**Regulatory situation in Germany**

In Germany since 17. Februar 1939, adapted 23.10.2001, two medical professions are established: physicians and Heilpraktiker (Hp) which could be translated as naturopath. The law provides the regulation of professional competence of healing therapies without appointment (verbal translation of a part of this law). It is a law which is managed by each federal state of Germany.

Naturopath does not meet the meaning of Heilpraktiker completely as it is a defined profession in Germany and since last year in Switzerland as well.

<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/heilprg/gesamt.pdf>

Short summary: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heilpraktiker.

Here I state about the situation of the Heilpraktiker.

The form of education of Hp is not regulated. The accreditation is managed by the state health institution. The public health officer accredits via a written examination and if passed an oral examination. The passing quota is less then 25 %.

Each interested person can decide the way of preparation: 1. Private study, 2. Distant learning or 3. At a Heilpraktiker school or a combination.

The Hp examination concentrates on Western medicine, its diagnosis techniques, pathology, laboratory, hygiene, laws in relation to practice of Hp, limits of practice which in which cases the patient has to be referred to a physician, diagnosis and first aid of life threatening conditions.

Via law Hp are allowed to practice any kind of traditional medicine. Here the training or education is not regulated state wise. The WHO curriculum for acupuncture has not been adopted by German state.

This shows the main problem of TCM in Germany for Hp’s: we do not have binding standards for education. There is only one society for TCM for both professions in Germany: the AGTCM which has 30% medical and 70% Hp members (includes both professions). AGTCM has a curriculum for TCM (Acupuncture 1000 hours, Herb (330 hours plus acupuncture curric.), Tuina (300 h)) for their six schools for TCM. As mentioned this is not a must for a practitioner. It is the dedication for quality which motivates the fresh Hp’s to study TCM deeply. Their diploma is only given when examinations are passed and the candidates are physicians or Hp’s. https://www.agtcm.de/therapeuten/ausbildung/diplom-ausbildung/curricula.htm

Complex post graduate courses (in Germany, Europe, China) plus TCM Kongress Rothenburg are established since years.

https://www.agtcm.de/therapeuten/ausbildung/diplomausbildung/kooperationsschulen.htm

<http://www.tcm-kongress.de/en/index.htm>

AGTCM claims to having the most comprehensive TCM education in Germany.