

COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN DENTISTS'

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWS UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 2026



The CED President in the Alps during summer 2026: onwards and upwards! Image courtesy of President Sloth-Lisbjerg.

Dear CED Members,

Welcome back to your clinics and practices, and your respective organisations for this back-to-school edition of the newsletter.

The start of a new institutional year promises some steep work ahead!

From the side of institutional developments, continuous focus will be given to ongoing or newly expected developments around the Medical Devices Regulation; legislative deregulation surrounding digital issues and safeguards for the protection of patient data under the Digital Omnibus; the publication of the Fair Labour

Mobility Package on 15 September with the publication of a dense legislative package composed of five major proposals, including the introduction of three proposed Regulations, one Directive and the revision of the Professional Qualifications' Directive (PQD); tackling health workforce issues as a follow up to the Own Initiative Report on the topic in the European Parliament; institutional pushbacks on the adoption of the revised Tobacco Taxation Directive, accompanied by future promising challenging negotiations surrounding the start of the revision of the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) and the Tobacco Advertising Directive (TAD); and ongoing initiatives under the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan.

I would like to thank our members for their continued engagement and for sharing your national insights, priorities and developments for this edition of the newsletter. We received robust and detailed contributions and will continue doing our best to include your highlights!

On behalf of myself, the CED Board and the CED staff, sincere regards,

Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg

CED President

CED PRESIDENT AND BOARD ACTIVITIES

CED BOARD MEETING

The CED Board met on 18 September in Brussels, to discuss upcoming priorities, policy developments and in preparation of the upcoming November General Meeting. (ADD PHOTO OF BOARD)

BOARD DIRECTOR KATALIN NAGY AT THE ADEE AND EDSA GENERAL MEETINGS IN BUDAPEST - AUGUST



Board Director Katalin Nagy at the ADEE General Meeting in Budapest, during a panel discussion with MEP András Tivadar Kulja, 26.08.2026. Image by the CED

Board Director Katalin Nagy was kindly invited to represent the CED received at the ADEE General Meeting taking place from 25-28 August in Budapest, Hungary.

Katalin Nagy took part, on Wednesday 25, as a panel speaker in an ADEE Plenary session dedicated to exchange views on the evolution of European oral health professions' education, alongside Hungarian MEP Dr. András Tivadar Kulja from the European People's Party (EPP). The panel brought together a group of stakeholders representing the dental profession, including EDSA, FEDCAR, the Platform for Better Oral Health, the CECDO and ADEE.

Katalin Nagy also had the opportunity to participate in an EDSA Panel event, questioning the increasingly recognised evidence of the full involvement and effects of oral health on general health, and therefore the increasing integration of oral health into general health considerations and policies. Alongside Prof. James Field, from the University of Cardiff, and Prof. Jean-Noël Vergnes, from the University of Toulouse, the panel and the audience discussed why, "If oral health is part of general health, why are dentists educated separately?"

BOARD DIRECTOR ROMY ERMER AT THE CED SECRETARIAT IN BRUSSELS



The Brandenburg Delegation at the CED Office in Brussels. Image by CED

The Brandenburg Delegation to the German Dental Association (BZÄK) visited the CED Offices on the 25 June. The meeting was the opportunity to exchange around the CED's ongoing work and key EU policy priorities and institutional developments.

Such visits of national or regional dental associations are always a welcomed opportunity to raise the main regional concerns and trends in the field of dentistry.

SUMMER CED SECRETARIAT MEETING

President Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg travelled to Brussels alongside CED Treasurer Christof Ruda to carry-out the summer meeting with CED wrapping up the year so far and discussing upcoming priorities. This was also the opportunity to say goodbye to Policy Officer, Elif Dincher, as she concluded her time with the CED.



