

Summary of European CPD regulations by country

Country	Compulsory (since)	Requirements	Core topics	Providers & payment	Accreditation
Austria	No*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An obligation to participate in continuing education, but it is not proscribed as mandatory The dentist is free to choose the activity he wants to join in. (1) Since 1995, the Austrian dentists must be able to prove that they regularly attend continuing education activities. But so far no sanctions have been imposed. (2) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> universities, scientific societies, medical or pharmaceutical companies, national and international medical congresses (1) 	Can apply for a diploma of education from the Austrian Dental Chamber, by submitting the approvals of the different types of training he/she has completed during this period. (1)
Belgium	Yes (2002)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since June 2002 the requirement is 60 hours over 6 years. (1) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a minimum of 60 hours spread over six years, with a minimum of 20 hours per two-year period. Each cycle begins July 1 of the calendar year following the award of specific professional title of dentist or of the calendar year following the decision to maintain the professional special general dentist. burden of proof to the DG (without further precision) <p>Belgium - College of Dental general practice</p> <p>"Regarding training (requirement I), we must particularly remember the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 or more units on a 5-year cycle 10 units or more in each domain on a 5-year cycle, except the field 2 (50 units minimum), domain 3 (20 units minimum, for cycles beginning in 2010 and subsequent years), and the field 0 (no minimum) Minimum 60 units per year 160 units maximum per year taken into account (surplus units are allowed for requirements domains) maintain an average of 100 units or more per year over 5 year cycle" <p>(3)</p>	General medicine, radiology, prevention, practice management, conservative dentistry, orthodontics, prosthodontics (1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in Belgium by the Belgian system abroad by the foreign system (1)

Bulgaria	Yes (unknown)*	A minimum of 30 points is to be covered in 3 years. (1) Bulgarian government website: "All doctors [and dentists] are required to pursue continuing education in a minimum volume. Annually, by the end of March, doctors and dentists in regional colleges provide a statement of the previous year continuing education, accompanied by copies of documents in evidence of it. Doctors and dentists who do not meet the required volume of continuing education for a specified period of time may be withdrawn from listing on the subject by the MB" (4)		The CE is delivered by BgDA, or by other institutions, accredited by BgDA. (1)	A credit system has been introduced and administered by BgDA. (1)
Croatia	Yes (unknown)*	The requirement is 7 hours of formal training each year. (1) Croatian dental chamber: During a period of six years, the dentist is obliged to undergo professional training and acquire a sufficient number of points in the manner prescribed by the regulations of the Chamber (10 points per year - a total of 60 points). (5)		Courses are given by dental school staff and private organisers. (1)	Organised by the Chamber (the number of courses and standards). (1)
Cyprus	No*	None (1)		The Dental Services of the Ministry of Health, with the collaboration of the Cyprus Dental Association, organises seminars and workshops on contemporary dental topics in Cyprus, with instructors from EU countries (mainly from Greek Universities). (1)	The Dental Services of the Ministry of Health, with the collaboration of the Cyprus Dental Association (1)
Czech Republic	Yes (2004)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can receive the Certificate if the required amount of credits and the prescribed spectrum of educational actions, during two years, is fulfilled. The Certificate is valid usually for 3 to 5 years – it can be then repeated, if the conditions of postgraduate education are fulfilled. The holder of a Certificate has higher settlements for some dental care issues (about 10% higher) from the system of health insurance - the patient does not pay more. (1) 	Recommended but not compulsory (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered mainly by CSK, but also other providers can take part in the system. (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attendance of dentists on recommended practice-oriented courses or theoretical lectures is evaluated by credits. Gain The Certificate of Proficiency. (1)
Denmark	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CE is not compulsory in Denmark. From January 2009 members of the DDA have to 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental associations, Dental schools 	

