to register.

Vocational Training (VT)

Vocational training is not mandatory after graduation, but a year of clinical training is an integral part of the 5th year of undergraduate studies.

Language requirements

Dentists must demonstrate fluency in Turkish, usually through language certification or completion of preparatory courses.

Cost of registration *	6 000 Turkish Liras (€131,78))
Yearly membership fee**	6 000 Turkish Liras (€131,78)
<i>** for dentists working in the private sector or not currently practising</i>	
Yearly membership fee***	3 000 Türk Liras (€65,89)
<i>*** for dentists employed in the public sector</i>	
<i>* The initial registration fee and the membership fee are paid to the local Chamber of Dentists in the dentist's city or region of practice</i>	

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

CPD is not yet mandatory for dentists, but the Turkish Dental Association (TDA) administered and regulates CPD courses. Registration and accreditation of CPD credits are carried out by the Supreme Board of Continuing Dental Education (SDE), composed of an external Chairperson, a Board Rapporteur and 7 TDA members (4 members of the TDA, 2 members of the dental faculties in the Province of Ankara and 1 Ministry of Health representative).

A certification following the completion of CPD courses is also delivered by this body.

Participation is voluntary and is free of charge. Some paying CPD courses are however also occasionally available.

CPD credits can be obtained either for oral Continuing Dental Education (CDE) activities, for example, attending a 45-minute conference or seminar (1 credit), delivering a presentation (3 credits) or preparing the content of a presentation (2 credits).

² Please find the full list of dental schools (including colleges) and faculties at the following link:
https://www.tdb.org.tr/sag_menu_goster.php?id=341

Credits for written CPD activities are also rewarded, for example, by publishing an article in a peer-reviewed journal (first author: 6 credits; co-author: 3 credits), by reviewing articles (first author: 3 credits, co-author: 1 credit).

For scientific articles published in peer-reviewed international journals, the above number of credits are doubled. Dentists must obtain 40 credits over 4 years to be granted a CPD certificate.

Specialist Training Requirements

In order to pursue postgraduate education in one of the recognized specialties, candidates must take the National Dental Specialization Examination (DUS).

This exam, held twice a year in October and April, consists of a total of 120 questions — 40 from Basic Sciences and 80 from Clinical Sciences — and lasts two and a half hours. After graduation, candidates must be accepted into a specialization program and take up a full-time position at a faculty of dentistry. Specialist studies are overseen by ÖSYM.

Recognized dental specialties in Türkiye include:

- Orthodontics – 4 years
- Endodontics – 3 years
- Paediatric Dentistry – 3 years
- Periodontology – 3 years
- Prosthodontics – 3 years
- Restorative Dentistry – 3 years
- Oral Pathology (introduced in 2018) – 3 years
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery - 4 years
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology – 4 years

Workforce

Dentists

The number of incoming dental graduates as well as the number of practising dentists in Türkiye has seen a significant increase between 2010 and 2024.

This can be explained by the growing number of available dental undergraduate programmes across the territory.

The average age of practising dentists is declining, reflecting the influx of new graduates into the workforce. The proportion of female dentists has been progressively growing. Women now make up to near half the workforce.

The share of private practices has also seen a steady rise, with a decrease in dentists working in the public sector.

Year of data	2024
Total Registered*	54 062
* including private dentists	31 445
* including dentists working in the public sector	22 617
In active practice	54 062
Dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab) *	63
Percentage female	46%
Registered foreign-trained dentists	NA

It is mandatory for dentists to register to the Ministry of Health before being granted authorisation to practice.

Movement of dentists across borders

There is no official data on the number of Turkish-trained dentists practising abroad. However, an important number of foreign dentists travelling to Türkiye has been observed, to study in the numerous dental programmes, as well as in English-taught programmes.

According to the Turkish Dental Association, 8 532 international students were studying in dental programmes across Türkiye in 2024-2025.

Specialists

9 dental specialities are recognised in Türkiye.

The number of available places in dental speciality postgraduate studies after DUS examinations is attributed every year by the Ministry of Health's Expert Board in Medicine.

End of study examinations are carried out by the institution delivering the specialist course (usually dental faculties). Specialists must register to the Ministry of Health.

Most specialists, especially orthodontists and prosthodontists, operate in private practices. Patients can access specialist dental care directly, without referral.

Year of data	2023
Orthodontists	1 238
Endodontists	735
Paediatric Dentists	805
Periodontologists	934
Prosthodontists	1 292
Restorative Dentists	564
Oral Pathology	7
OMFS	1 128
OMFR (Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology)	319

Auxiliaries

Both dental technicians and dental chairside assistants are recognised and practice widely across Türkiye.