President Sloth-Lisbjerg and Treasurer Christof Ruda together with the CED staff in Brussels. Image by CED

CED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

In September 2026, the CED joined 3 co-branded texts together with a number of other associations representing stakeholders at the EU level:

- ✓ A Joint Statement on protecting patient data in the Digital Omnibus ([LINK](#)) calling on the European Parliament and the Council to ensure that simplification measures do not weaken the protection of sensitive health data, patient confidentiality, professional secrecy or trust in healthcare. In particular, the statement addresses the use of health data in AI development, profiling, the commercial use of inferred health information and the limits of pseudonymisation.
- ✓ A Joint Statement on electronic instructions for use for medical devices ([LINK](#)) calling on EU legislators, in the context of the revision of the medical devices legislation, to ensure that paper instructions continue to accompany medical devices and that electronic instructions support, rather than replace, paper information. The statement highlights the implications for patient safety, accessibility, the digital divide, emergency preparedness, privacy and the responsibilities of manufacturers.
- ✓ A Press Release ([LINK](#)) following the European Parliament Own Initiative Report on the EU Health Workforce Crisis Action Plan. CED President Sloth-Lisbjerg shared the perspective of European dentists on the vote and next steps, together with representatives of the European doctors, nurses and pharmacists: *“On behalf of the Council of European Dentists, I wish to welcome the vote on this important report, representing a first step towards tackling the health workforce challenges across Europe. European dentists, through the CED, have continuously expressed their recommendations for tackling workforce issues that affect the profession, and ultimately the current and future health of patients across Europe. I would like to urge policy-makers to continue building on this initiative and to translate it into very concrete legislative and policy actions, both at EU and Member States level. The European dentists stand ready to support and contribute to the joint efforts ahead of us towards a strengthened and resilient health workforce!”*

VISUALS OF CO-BRANDED TEXTS TO BE ADDED

CED PRIORITY THEMES

INTERNAL MARKET

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OWN INITIATIVE REPORT ON WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

On 17 September 2026, the European Parliament plenary voted on its report on the health workforce crisis. The report calls for the full implementation of the Directive 2005/36/EC, updated by the Directive 2013/55/EU & Annex V; for calls for better and safer working conditions and fair remuneration, including

via the implementation of existing EU-legislation, and a strengthened Social Dialogue; furthermore, it calls for Council Recommendations on Safe Staffing Levels; and on implementing concrete measures to address violence against healthcare professionals. As such, the report is only the first step on the road towards improving the status quo.

Dentistry-specific language is included in the report in relation to primary care and the key role healthcare professionals have in prevention health promotion, early diagnosis, disease management and integrated physical and mental care. In addition to that, it also recommends the introduction at both EU and national level of incentives for making rare specialities attractive for doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, pharmacists, paramedics and other medical or non-medical/healthcare professionals who complete advanced education and training pathways, including in emergency situations and in areas that are difficult to cover, such as the many medical deserts across the EU.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION OPENS INVESTIGATION IN RELATION TO ALIGN TECHNOLOGY

The European Commission has opened a formal antitrust investigation to assess whether Align Technology (headquartered in the USA) has breached EU competition rules by tying its intra-oral scanners to its dental clear aligners branded as Invisalign in the European Economic Area. This investigation, which follows a complaint by a competitor, is the **first formal antitrust investigation in the medical devices sector**. The Commission is looking further into whether Align Technology may have unfairly leveraged its market-leading Invisalign clear aligners, by effectively forcing dental professionals to purchase the iTero scanner if they wish to order Invisalign for their patients.

The CED is monitoring this case and will keep its members updated with relevant information. Find out more about the investigation in the European Commission [Press release](#) on the topic.



ORAL HEALTH



The WG Oral Health will hold its next meeting on 21st September.

PREVENTION AND OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA

The group has been pursuing its work around Oral Health Promotion and Oral Disease Prevention in Europe is starting discussions around Obstructive Sleep Apnea.

SUGAR AND NUTRITION

The WG is currently preparing a lobbying package on sugar and improving general wellbeing, aimed at supporting national dental associations in their advocacy efforts on social and commercial determinants of health. This work will also contribute to advocacy around anticipated national-level initiatives to strengthen prevention under the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan.

An ongoing global investigation has, so far, found 235 lawsuits filed from the side of the sugar and food industry that challenge national policies targeting unhealthy foods in five different countries, since 2010. The interesting article diving into this topic can be found [here](#).

TOBACCO

The WG is closely following the developments of the revision of the EU Tobacco legislation.

