



EUROPEAN DENTAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# EDSA POLICY PLAN

## 2022-2024



## EUROPEAN DENTAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

### 1. Advocacy & Representation

1.1 Safeguard and promote the rights and interests of dental students within the European geographic region (according to WHO definition).

1.1.1 Establish, develop and maintain relations with professional and academic authorities and institutions.

1.1.2 Represent EDSA members across the European geographic region, to authorities and institutions.

1.1.3 Promote dental students' views and opinions and raise any concerns on their behalf with regards to academic studies & clinical practice, in the European geographic region.

1.2 Advocate for improvements to Dental Education, Oral Health Policies, Public Health and Health Systems Strengthening.

1.2.1 Advocate for harmonisation of undergraduate dental curricula and equivalent amounts of dental clinical practice across universities in the European region.

1.2.2 Work in collaboration with regulators and academics to ensure that dental education across the European geographic region is maintained to a high standard.

1.2.3 Actively engage more dental students and healthcare professionals in the Association's work, with regards to improving the quality of dental education at an undergraduate level and the future of the dental profession at a European and International level.



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1.3 Develop initiatives and collaborations to empower dental students to be engaged in championing Oral Health, shape Dental Education and Workforce Development and any future projects relating to dentistry and improving Oral Health in Europe and Worldwide.

1.3.1 Increase awareness of current affairs in relation to dentistry and oral health at a European level.

1.3.2 Create high-quality evidence-based policy papers highlighting the Association's stance on different current topics affecting dentistry at a European level.

1.3.3 Equip dental students with skills on how to engage with politics of public health and formulate policy.

1.3.4 Organise and run training events on how to write policy papers at online and in-person meetings.

1.3.5 Promote and organise mobility projects to strengthen interprofessional collaboration and provide a platform for the exchange of ideas, as well as clinical and academic experiences between international dental students.

## 2. Networking & Collaboration

2.1 Facilitate a network that allows collaboration between European dental schools and dental students.

2.1.1 Encourage debates and discussions amongst the Association's members led by democratic principles.



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2.2 Provide a platform for the formulation and exchange of dental students' opinions, thoughts and proposals.

2.2.1 Provide a platform for members and national delegates to regularly voice their opinions during online and in-person EDSA meetings and assemblies.

2.2.2 Allow members to take action and recommend changes within the Association by proposing motions.

2.3 Promote Interprofessional Collaboration on Oral Health Policies, Public Health initiatives and campaigns aimed at improving Dental Education.

2.3.1 Engage in the European Healthcare Students' Associations' Summit and enhance interprofessional collaboration in healthcare.

2.3.2 Maintain contact with current partner organisations and further establish new partnerships with organisations who share similar visions and missions to EDSA, in order to promote interprofessional collaboration.

2.4 Actively seek new collaborations with stakeholders that share common aims and interests.

2.4.1 Maintain existing partnerships and establish new partnerships with authorities, associations and organisations that promote oral health and have the potential to offer educational support to dental students and young professionals.



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2.5 Ensure EDSA's involvement and representation in conferences and meetings across the European region and internationally.

2.5.1 Promote EDSA representation at conferences and events organised by partner organisations, when feasible, where the Association's aims and interests are advocated.

### 3. Access & Inclusivity

3.1 Constitute an active student community by encouraging cooperation between dental students' associations

3.1.1 Serve as a platform for empowerment and effective collaboration between national, regional and local associations.

3.1.2 Promote and support the development of new associations on a national, regional and local level, in alignment with the aims and objectives of EDSA.

3.1.3 Support the development of national dental students' associations by organising regular training sessions for students to educate them on how to run associations and how to initiate projects in their countries, universities and communities.

3.1.4 Encourage students to organise mobility projects in their respective countries and universities whilst further enhancing cooperation amongst local, regional and national dental students' associations.



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3.2 Enhance the participation of EDSA members and dental students throughout Europe in EDSA projects and events.

3.2.1 Actively encourage the engagement of dental students and healthcare professionals in the Association's work via social media platforms and non-profit promotion campaigns.

3.2.2 Increase the number of EDSA country members, across the European geographic region.

3.3 Respect, promote and strengthen equality amongst all students regardless of their background, religion, race, gender, sexual orientation or any other element of identity.

3.3.1 Develop a new Code of Conduct outlining the rules, responsibilities and proper practises expected of an individual party or an organisation affiliated with EDSA.

## 4. Student Involvement & Opportunities

4.1 Encourage and promote mobility projects within the European geographic region amongst dental students.

4.1.1 Increase awareness of mobility projects applicable to dental students through social media campaigns and relevant non-profit promotional activity.

4.1.2 Organise mobility projects and facilitate the exchange of ideas and clinical skills between faculties and student communities from different countries.



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- 4.1.3 Inform delegates via email of available and upcoming mobility projects so they can promote them through their associations.
  - 4.1.4 Coordinate the effective organisation of mobility projects with the respective Local Organising Committee.
- 4.2 Promote and increase the availability of research opportunities amongst dental students.
- 4.2.1 Promote evidence-based dentistry and its application in clinical practice.
  - 4.2.2 Establish and distribute an EDSA Research Newsletter to increase the exposure of new relevant research and feature the research efforts and accomplishments of European dental students.
  - 4.2.3 Create and promote opportunities for dental students to get involved in research projects on a national and international level.
  - 4.2.4 Create opportunities for dental students to present and showcase their research work and projects via the EDSA Magazine and Newsletter.
  - 4.2.5 Evaluate the attitudes, interests and involvement of European dental students in research.
- 4.3 Promote and increase the availability of volunteering opportunities for European dental students.
- 4.3.1 Raise awareness on global health issues, issues of minority population groups and ethicality of volunteering in communities.
  - 4.3.2 Ensure that only ethical and sustainable volunteering is being facilitated by EDSA.