		register 25 hours of CE annually (1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private companies. (1) 	
Estonia	No*	A general requirement to keep skills updated. (1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tartu University Postgraduate Training Centre Estonian Dental Association (1) 	
Finland	No*	A general requirement to keep skills updated. (1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finnish Dental Society Apollonia. (1) 	
Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia					
France	Yes (2004)*	<p>Points to be acquired: 800 in 5 years with at least 150 per year. (1)</p> <p>College of Dental General Practice states that in France, dental practitioners must complete CPD amounting to 800 credits over a 5 year period, including a minimum of 150 credits per year to ensure the continuing education "follows a pattern of regular and sustained training" (3).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 dental Schools (6) The practitioner may also attend courses and conferences abroad. Sponsorship and advertising are not allowed. (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A body, composed of colleges (Ordre, Unions, University) sets the subjects of the training, the content of the proposed training sessions as well as the credits (1) State professional societies (6) "National Council for Continuing Education which oversees the organisation - approves the course beforehand and controls the quality. (2)
Germany	Yes (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New legislation on health care Gesundheitssystem-Modernisierungsgesetz, GMG 2003) introduced, from January 2004, compulsory CE and regular monitoring in the form of recertification, after a 5 years period. (1) From 30 June 2009 practitioners who cannot provide proof that they were trained continuously can expect a loss of revenue and even lose their license. (2) <p>In 2004, it was decided that dentists in Germany must undertake compulsory CPD. Every 5 years, they are required to submit evidence to prove that they have met requirements during that time period. It is specified that any CPD activity should last for at least 45 minutes and not more than 8 hours per day. (7)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The costs for courses are deductible from income tax as a practice expense (1) 30 institutes from professional and scientific organizations, 32 dental schools, 10 industry-based institutes. (6) DGZMK (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zahn-Mund- und Kieferheilkunde) with the Practice and Science Academy "Akademie Praxis und Wissenschaft" in partnership with universities offer courses for postgraduate education. (2) 	<p>The content and amount of the compulsory CE was defined by the KZBV, in agreement with BZAK, in June 2004. [The KZBV is the association of KZVs on a national level].(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regionally by a dental association "Kassenzahnärztliche Vereinigung" (2)
Greece	Yes*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For dentists practicing within the NHS, 		The Board of the Hellenic Dental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No continuing education system

		continuing education is required by law. However, since there is no structured continuing education programme available, there are no sanctions connected with non-compliance. (1)		Association has already asked the members of its Scientific Committee to submit their proposals on the above referred subject, and the Oral Health Committee of the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity has opened a debate to finalise it within 2011(1)	exists, in a mode of mandatory and points-earning attendance of lectures, seminars, symposia and conventions. (1)
Hungary	Yes (1999)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scoring system, with accredited continuing education courses. • A dentist must achieve 250 points in 5 years. This represents 250 hours, and some reading is allowed to be counted. • The ultimate sanction for noncompliance is suspension from practice and the first audit of compliance took place in 2004. (1) 		The system is delivered mainly by the Dental Section of the Hungarian Medical Chamber, which is responsible for the supervision. (1)	
Iceland	No*	There is no post-qualification vocational training. (1)			
Republic of Ireland	Yes (2010)?	<p>CPD is becoming mandatory for all dentists from January 2010. (1)</p> <p>"From 1 January 2010, it is expected that the Dental Council of Ireland will require every registered dentist to complete 250 hours of CPD (continuing professional development) over the following five years and then over each ensuing a five-year cycle. This CPD is to be divided into 75 hours of verifiable CPD and 175 of CPD undertaken personally.</p> <p>This, in effect, means that each year 15 hours of verifiable CPD must be accumulated and certificates kept for scrutiny by the Council if required. The IDA-run scientific meetings, the annual IDA conference, hands-on courses, training in CPR and overseas courses or conferences can all count towards your total.</p> <p>The remainder of the 175 hours (this works out to approximately 45 minutes a week or 2.5 hours a month) are to be covered by journal reading, personal study, forming a local study group devoted to a particular topic (for example, I know of some who studied orthodontics with Skip Truitt who now hold regular study groups and annual study days), DVD or CD-ROM presentations or online information. (Dentaltown.com hosts many varied presentations that can be viewed.)"</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board, the Dental Schools • The Royal College of Surgeons • The Irish Dental Association • Various societies.(1) 	Course organisers apply for credit points for their courses and these are then allocated to course participants. A dentist who has accumulated a target number of points in a calendar year is entitled to a CDE Certificate. (1)

