



The Council of European Chief Dental Officers

PRESS RELEASE

Chief Dental Officers from all over Europe met in Bucharest

Bucharest, 15th May 2011 - The Council of European Chief Dental Officers (CECDO) spring-meeting 2011 took place in Bucharest from 13th to 15th May at the invitation of the Colegiul Medicilor Dentisti din Romania (Romanian Dental College).

The CECDO members were warmly welcomed by the Romanian Minister of Health's words transmitted by Prof. Dragos Stanciu, the Romanian member of CECDO, and by Dr. Ecaterina Ionescu, the Chairperson of the Romanian Dental College.

The first day of the meeting was devoted to the local situation and described the oral health care system in Romania, its professional bodies and its health politics. In addition, information on oral epidemiology, prevention and health promotion in Romania was also presented.

In the afternoon, the WHO view on Oral Health care in Europe was presented, followed by presentations of the private-public mix in oral health care in Romania. This topic was further discussed in the CECDO workshop on the second day. In European countries, there are different public-private mixes in dental care. In some countries, like Romania, a fundamental change has taken place in this mix over the last decade. It was agreed that as there is a public responsibility to cover part of oral health care, a mix is inevitable. The appropriate mix should be aligned with the oral health care provided by the respective country. Oral health is an integral part of general health; therefore oral health should be included in all health policies (following the *Health in All Policies – strategy*). Prevention was seen as one of the key areas of public responsibility.

Dr. Paul Boom, the President of CECDO presented the strategy of the Council for the coming years. To promote oral health in Europe, the following topics will be further developed: consensus on minimum standards for oral health care; oral health strategies (for defined groups); monitoring of dental team approaches in Europe; the necessary extent of dental specialisation; private vs public funding; strengthening liaisons on EU-level and supporting developing countries.

The CECDO is launching an Oral Health Promotion program in Romania, in Constanta and in Targu Mures. Dental students from both dental schools will coach the carers in Children's and Old people's homes who in turn will teach the children and/or old people oral hygiene and the importance of a tooth friendly diet. The CECDO invited partner organizations to join-in the project.

The CECDO thanks the Romanian Dental College (Colegiul Medicilor Dentisti din Romania) for hosting the Meeting. The next meeting will take place in Poland, from 6-8 October 2011.

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