A worrying development on this issue was the postponement of the vote and planned adoption of the Tobacco Tax Directive, originally scheduled for 16 July and subsequently postponed to 14 September. The approval of the text was [once again delayed](#) and is now scheduled for discussion at the meeting of the Finance Ministers (Economic and Financial Affairs Council, ECOFIN) on 9 November. This is, among others, explained by the blockage of the text by Sweden, due to national concerns and priorities around snus, and the recent Swedish national election on 13 September, as well as [divided positions in the European Parliament Hemicycle](#).

On the topic of tobacco industry interference, the [WHO recently published an insightful global report](#) in May highlighting the marketing tactics and strategies driving the worldwide growth of nicotine pouches. The report is particularly relevant in the context of the tobacco industry's ongoing lobbying efforts surrounding the revision of the Tobacco Products Directive and the Tobacco Advertising Directive, as well as the strong pressure being exerted on Member States ahead of the second vote on the Tobacco Taxation Directive on the 14 September.

As an encouraging national development, Spain is currently examining the update of [national legislation to expand smoke-free areas](#) to restaurant terraces, beaches, collective-use swimming pools, sports facilities and outdoor spaces.

Another positive news on the topic includes the opening of an official inquiry by the [EU Ombudswoman into the Commission trade department's interactions with tobacco lobbyists](#).

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

WG Chair, Vasileios Stathopoulos participated in an online Policy Café hosted by the European Dental Students' Association (EDSA) on 18 July. The session opened discussions around Oral Health Policy, Prevention and European Collaboration.

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PATIENT SAFETY, INFECTION CONTROL, SUSTAINABILITY

PROTECTION FROM IONIZING RADIATION

The WG worked on and developed a questionnaire on the topic of Protection from Ionizing Radiation: At the latest meeting, the Chair addressed the rapid expansion of Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) across various dental fields, noting its higher radiation output compared to standard imaging. A discussion followed regarding the necessary qualifications and training required to operate these units. A CBCT questionnaire was prepared at WG level, and it was then shared with all CED members, collecting replies from 23 countries.

The WG will discuss the topic further at its **upcoming meeting on 1 October**.

CB

MEDICAL DEVICES AND DENTAL MATERIALS

MEDICAL DEVICE REGULATION

On December 16, 2025, the European Commission proposed a targeted legislative revision to drastically simplify the Medical Devices Regulation (MDR) and In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation (IVDR). The CED provided a reply to the published proposal on the Have Your Say portal. We also provided a set of amendments in relation to the European Parliament report on the legislation, aimed at streamlining market availability, reducing bureaucratic duplication, and ensuring that healthcare professionals such as dentists are kept well-informed in the event of potential medical device shortages.

Currently, the proposal is at European Parliament and Council level. A draft report on it has been published by the Parliament, through its Public Health (SANT) Committee rapporteur. The Parliament introduced a large number of amendments (over 800). The Council, representing EU Member State governments, is evaluating the file through its Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices.

The WG DMMD will discuss this and related topics at its **upcoming meeting on 6 October**.

E-HEALTH

DIGITAL OMNIBUS ON DATA

The European Union's Digital Omnibus proposal on data is currently under negotiation between the European Parliament and the Council, with final adoption not expected before late 2026 or 2027. The EP is also awaiting a formal impact assessment report. Over the coming months, the rapporteurs will negotiate "compromise amendments" to synthesize the hundreds of changes submitted by different political factions.

EUROPEAN HEALTH DATA SPACE – SEMANTIC INTEROPERABILITY

The CED received a request to reply to a consultation prepared on behalf of the European Commission's DG SANTE and HaDEA, as part of the project "Support Centre for the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EEHRxF) and for the Interoperability and Security of Electronic Health Record Systems". WG eHealth prepared a reply.

The project aims to provide implementation support for the adoption and interoperability of EHR systems across Europe in line with the European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation. The survey focuses on semantic interoperability and data harmonisation as essential foundations for meaningful, consistent and clinically safe cross-border EHR exchange. The input collected will support the identification of priority gaps, effective practices and concrete needs for tools, guidance and capacity-building in this area.

