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European Dental
Students' Association

EDSA POLICY PLAN 2025-2027

European Dental Students' Association

March 2025

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1. Advocacy & Representation

1.1. *Safeguarding and Promoting Rights*

- 1.1.1 EDSA commits to advocating for the rights and interests of dental students within the European geographical region (according to WHO definition), ensuring their voices are recognized in dental education as well as clinical practice.
- 1.1.2 Establish and cultivate relationships with professional organizations, educational institutions, and regulatory bodies to facilitate effective representation of dentistry students, in the European Geographical region.

1.2. *Aim for Improvements in Dental Education, Public Health and Oral Health Promotion*

- 1.2.1 Advocate for harmonization of dental education across Europe, by ensuring similar curricula and clinical practice hours exist to ensure equity in education and training.
- 1.2.2 Engage with academic regulators and healthcare stakeholders to maintain and elevate educational standards, ensuring that all dental students receive high-quality education and training.

1.3. *Empowering and engaging Students*

- 1.3.1 Increase awareness of current affairs in relation to dentistry and oral health at a European level.
- 1.3.2 Develop comprehensive initiatives aiming at offering dental students the required skills to champion oral health and influence the future of dental education and workforce development.
- 1.3.3 Organize webinars, podcasts, and trainings focused on health policy engagement and the formulation of evidence-based policies relevant to dentistry.
- 1.3.4 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. *Building Collaborative Networks*

- 2.1.1 Facilitate the establishment of networks that encourage collaboration among European dental schools and students, fostering a culture of shared learning.
- 2.1.2 Promote democratic discussions and debates within the organization, on critical issues affecting dental education and practice.

- 2.1.3. Provide a platform for members and national delegates to regularly voice their opinions during online and in-person EDSA meetings and assemblies.
- 2.1.4. Allow members to take action and recommend changes within the Association by proposing motions.

2.2. *Strengthening Partnerships*

- 2.2.1. Actively seek and nurture interprofessional collaboration with relevant organizations in healthcare including health organizations, educational institutions, and other professional associations that share EDSA's vision.
- 2.2.2. Ensure EDSA's presence and influence at conferences and meetings to advocate effectively for the interests of dental students.
- 2.2.3. Maintain contact with current partner organisations and further establish new partnerships with organisations
- 2.2.4. Actively seek new collaborations with stakeholders that share common aims and interests.

3. Access & Inclusivity

3.1. *Promoting Student Community Active Engagement*

- 3.1.1. Support the formation and expansion of national and regional dental student associations to create effective platforms for cooperation and resource sharing.
- 3.1.2. Serve as a platform for empowerment and effective collaboration between national, regional and local associations.
- 3.1.3. Encourage students to organise mobility projects in their respective countries and universities whilst further enhancing cooperation amongst local, regional and national dental students' associations.
- 3.1.4. Actively encourage the engagement of dental students and healthcare professionals in the Association's work via social media platforms and non-profit promotion campaigns.
- 3.1.5. Increase the number of EDSA country members, across the European geographic region.
- 3.1.6. Creation of a "Starter Pack" that acting as a simplified guide will ensure a smooth transition of new members to the constitution, aim and code of conduct of our organization.

3.2. *Respect Diversity and Equity*

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

4. Student Involvement & Opportunities

4.1. *Facilitating Mobility Projects*

- 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.
- 4.1.3. Streamline the communication process regarding available mobility project opportunities and coordinate effectively with local organizing committees to ensure successful outcomes.
- 4.1.4. Creation of a "Mobility Project Starter Pack" to assist interested countries and local organising committees in the coordination of the project.

4.2. *Expanding Research Opportunities*

- 4.2.1. Advocate for increased access to research opportunities in the field of dentistry, promoting initiatives that align with evidence-based practices.
- 4.2.2. Create platforms such as newsletters, podcasts and magazines that showcase student research, highlight advancements in dental studies, and increase visibility for student contributions.
- 4.2.3. 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.
- 4.2.4. 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. *Enhancing Volunteering Initiatives*

- 4.3.1. Ensure that only ethical and sustainable volunteering is being facilitated by EDSA.
- 4.3.2. Promote awareness regarding the ethical considerations of volunteering and guide students in engaging in sustainable practices that benefit both communities and their professional development.

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4.4. Survey Groups

- 4.4.1. EDSA will create dedicated survey groups composed of diverse members from various dental schools and regions to facilitate comprehensive data collection and insight generation.
- 4.4.2. Survey groups will focus on specific themes, including academic satisfaction, clinical training experiences, mental health, and the effectiveness of existing EDSA initiatives.

4.5. Involve students in other activities

- 4.5.1. 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.
- 4.5.2. 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.
- 4.5.3. 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.

5. Health Promotion

5.1. Advocating for Oral Health Awareness

- 5.1.1 Design and implement campaigns that prioritize oral health education across social media and community programs, underscoring the importance of preventive care and awareness of oral health conditions.
- 5.1.2 Collaborate with national, regional, and local associations to expand the scope of health promotion initiatives and leverage collective resources.
- 5.1.3 Collaborate with partner organisations to highlight the importance of oral health as part of overall healthcare.
- 5.1.4 Support projects related to improving overall oral health for patients.

5.2. Commitment to Sustainability

- 5.2.1. Incorporate sustainable practices into EDSA's activities and projects, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 5.2.2. 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.
- 5.2.3. Ensure that all EDSA organised activities & projects are based on sustainable principles as far as reasonably practicable.

5.3. *Highlight Importance of Mental Health*

- 5.3.1. Integrate mental health awareness into EDSA's initiatives, promoting resources and strategies to support the mental well-being of dental students.
- 5.3.2. Promote mental health awareness and help-seeking behaviours.

6. Operational Excellence in EDSA

6.1. *Financial Transparency*

- 6.1.1. Ensure accountability and transparency in EDSA's financial management by establishing clear guidelines for budgeting, funding allocation, and financial reporting.
- 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
- 6.1.6. Develop strategic partnerships with sponsors and organizations to secure funding for EDSA's initiatives, ensuring long-term sustainability and impact.

6.2. *Promoting a Healthy Organizational Culture*

- 6.2.1. Foster an environment conducive to collaboration and motivation among EDSA board members, delegates and participants
- 6.2.2. Enforce the code of conduct and a zero-tolerance policy for misconduct.
- 6.2.3. Implement regular assessment mechanisms to gauge member satisfaction and address any areas of concern to ensure a vibrant and engaged organizational culture.
- 6.2.4. 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.
- 6.2.5. Develop time management tools to ensure efficient internal discussions and timely communication.

6.3. Documentation

- 6.3.1. Establish a comprehensive digital repository for all EDSA documentation, ensuring that members have easy access to resources, meeting notes, and policy documents.

6.4. Capacity Building and Training

- 6.4.1. Organize training sessions for board members and volunteers to enhance their skills in leadership, project management, and effective communication.
- 6.4.2. Provide educational resources and mentorship opportunities to empower members to take on active roles within the organization and the broader dental community.
- 6.4.3. 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.
- 6.4.4. 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.

7. Conclusion

The EDSA Policy Plan for 2025–2027 outlines our commitment to advocating for dental students across Europe while prioritizing collaborative efforts, inclusivity, and equity. By focusing on empowerment, sustainable practices, and effective representation, EDSA aims to create a supportive environment in which dental students can thrive, innovate, and contribute to the future of the dental profession.



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