



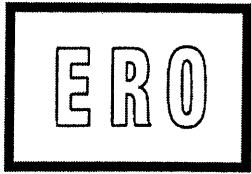
EGOHID Presentation at ERO Plenary Session, Greece, 11th June 2005

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Europäische Regionale Organisation
der Fédération Dentaire Internationale



ERO Plenary Session, 11th June 2005, Athens

European Global Oral Health Promotion and Prevention Scope, Purposes and Objectives

Professor Denis Bourgeois

In Europe, the impact of oral health is considerable, whether looking at the social consequences, the morbidity of oral diseases, and its impact on people's quality of life or its economic implications. Oral health plays a significant role in general health improvement. The argument in favor of developing a plan linked to oral health applied to community and individual prevention and health promotion within the European Community is based on an analysis of the current situation and the need to organize oral health system.

Despite the great achievements of oral health in European countries in the last 20 yrs, an unsolved and ongoing problem still remains. It is advanced that:

- *Minorities and deprived groups in many European countries have a high level and/of untreated diseases.* Therefore, the « traditional » preventive methods evidenced in most cases exhibit limitations among population groups with a high risk of tooth decay groups moreover poorly identified on the epidemiological level. These populations at high risk for tooth decay - perhaps not their only risk factor- the same populations for whom treatment is apparently difficult to come by. It is therefore necessary to identify alternative approaches if we wish to make progress. Getting rid of inequalities should be the primary purpose of the health system, whence the suggestion of innovative, integrated approaches.
- *The practice of dentistry has undergone several major changes over the last thirty years.* Disease integrated prevention, identification of risk and preventive factors, evaluation of health initiatives, and quality treatments have been required and progressively replaced by the concept of restorative dentistry (care). Inequalities in disease management are also to be considered in a context where preventive care and integrated approaches are variable and locally limited
- *Increasing cost which represents 4-8% of the total expenses in health.* The oral health care system in Europe has economic significance, thus the industrialized countries' clear policy, despite the disparities observed in health care expenses. Data for the OCDE is explicit.
- *Information in the oral health field is basically affected by the insufficient use of available data for planning, implementation, service management and evaluation and the inadequate quality of data produced.* New and complementary trends should be recommended and identified so as to improve the production of higher quality information in oral health surveillance. Standardized procedures should be developed and used.

Public health, and more specifically in the field of community prevention, promotion and surveillance development, is an area under the responsibility of Member States which preserve the quality the amount and the independence of the proposals and information to be made available to decision-makers. But in addition the involvement of new Member States with limited financing potential implies to promote new additional partnerships and collaboration to identify resources specifically in terms of communication, knowledge transfer. This aspect will allow for the establishment of cooperation with private sector services including DNA which will enable the identification of the necessary experience and resources to a successful project development

The main attempted output is a promotion of systematic identification and technical specifications of oral health promotion and will facilitate service specifications across area health services with a view to maintaining and improving performance and with the enhancement of the capacity to analyze the social, economic, behavioral and political determinants with particular reference to poor and disadvantaged populations.