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MAPPING FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY: A RESEARCH PROJECT OF I.O.F.O.S.

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Given the lack of extensive and update information about Forensic Odontology (FO) practice in the different nations and world areas , IOFOS is actually promoting an interview through a special questionnaire sent to the Presidents of National Forensic Odontology Associations and Societies where they exist. In Countries that have not yet established FO Association has been yet established active forensic odontologists (Fod) have been contacted to retrieve data.

The questionnaire provides an introduction where the preliminary issue of definition of FO is dealt with, since in many countries FO is extended to include ethics in dentistry, dental litigation, dental damage evaluation and ethics in dentistry.

The first section of the questionnaire is specifically dedicated to gather data about education of Fod both in undergraduate – postgraduate courses and the qualification of professors who teach FO.

The second block of questions concerns the qualification and accreditation of Fod and some questions are addressed to focus on the requirements imposed by law or considered by Institutions/Agencies/judges to entrust a Fod along with the qualification control that National FO associations have on their members.

The third part of the questionnaire deepens the practice of FO in different countries referring to the number of active Fods, the existence of DVI team and the involvement of Fod, the relevance of dental evidence as preferred/neglected primer identifier and the occurrence of Fod negligence cases.

The last section of questions are addressed to outline the circulation of FO knowledge at national level, the connection of FO national societies/associations, the concerns about editorial space and journals dedicated to FO research. An opinion about possible improvements of FO situation through specific measures (increasing funds, providing qualification standards, etc) are asked to the compiling person.

The preliminary results of the survey will be discussed along with the future development of the research.

KEYWORDS: Forensic Odontology, Qualification, Practice.