



Country Report: AIDI's activity

More than 40 years have passed since February 18, 1981, the founding date of the Italian Dental Hygienists Association (AIDI), a time period that allows us to articulate a serene and mature assessment of the path undertaken with an overall framework of considerable professional depth.

The legal process that has led to the full recognition of the ID figure in these forty years has been complex and articulated and AIDI has promoted and was the protagonist of the various phases.

From the beginning, among the objectives of the association there was the regulation and definition of the figure of the dental hygienist, who gradually took on a very specific profile and connotation for the protection and promotion of the development of the profession, both from a scientific and a political point of view by interacting with the government and institutions.

To crown an intense journey, from 2 August 2017 pursuant to the relative ministerial decree, AIDI is fully listed among the Technical-Scientific Associations accredited by the Ministry of Health.

With the subsequent approval of law 3/2018, the profession in Italy has completed the legal process becoming a profession as well as regulated as well as ordered, with the establishment of the TSRM-PSTRP Order to which 19 health professions with their professional registers belong, including that of dental hygienists. An important goal for which AIDI has always fought as the most representative association of Italian dental hygienists, recognized by Ministerial Decree by the Ministry of Health and which provided, for its organization, an important technical-administrative support in the evaluation of applicants' qualifications and registration, through its representatives (RAMR) designated for each region.

This milestone is one of the most important goals achieved, as the Orders and the related national Federations are non-economic public corps that act as subsidiary bodies of the state in order to protect the public interests, guaranteed by the legal system, related to professional practice. They promote and ensure the independence, autonomy and responsibility of the health professions and professional practice, the technical-professional quality, the enhancement of the social function, the protection of human rights and the ethical principles of the professional exercise indicated in the codes deontological. They also verify the possession of qualifying qualifications for professional practice and take care of the keeping of professional registers.

Very briefly, AIDI's "mission" has always been to develop the value of the ID, and to promote the health of the oral cavity of the population with professionalism and competence, basing its activity on technical-value principles that take into account the personal experience of each assisted person.



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The strategy pursued is based on the promotion of a qualified professional preparation, on continuous updating, comparison and collaboration with scientific societies, health federations, Ministry of Health, Regions, Health Authorities, public health organizations and institutions. At the same time, international relationships of vital importance were built from a communicative and experiential point of view.

Given these assumptions, AIDI's "vision" translates into that of a healthcare professional who is the guardian of oral health and the overall well-being of the person, protecting both the assistant person and the dental hygienist. To achieve this goal, it has been committed for years, including in the battle against the scourge of illegal professionalism.

On a practical level, to carry out a coherent scientific mission, AIDI has also established a Study Center with the aim of transforming the dental hygienist into the handler for the prevention and treatment of oral health. The aims of the Study Center are coherent and integrated with those of AIDI, that is, how to collaborate with other scientific societies; develop training courses with high quality standards; support the high professionalism of the Dental Hygienist; foster the multidisciplinary nature of the profession; contribute to the formulation of ministerial guidelines and verify their implementation in clinical practice.

There are still many activities carried out by the association, including: professional protection through the establishment of a trade union (AIDI-PRO); professional update Continuing Education in Medicine; insurance agreements; promotion activities on the territory on the figure of the DH; volunteer projects. Furthermore AIDI has always collaborated with the universities in order to ensure that the degree courses possessed the required training requirements.

Each dental hygienist registered in the Register must demonstrate that he has carried out, through Continuing Education, the necessary updates and insights to be able to practice his profession and ensure adequate preparation.

To facilitate the achievement of this goal and facilitate professionals in addition to residential updating, AIDI offers free credits in FAD mode to all Members, in sufficient numbers to meet the training needs. As for residential updating, AIDI guarantees a wide choice, made possible thanks to a pyramidal work group that moves in a harmonious and synchronic way.

According to the AIDI Statute, it has a pyramidal structure with the apex represented by the national board of directors, composed of the President and 8 Councilors, 3 auditors and 3 arbitrators, while each region has a Regional Council, composed of a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 7 AIDI hygienist members, elected by the members of the region every three years. Each Regional Council is led by a President and operates on its own territory following the guidelines of the Board of Directors and the National Assembly, while maintaining its own decision-making and operational autonomy.



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There are currently 104 AIDI hygienists, who are part of the Regional Councils, Presidents included; a large group born from the need to represent and promote activity at the regional level, motivating the base of the members. From January to June 2022, 25 accredited events and webinars of high cultural depth were organized throughout Italy, and another 25 are expected by the end of the year.

In addition to the aforementioned actions, AIDI promotes constant involvement of young students enrolled in the association, coming from the 28 degree courses in Dental Hygiene throughout Italy, through an ambitious project, called UniversitAIDI Academy, which organizes various activities, from contests to awards, to many professionalizing technical-practical courses, aimed at offering future colleagues an overview that allows them to make the most appropriate choices for their future. Students are also involved in the development of the national day of the dental hygienist, which is celebrated every year, in October, in the major Italian squares and which lives online on a special area of the site, www.aiditalia.it, dedicated to citizens with specific contents aimed at promoting oral and general health, risk interception and the management of diseases and their complications. An APP-AIDI is being created to allow direct exchange between dental hygienist colleagues and to create a link with citizens.

We have traveled a long way to date, and many goals achieved, but the goal we are pursuing is the inclusion of the figure of Dental Hygienists in the public health context of the country, but above all the technical-scientific comparison with the professions of the healthcare world to create recommendations and best practices that allow the patient to be treated with an interdisciplinary approach.

Last but not least, AIDI has always worked to raise the figure of the ID through international comparison, thanks to its membership with the International Federation of Dental Hygienists and the European Dental Hygienists Federation. Federations that through exchange and sharing of resources, they have done and will do so much for the growth and evolution of the ID profession, under many aspects, including political and socio-cultural ones with the aim of leading them to ever higher quality levels.

And it is with this spirit of collaboration that we hope, in 2026, to be able to organize a ISDH that will bring together all the member countries under the Milan's sky.