The overall objective is to examine how healthcare organisations and ecosystem actors manage clinical terminologies, structured data and data transformations, and to identify practical challenges related to semantic alignment, terminology mapping, multilingual complexity and data quality.

The WG will discuss this and other relevant topics at its **upcoming meeting on 15 October**.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The WG will hold its next meeting on 13 October.



Image courtesy by the European Commission

PUBLICATION OF THE FAIR LABOUR MOBILITY PACKAGE AND THE SKILLS PORTABILITY INITIATIVE

An extensive legislative package, the so-called "[Fair Labour Mobility Package](#)", composed of 5 major legislative proposals, was published on Tuesday 15 September by the European Commission.

This package incorporates the long-awaited [Skills Portability Initiative](#), disclosed in March 2025. This initiative spans across three of the five legislative proposals published Tuesday. All three proposals are expected to have effects on the dental sector. Further developments on these files and the adoption

processes for these legislative proposals will be closely followed by the WG. The three legislative proposals include:

- A proposal for a Regulation, the “[Skills Portability Act](#)”, introducing and improving tools for issuing digital qualifications and digital credentials (including through the future [EU Digital Wallet](#)), thereby facilitating the comparability of qualifications across the EU.
- The proposal for the [revision of the Professional Qualifications’ Directive \(PQD\)](#). This revision does not open-up any amendments of core provisions relating to the minimum training requirements of dental practitioners. Rather, it’s revision seeks to achieve two goals, namely, to expand the automatic recognition system to other regulated professions through future Common Training Frameworks (CTF), starting with the integration of physiotherapists into the scope of the Directive. Further professions are to be considered, including considerations to establish CTFs for nurses and healthcare assistants.
Secondly, this regulatory revision also includes amendments to help accelerate digitalise recognition processes for established regulated professions under the Directive, as well as accelerating and encouraging the use of both existing digital tools and new AI technology. The goal of this revision is untimely the cut processing times, reduce documentation requirements, reduce the need for certified translations, help prove authenticity of documents and prevent fraud, and accelerate the automatic recognition of EU qualifications.
- The proposal for a [Directive on the recognition of qualifications of third-country nationals](#). This proposal seeks to establish a common legal framework for recognising the qualifications of third-country nationals and for simplifying and harmonising the recognition process of third-country qualifications. Adopted measures would apply to third-country nationals already residing in a Member State, third-country nationals seeking for a recognition of their qualifications through legal migration pathways, as well as for EU citizens holding equivalent third-country qualifications. As suggested measures, the Directive suggests the establishment of common standards for recognising third-country qualifications, the avoidance and elimination of duplicate steps and multiple fees and the merge of similar procedures, the acceleration of processing times from 14 to under 4 months, supporting Member States for the establishment of services assessing the authenticity of third-country qualifications, as well as the authorisation of pre-approved qualifications that would be eligible for automatic recognition. This last measure also considers the establishment of European quality assurance agencies for the delivery and oversight of accreditations towards training institutions in third country, which would then be entitled to deliver qualifications falling under the scope of automatic recognition, as introduced by this Directive.

These proposals therefore aim to simplify EU rules and obstacles to facilitate worker mobility by increasing the portability of qualifications and skills across the EU, as well as facilitate and accelerate the recognition and attraction of qualified third-country nationals onto the EU market. This concerns particularly the relevant regulated professional qualifications that have established common training frameworks and that experience current acute workforce shortages across EU countries.

The European Commission does currently classify the dental profession as a sector experiencing “severe shortages”, which makes dentistry potentially fall under the scope of measures aiming to facilitate and accelerate the recognition of third-country qualifications under the proposed [Directive](#).

As background information, prior to the launch of the package of legislative proposals, a [report](#) was recently published in August evaluating the key findings following the publication of the implementation report on the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC).

As published by the European Commission, these legislative proposals will now be considered for amendments and adoption by the European Parliament and the Council. A foreseen timeline for the rapid enforcement of this legislative package was also disclosed by the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – ADEE and EDSA GENERAL MEETINGS



As mentioned further above, WG Chair Katalin Nagy attended both the ADEE and EDSA General Meetings in Budapest in Hungary from the 25-28 August.