Year of data	2022
Technicians	18 000
Chairside assistants	37 803

Dental Technicians

Dental technicians are trained over a two-year period in Departments of Dental Prosthetics Technology within vocational schools of health services.

After completion of studies, graduates obtain a degree as Dental Prosthetics Technicians (*Diş Protez Teknisyen*) or Dental Laboratory Technician (*Laboratuvar Teknisyen*).

Dental prosthetics technicians are responsible for preparing and manufacturing prosthetics and work within dental laboratories. They do not interact directly with patients and only operate under dentists' prescriptions. Most dental laboratories are independent, but some large clinics employ in-house technicians.

Dental Chairside Assistants

Dental assistants complete a 2-year programme in oral and dental health, in vocational schools of health services. They do not have the obligation to register to start practising in dental practices.

Dental assistants assist during procedures, and carry out tasks such as instrument sterilisation, and patient coordination. They can also practice under the supervision of a dentist.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres	
Turkish Dental Association (TBD: Türk Dişhekimleri Birliği) Kızılırmak Mah. 1446.Cad. Alternatif İs Merkezi No:12/38 117 43 Ankara/ Türkiye Phone: +90 312 435 93 94 Fax: +90 312 430 29 59 Email: http://www.tdb.org.tr Website: http://www.tdb.org.tr	

Competent authorities

Ministry of Health	Social Security Institution or <i>Sosyal Güvenlik Kurumu (SGK)</i>
T.R. Ministry of Health Üniversite Mahallesi Şehit Mehmet Bayraktar Caddesi No:3 Çankaya, Ankara Türkiye Phone: +90 312 585 1000 Email (General Directorate of Health Services): support.ht@saglik.gov.tr Website: https://www.saglik.gov.tr List and contact numbers of Directorate Generals: https://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR-11549/iletisim.html	Sosyal Güvenlik Kurumu Ziyabey Cad. No:6 06520 Balgat Ankara Türkiye Phone: +90 312 207 80 00 Website: https://www.sgk.gov.tr/ For the contact details of the Provincial Directorates of the Social Security, please consult the following webpage: https://www.sgk.gov.tr/il-mudurlukleri/map
Higher Education Board or <i>Yükseköğretim Kurulu (YÖK)</i> Universities Mh., 1600. Cad. No:10 06800 Çankaya Ankara Türkiye Phone: +90(312)298-7000 Phone (Higher Education Communication Center): +90 0850 470 0 965 Fax: +90(312)266-4759 Website: https://yok.gov.tr/	The Measuring, Selection and Placement Center or <i>Ölçme, Seçme ve Yerleştirme Merkezi (ÖSYM)</i> Üniversite Mahallesi İhsan Doğramacı Bulvarı No:4D 06800 Bilkent Çankaya Ankara Türkiye Phone (call center): +90 444 6796 Website: https://www.osym.gov.tr/

Main Professional Journal	
The Journal of the Turkish Dental Association	The Turkish Journal of Research in Dentistry
Kızılırmak Mah. 1446. Cad. Alternatif İş Merkezi No:12/38 06530 Çukurambar, Çankaya/ANK Türkiye	Publisher: Ondokuz Mayıs University Faculty of Dentistry Ondokuz Mayıs University OMU Publication Coordinator Kurupelit Campus 55200 Atakum, Samsun Türkiye
+90 312 435 93 94 tdb@tdb.org.tr turkdishekimleribirligi@hs01.kep.tr	Coordinator of Scientific Journals: Mr. Muhammet Mamis Email: yayinkoordinatorlugu@omu.edu.tr Phone: +90 362 312 53 00
Website: https://www.tdb.org.tr/sag_menu_goster.php?Id=641	Website (Turkish Journal of Research in Dentistry): https://dercipark.org.tr/tr/pub/turkishidentres Website (Publisher): https://omuyayinlari.omu.edu.tr/tr
The Turkish Journal of Orthodontics	
Publisher: The Turkish Orthodontic Society Sütlüce Mah. İmrakhor Cad. No: 82 Beyoğlu, İstanbul Türkiye Email: info@turkjorthod.org Website: tod.org.tr	
Editorial Office: Phone: +90 (212) 416 61 13 Email: turkjorthod@galenos.com.tr Website (online publish journal): https://www.turkjorthod.org/	

Dental Schools:

For the full list of official dental schools, faculties in Türkiye and of their contact details, please consult the following link:
https://www.tdb.org.tr/tdb/v2/ekler/Egitim_Veren_UDF.pdf

Please refer to each dental school for full contact details and further details.

The top 5 biggest universities providing dental programmes are:

- İstanbul University
- Hacettepe University
- Ankara University
- Ege University
- Yeditepe University