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4.4 Involve students in open discussions about public health, clinical practice and research topics.

- 4.4.1 Encourage roundtable discussions on a plethora of healthcare-related topics, involving healthcare professionals and dental students, during in-person and online EDSA meetings.
- 4.4.2 Publish and circulate the EDSA Magazine twice a year, giving dental students the opportunity to write an evidence-based article on topics related to contemporary news about dentistry and oral health.
- 4.4.3 Publish dental-related news on the EDSA website, giving students the opportunity to voice their opinions and participate in open discussions on topics related to dentistry.
- 4.4.4 Organise a research competition twice a year, to allow students to present their research to the dental student community and academics, thus facilitating and promoting the involvement of students in research activities.
- 4.4.5 Organise EDSA trainings on a number of topics such as public speaking, introduction to research and social media strategy, that will support dental students in their long-term professional development.





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### 5. Health Promotion

#### 5.1 Promote Oral Health throughout the European geographic region.

- 5.1.1 Develop and promote oral health campaigns via the Association's social media platforms.
- 5.1.2 Organise and promote prevention campaigns to raise awareness of the significance of oral health and the impact of oral health diseases.
- 5.1.3** Collaborate with national, regional and local associations on strengthening cost-effective population-wide oral health promotion.
- 5.1.4 Collaborate with partner organisations to highlight the importance of oral health as part of overall healthcare.
- 5.1.5 Support projects related to improving overall oral health for patients.

#### 5.2 Promote public health and dental health topics in the European Dental Students' Association Publications.

- 5.2.1 Educate students on oral health through publishing the evidence-based EDSA Magazine twice a year, where students and young dental professional writers can showcase studies on different dental topics.
- 5.2.2 Release EDSA Newsletters and EDSA Research Update newsletters, with contemporary information on dental topics and health promotion.
- 5.2.3 Publish health promotion articles, campaigns and press releases on the EDSA website and all official EDSA social media platforms.



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- 5.2.4 Host online webinars and promote public health messages to educate the dental community and public on pressing issues about dental health today.
  
- 5.3 Make sustainability one of EDSA key areas of importance and work towards the fulfilment of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - 5.3.1 Actively engage EDSA students in sustainability initiatives such as YSOH (Youth for Sustainable Oral Health).
  - 5.3.2 Inform dental students on environmental risks associated with the profession and practice of dentistry whilst supporting actions limiting the harm to the environment from the dental profession and industry.
  - 5.3.3 Ensure that all EDSA organised activities & projects are based on sustainable principles as far as reasonably practicable.
  - 5.3.4 Raise awareness of the need to implement sustainable actions in the dental community and promote education on environmentally sustainable oral healthcare e.g. in dental health supplies, equipment and energy-efficient changes in clinics.
  
- 5.4 Promote Mental Health amongst dental students.
  - 5.4.1 Implement strategies for the promotion of mental health and organise mental health campaigns.
  - 5.4.2 Promote mental health awareness and help-seeking behaviours.
  
- 5.5 Promote the importance of a holistic approach to oral health and the role of dental professionals in recognising intraoral signs of systemic conditions.
  - 5.5.1 Explain the role of dental professionals in the diagnostic process of systemic diseases.



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- 5.5.2 Educate students and young practitioners on recognising early signs of systemic conditions and raise awareness through campaigns on the various signs and symptoms of various medical conditions, aimed at the public and dental community.
- 5.5.3 Highlight the importance of oral health as part of the management of multiple systemic disorders and emphasise the importance of holistic care in dentistry.
- 5.5.4 Raise awareness of NOMA as a neglected tropical disease, via toolkits and EDSA prevention campaigns.

## 6. Operational Excellence in EDSA

- 6.1 Ensure and promote transparency and sustainability in the financial management of the Association.
  - 6.1.1 Initiate new collaborations and strengthen existing partnerships with sponsors and donors to enhance the financial sustainability of EDSA projects, activities and events.
  - 6.1.2 Record all transactions in a fiscal document.
  - 6.1.3 Store all money request forms, receipts and proof of transactions.
  - 6.1.4 Improve the transparency of the Association with regards to finances, by means of voting on a provisional budget.
  - 6.1.5 Maintain a balance between expenditures and income to ensure the sustainable functioning of the Association.
- 6.2 Maintain and promote a healthy environment within EDSA that facilitates excellence, cooperation and motivation.
  - 6.2.1 Develop and enforce the code of conduct and a zero-tolerance policy for misconduct.



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- 6.2.2 Organise team-building activities and EDSA Board training activities to strengthen team spirit, enhance motivation, ensure complete understanding of the organisation's inner workings across members of the board and improve effective communication.
- 6.2.3 Organise regular online, and when possible, in-person meetings to ensure active engagement of all members of the Board of Directors and officers in EDSA activities and projects.
- 6.2.4 Facilitate effective internal communication between the EDSA Board, EDSA Supervisory Board and National Delegates. Educate all parties on the function and application of online platforms utilised for communication between Boards and National Delegates.
- 6.2.5 Develop time management tools to ensure efficient internal discussions and timely communication.
- 6.2.6 Organise regular training activities for the Board of Directors and Officers, led by the Training Officer, to ensure ongoing improvement and engagement of all EDSA board members.
- 6.2.7 Ensure meaningful engagement of national delegates in EDSA activities and projects.
- 6.2.8 Establish a well-structured, organised and easily accessible electronic cloud of all EDSA documentation.