		(8) A pdf document from Dental Council of Ireland outlining requirements can be found here: http://www.dentalcouncil.ie/files/CPD%20-%20Scheme%20-%2020100401.pdf			
Italy	Yes (2002)*	150 units of CPE within a 3-year period (2008-10), including a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 70 each year. (1)			Italian Ministry of Health (1)
Latvia	Yes (2001)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 hours of CPE every 5 years, whilst they practice. • Auxiliary personnel have the same requirements only the number of credit hours may be different. (1) • The 5-year recertifications required by all dentists since 2001 are achieved by attending lectures, seminars, practical courses and congresses. Forty per cent of the credit points must be gained by attending academic lectures, organised by the LDA and the staff of the Faculty and Institute of Stomatology.(9) • 	lectures and courses cover all areas of clinical dentistry	The Latvian Dental Association, working in collaboration with the Faculty and Institute of Stomatology at Riga Stradiņš University, the State Dental Centre, the Latvian Physicians' Society and the Latvian Dental Hygienists' Association and representatives from industry organise professional education for all the dental team members. (1)	certification and re-certification is performed by the Latvian Dental Association (LDA) in collaboration with the Faculty and Institute of Stomatology, Riga Stradins University, the State Dental Centre, the Latvian Physicians Society and representatives from industry. (9)
Lithuania	Yes*	In order to remain registered a dentist needs to attend the courses and obtain a certain number of professional training hours, which are 120 hours in 5 years for dentists and dental specialists. (1)		The Lithuanian Dental Chamber coordinates the continuing education of dentists and oral care specialists. This function is performed by the Commission on Informal Education. It sets up main principles of the qualifying courses and the basic requirements for organisers. (1)	
Luxembourg	Yes*	Currently, a minimum amount of continuing education is required by law, but each dentist decides how much is needed for proper practise.(1) <i>Continuing professional development for graduate dentists in Luxembourg.</i> The "Institut Luxembourgeois for continuing medical education" (ILFMC) is an independent NGO of the medical and dental professions in Luxembourg. They are responsible for quality assurance of continuing education for both professions. All CE providers must be accredited by the ILFMC before they can provide certified CE events. Very detailed information about accreditation rules is provided on	None (1)	Historically, dentists either undertook their continuing education in Luxembourg (where AMMD organises continuing education) or they return to the dental school where they have been trained previously. They also can choose another dental school or courses.(1)	

		<p>the website. http://www.institutfmc.lu/mmp/online/website/content/about_us/partners/214/index_FR.html They are responsible for several aspects of CE including accrediting and evaluating continuing education events. They co-ordinate and publish a list of CE events, and are involved in establishing training needs and organising training cycles. The ILFMC co-ordinates continuing education for members of the medical and medico-dental professions. The ILFMC and the Department of Health finance the costs of these activities (10).</p>			
Malta	No?	<p>Continuing education is not mandatory under Maltese legislation, but Proposals for legislation to make CPE compulsory for renewal of a licence to work as a dentist had not come to fruition by 2008. (1)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dental Association of Malta • Faculty of Dental Surgery (1) 	
The Netherlands	No*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No absolute obligation for CPD, but is a requirement for anyone practising a profession in healthcare. • Voluntary system of peer review (2) 		<p>Normally provided by universities and private organisations. (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMT (Nederlandse Maatschappij terbevordering tandheelkunde van) and as the general scientific society NVT(Nederlandse Vereniging van tandartsen). • NVT 'quality assesses' CPD courses to some extent (2) • 'Q-system' which is owned by the Society of Dutch Dentists. The protocol for accreditation has been set as follows: an organisation or course provider applies for accreditation to the Accreditation Committee that in its turn takes action. The provider applies for one test-year to implement quality criteria of the accreditation system.(9)
Norway	No*	<p>Dentists have an obligation to treat the patients in accordance with the professional standard (based on the current knowledge and common accepted procedures at the time). This requires that the dentist adopts new knowledge. However there are no specific requirements concerning how. Should the dentist give treatment with outdated methods it may result in a number of consequences - private lawsuits, as well as investigations and</p>		<p>The Norwegian Dental Association (NDA) offers postgraduate courses as "brush up" lessons for dentists in practice. (1)</p>	