The participation of the Chair in discussions relating to the structure, content, and vision of European undergraduate dental education was the opportunity to open-up the conversation around various Working Group priority topics, including on the separation of dental from medical studies, discrepancies across Europe regarding the content of studies and, particularly, existing requirements and oversight of practical and clinical training, competences and titles, the recognition of undergraduate dental qualifications, and accreditation.

CED also had the opportunity to learn more about ADEE's ongoing and future work and priorities, and to contribute to discussions on quality assurance of clinical undergraduate placements, the international policy framework for the use of artificial intelligence in student assessment, and ongoing work on the Graduating European Dentists (GED) curriculum framework. Discussions also covered the GRADUATE stakeholder project, which aims to guide the renewal of dentistry through unified approaches to training and education, the MOLAR project, and other initiatives.

CED's participation in the event is always positive in strengthening links with ADEE, as well as with other colleagues and partner organisations that attended the event.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY CED MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

The purpose of this section is to promote topics or updates from events from our members that would be of interest to the rest of the CED membership base. Please share your suggestions and ideas for topics you would like us to consider adding for the upcoming editions by emailing ced@cedentists.eu

HUNGARY

Message on behalf of the Hungarian Dental Association:



"SymposiumSzed 2027 – Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence"

22–24 April 2027 | Szeged, Hungary

In 2027, **SymposiumSzed** celebrates its **20th anniversary**, marking two decades of bringing internationally renowned experts and world-leading clinicians to Hungary and creating a unique forum for scientific exchange, education and professional networking.

For this special jubilee edition, we will aim to bring together an exceptional faculty of distinguished international speakers, including many long-standing colleagues and friends who have contributed to the spirit and success of SymposiumSzed over the years. The two-day scientific programme will address innovative and clinically relevant topics across contemporary dentistry, complemented by an extensive professional exhibition and opportunities to discover the latest technologies, products and developments in dental care.

The main congress will be preceded by a dedicated **Prevention Day for dental hygienists and the wider dental team**, together with several small-group hands-on courses offering practical, interactive learning opportunities.

The 20th SymposiumSzed will celebrate not only twenty years of scientific excellence, but also the international professional relationships, collaboration and friendship that have shaped the meeting since its foundation.



Save the date and join us in Szeged for this very special anniversary edition.

***Symposium Szeged 2027
22–24 April 2027 | Szeged, Hungary***

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CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech dentistry - reform, skill mix and new workforce challenges: The summer of 2026 brought an unusually intensive debate on the future of primary dental care in the Czech Republic. A Ministry of Health working group is discussing access to care, prevention, workforce planning and a new division of tasks within the dental team. The Czech Dental Chamber strongly supports broader delegation: their own legislative proposals would allow dental hygienists, dental assistants and other team members to perform substantially more clinical tasks, including selected procedures in prosthodontics, orthodontics and restorative dentistry. However, they firmly defend the principle of **one dental team led by a dentist**, with diagnosis, treatment planning and overall clinical responsibility remaining with the dentist.

The workforce is already changing rapidly. In 2024, the Czech health system recorded **8,811 dentists and 1,718 active dental hygienists**; the number of active hygienists increased by 6.25% in one year. The reform debate therefore increasingly focuses not simply on producing more professionals, but on using the existing workforce more effectively. A national programme aiming to provide oral-health and dental-hygiene education to virtually **100% of children** has also been proposed. Another Czech proposal is to create reliable data on patients genuinely unable to find a dentist, so that access problems can be identified district by district rather than estimated from anecdotal reports.

A more controversial trend concerns dentists trained outside the EU. According to current Czech Dental Chamber information, **more than 100 dentists have already received permits to undertake “professional practice on invitation” without prior recognition of professional competence**, formally under direct professional supervision. Czech law allows such temporary practice without recognition of qualification; the Ministry describes it explicitly as professional practice for gaining experience under direct supervision. The mechanism was politically promoted as a way to improve access to dental care. In practice, however, the Chamber observes that it has predominantly benefited larger commercial providers rather than underserved areas, raising concerns that it may serve business interests more effectively than its declared public-health objective. For this reason, abolition of the current “practice on invitation” mechanism is among the Chamber’s legislative proposals.

At the same time, the Chamber is increasingly concerned about a parallel market of unregistered or only partially compliant, predominantly cash-based dental services. This creates not only unfair competition for fully regulated practices but also questions of professional accountability, continuity of care and patient safety.

Finally, September brought a much more positive milestone: **Prague was host to the FDI World Dental Congress 2026**, giving the Czech dental profession an exceptional opportunity to combine the domestic reform debate with the latest international developments.

GERMANY

Attracting Talent, Protecting Patients: Europe's Challenge

The European Commission's Skills Portability Initiative, launched on 15 September 2026, was a key topic at the 21st European Day of the German Dental Association (BZÄK), held in Berlin on 8 July 2026. Under the title *"Recognition Without Borders? Securing Skilled Professionals Between the Single Market and Patient Protection,"* experts from politics, academia and the dental profession explored how Europe can make it easier to attract and recognise qualified professionals while maintaining high standards of patient care.

CED Board Member and BZÄK President Dr Romy Ermler welcomed the European Commission's plans to make recognition procedures more digital, transparent and efficient. At the same time, she emphasised the importance of maintaining robust standards for professional qualifications and patient safety.

Particular attention was given to the careful assessment of qualifications obtained outside the EU and to sufficient language skills, both essential for safe and high-quality dental care. Participants, including CED President Dr Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg, agreed that international professionals are an important part of addressing Europe's skills shortages. However, faster recognition procedures should go hand in hand with broader measures, including reducing bureaucracy, expanding training opportunities, improving career prospects and strengthening prevention. Artificial intelligence could also support more efficient assessment and administrative processes. The discussions highlighted a shared goal: making Europe more attractive and efficient for skilled professionals while continuing to ensure high standards of professional competence and patient safety.



From left to right: Moderator Niels Reith; BZÄK Vice President Dr Doris Seiz; Arne Franke, BDA; BZÄK President Dr Romy Ermler; Robert-Martin Montag, health policy spokesperson of the liberal party; Dr Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg, CED President, BZÄK Vice President Dr. Ralf Hausweiler

Foto credit: ©BZÄK/Tobias Koch

LITHUANIA



Image courtesy of the Lithuanian Dental Chamber.

Oral health in Lithuania: from research to implementation: the project „Oral Health Strategy in Lithuania“ aims not only to improve oral health literacy and oral health related behavior, but also to identify preventive measures that could become a sustainable part of the national oral health policy. The project places particular emphasis on children, rural areas, people with special needs, and primary health care.

Does Lithuania need this project? This project is a continuation of the National Epidemiological Oral Health Survey in Lithuania which was carried out in 2017 – 2019. A total of 1,405 adults and 1,246 children were examined. The survey found poor oral health across all age groups in the country: most adults and children had dental caries and gingivitis; erosive tooth wear and periodontitis were also prevalent among adults. A substantial proportion of children and adolescents, especially those residing in rural areas, had a high treatment need for dental caries.

The survey also highlighted limited knowledge about proper oral hygiene, the selection of appropriate oral care products, the benefits of fluoride, periodontal diseases, and the

influence of nutrition on oral health.

Therefore, the essence of the current project is to move from identifying the problem to oral disease prevention and testing practical solutions.

A system-wide approach: the project was initiated by the Lithuanian Dental Chamber in collaboration with the Vilnius University Institute of Dentistry and other partners. The project is funded by the Borrow Foundation and the Lithuanian Dental Chamber.

Key targets of the project:

- oral health education for the population;
- education of caregivers of children and adults with special needs;
- training of family physicians, midwives, social workers, and public health workers;
- a school-based oral health promotion program in Lithuanian schools, particularly in rural areas.

Reaching those who are harder to reach: one of the key components of the project is a web-based oral health initiative. It targets adults, pregnant women, people aged 65 and over, parents of school-age children, and caregivers of people with special needs. Particular attention is given to rural areas, where the previous survey showed poorer oral health outcomes.

The web-based educational initiative covers oral hygiene promotion, the use of fluoride, the selection of appropriate oral health care products, nutrition, the risks associated with tobacco and alcohol use, oral cancer, and other relevant topics.