		possible actions by the supervising authorities and the dental association. (1) CPD courses are not mandatory but the Norwegian Dental Authority encourages dentists to take courses (11)			
Poland	Yes*	A credit-point system is applied, 200 credit points have to be collected in a 4-year period. (1)	Determined by the Law on the Professions of Physician and Dental Practitioner. (1)	The Chambers in accordance with the regulation of the Minister of Health. Many kinds of courses and training sessions, as well as routine monthly training are organised by the Polish Dental Association (PDA). (1)	Continuing education is conducted in various forms and in accordance with a grading scale.(1)
Portugal	Yes (2009)? *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing education is and is expected to be mandatory by January 2009. (1) Regulamento n.º 57/2009: Regulatory standards are imposed relating to accreditation of individual dentists from 2009 (12).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OMD arranges an annual continuing education programme; there is one annual multidisciplinary scientific congress (3 days) and another scientific congress each two years. There are also several courses such as: thematic courses, usually one-day in length; mini-courses (half-a-day courses) and practical courses. (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulated by the OMD Dentists who attend pay a registration fee and receive a Certificate of Attendance.(1)
Slovakia	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental surgeons are under a statutory obligation to take part in continuing education under Law 219/2002. Must undertake 5 days a year, in a mixture of theoretical and practical training. A dentist who does not complete the continuing education requirement breaks the rules and the duties of a member of the Slovak Chamber of Dentists, which will lead to disciplinary processes (13). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slovak Chamber of dentists, which supervises and provides the Quality Assurance. Universities, the Slovak Chamber of Dentists and the dental industry provide the schemes.(1) 	
Slovenia	Yes*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 points (about 10 courses) of continuing education in every 7-year period, provided by the Chamber. If the dentist does not fulfil this 75 points obligation, then he must undertake an examination. Failure to pass the examination leads to a loss of licence to practice (1). 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The responsibility for the supervision of this lies with the Chamber. Courses taken overseas are estimated by the Medical Chamber and are allowable.(1)
Spain	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extended system of evaluation of the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consejo General and local 	

		continuing education systems is being developed, but it is not compulsory in 2008.(1)		<p>Colegios de Odontólogos y Estomatólogos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some companies and particular initiatives offer programmes on continuing education, of different degrees of quality and control.(1) 	
Sweden	No*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing education is optional. (1) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Swedish Dental Association has a continuing education programme (printed and sent to all members twice a year), but almost all county councils (public dental health) do as well; the dental industry gives courses and also there are private initiatives.(1) 	
Turkey	?				
UK	Yes*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 hours in five years. This requirement is subdivided into 75 hours verifiable postgraduate education and 175 hours of general (informal) postgraduate education. Verifiable activity would include participation in courses, interactive distance learning, clinical audit, peer review – all of which must have defined learning objectives and outcomes. Dentists must keep a record of their activity and certify compliance annually. NHS dentists participate in regular peer review and clinical audit as part of the mandatory continuing education. (1) During a cycle of 5 years, 250 hours must be devoted to retraining including 75 verifiable hours 'verifiable'. (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2007 certain core subjects must be included in the verifiable activity – including radiation and infection control.(1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two schools of postgraduate dentistry (London and Edinburgh) and also postgraduate institutes attached to many undergraduate schools. In Scotland NHS GDPs may claim allowances for loss of practice income, for attending courses.(1) 14 Postgraduate Dental Deans/Directors, four Faculties of Dental Surgery and some 20 divisions of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK). (6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by the GDC.(1) The list of verifiable courses must be accompanied by all supporting documents and forwarded to the General Dental Council (GDC). (2) By the Dental Faculties of the Surgical Royal Colleges as their Members and Fellows are required to complete quotas of annual CPD and prior to taking some Faculty Diploma examinations. All forms of CPD are accredited by these bodies. By the Postgraduate Dental Deans, who manage the local delivery of government-funded CPD attendance courses and may accredit privately funded courses to enable those attending to claim attendance fees. The competent authority (body which maintains dentists' registration and licences the right to practice) for the UK is the General Dental Council. It does

*Reference to Kravitz and Treasure, 2009

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