It is expected that this intervention will help improve daily oral health behaviors, understanding of quality oral health care products, personal oral hygiene skills, and awareness of common risk factors for poor oral and general health.

Focus on people with special needs: a separate project target is dedicated to caregivers of children and adults with special needs. The aim is not only to improve caregivers' knowledge and skills, but ultimately to also improve the oral health of the people they care for.

This is an important part of the project because oral health care for people who require daily assistance due to disabilities, chronic diseases, or other reasons often depends on the knowledge and skills of their caregivers.

Oral health – not only in the dental office: another important project target is integrating oral health into primary health care and the daily work of other health professionals. The project aims to organize continuous education courses for family physicians, midwives, social workers, and public health workers.

The aim is for these professionals to be better at recognizing oral diseases and risks, to strengthen prevention and identify early signs of general health conditions that manifest in the oral cavity.

School-based study: what works best? One of the most ambitious part of the project is a three-year educational program in Lithuanian schools. Its aim is not only to improve children's oral health, but also to determine which intervention model is the most effective and cost- efficient.

A key element of the study is regular, supervised toothbrushing at school. It was coordinated by different professionals:

- dental hygienists;
- public health workers, employed at schools;
- school teachers.

This was intended to answer a very practical question: who can ensure effective and financially sustainable oral health prevention in schools?

Benefits for Lithuania: the significance of the project for Lithuania is primarily linked to the opportunity to turn scientific data into practical, evidence-based preventive measures.

If the school-based program proves effective and economically justified, the project team anticipates that it could provide a basis for a sustainable and relatively cheap preventive program that could be integrated into the national oral health policy framework. This means that the project outcome could be not only the findings of a specific study, but also a practical model that could be applied on a broader scale.

The project results are currently being summarized.

Other initiatives of the Lithuanian Dental Chamber: in recent years, the Lithuanian Dental Chamber has also been actively implementing two other oral disease prevention program targeting people with disabilities and children from families experiencing social challenges.

Trained oral health professionals travel to different locations across Lithuania – both major cities and rural areas – and provide participants with both theoretical and practical knowledge about oral health care, the selection of appropriate oral health care products, and their correct use.

In 2025 alone, the Lithuanian Dental Chamber organized nearly 140 oral disease prevention and health promotion events, attended by 1,945 people.

MALTA



Latest Dental Association of Malta Committee

Image courtesy of Dr David Muscat/Dental Association of Malta

This year so far the Dental Association of Malta has organised the following events:

- Celebration of the Feast of Saint Apollonia at the Dominican convent of Lunzjata Birgu and The Prince of Wales Band Club Birgu.
- Lecture on 'Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation' by Dr Audrey Camilleri sponsored by DAM and partly sponsored by Curmi and Partners.
- Lecture entitled 'Does Orthodontics cause or cure breathing problems' by Dr Mark Zammit Maempel sponsored by Kemimport.
- Lecture on 'Intravenous Sedation in Dental Practice' by Dr Mario Zerafa sponsored by Pro Health.
- CPD certification was given to an Academy of Dental Excellence Course on Posterior Composites by Dr Ann Meli Attard and Professor Subir Banerji sponsored by GC and Cherubino Ltd.
- CPD certification for an Anterior Composites course by Dr Daphne Rizzo sponsored by Ivoclar Vivadent and Bart Enterprises.
- An academic and practical hands on the use of Cone Beam CT- theoretical and practical training for dentists using CBCT by Professor Arthur Cortes is being held in October.
- A lecture on 'The use of Hyperbaric Oxygen in Dentistry' is planned for October.
- A Clay Pigeon Shooting event and a social dinner was organised. A boating event was planned but had to be postponed due to high winds.
- A Christmas Party is planned for 4th December 2026.
- A lecture by a Maxillo Facial surgeon is planned for early 2027

UPCOMING CED EVENTS

CED NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



The next CED General Meeting will take place at the airport Sheraton Hotel in Brussels on **Friday 27 November**.

Edited by CED Senior Policy Officer Nikoleta Arnaudova and Policy Officer Clara Luciani. For more information, ideas for contributions and other questions, please reach out to ced@cedentists.eu