

# **The Legal Situation for the Practice of Homeopathy in Europe**

**An ECCH Report**

**Revised Edition May 2006**



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**This document has been published by the European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH). ECCH represents homeopaths in Europe, and focuses its representational activities within the boundaries of Europe as well as specifically within the European Union. ECCH has NGO Participative Status with the Council of Europe, is an Associate Member of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and is a Corresponding Member of the European Coalition for Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products (ECHAMP).**

**ECCH's vision is to bring the benefits of high quality homeopathic treatment to all members of the European public. In order to achieve this situation it is the Council's understanding that homeopathy should not only be accepted, but officially recognised in all countries.**

**This report was ratified by the ECCH Council at its AGM in May 2006.**

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# The Legal Situation for the Practice of Homeopathy in Europe

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## Introduction

Between one fifth and one quarter of all European Union citizens use homeopathic medicines (1). Europe's people are increasingly turning to homeopathy as a means of restoring and improving their health. Homeopathy is the most frequently used CAM therapy in 5 out of 14 countries in Europe and among the three most frequently used in 11 out of 14 countries (2, 3).

The European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH), which represents the interests of homeopaths across Europe, works to ensure that patients have access to high quality homeopathic treatment. ECCH is committed to continuing to work with its member organisations to ensure a uniformly high standard for the practice of homeopaths in Europe. ECCH has NGO Participatory status with the Council of Europe.

The current legal situation varies from country to country. The result is a situation where citizens within the individual countries of the European Union and greater Europe do not share equal rights and opportunities. This is not in line with basic EU principles. This report presents an overview of the current situation and ECCH's recommendations for the regulation of homeopathy.

### Some relevant statements

In 1997 the European Parliament Environment Committee stated in their resolution on non-conventional medicine (4):

*A. whereas a number of people in the Member States are making use of certain non-conventional medicines and therapies and it would be unrealistic to ignore this de facto state of affairs,*

*C. whereas it is important to ensure that patients have the broadest possible choice of therapy, guaranteeing them the maximum level of safety and the most accurate information possible on the safety, quality, effectiveness and possible risks of so-called non-conventional medicines, and that they are protected against unqualified individuals,*

*G. having regard to the EC Treaty and specifically Title III, Articles 52 to 66 thereof, on the free movement of persons and freedom of establishment; whereas these freedoms are undermined by the heterogeneous prevailing situation with regard to the status and recognition of all the non-conventional medical disciplines within the European Union; whereas the freedom to exercise their profession which certain health practitioners currently enjoy in their countries should under no circumstances be limited by modifying the status or the degree of recognition enjoyed by these disciplines at European level, nor by limiting the freedom of choice of therapy enjoyed by patients with regard to non-conventional medical treatment;*

*I. whereas European legislation concerning the status and the practice of non-conventional*

*medicine would provide patients with guarantees; whereas each type of medicine should be able to organise the profession at European level (deontological code, professional registers, and training criteria and levels),*

*K. whereas the regulation and coordination of training criteria imposed on the practitioners of non-conventional medical disciplines would constitute an essential guarantee for citizens; whereas it is essential, in the interests of both patients and practitioners, that qualifications be harmonised at a high level and that in all cases it is compulsory for practitioners to obtain a state diploma meeting the specific requirements of each discipline; whereas the levels of training must be appropriate to the general medical/health principles governing any therapeutic act and to the specific nature of various non-conventional medical disciplines,*

*2. Calls on the Commission to carry out a thorough study into the safety, effectiveness, area of application and the complementary or alternative nature of all non-conventional medicines and to draw up a comparative study of the various national legal models to which non-conventional medical practitioners are subject;*

The Council of Europe officially stated in 1999 (5): *'The Assembly recognises the pre-eminence of conventional medicines; however, the various forms of medicine should not compete with one another: it is possible for them to exist side by side and complement one another.*

*.... the Assembly believes that a common European approach to non-conventional medicine based on the principle of patients' freedom of choice in health care should not be ruled out.*

*The Assembly believes that the best guarantee for patients lies in a properly trained profession, which is aware of its limitations, has a system of ethics and self-regulation and is also subject to outside control.*

*The regulations that currently exist in certain European countries on the practice of one or other form of non-conventional medicine opens the way for progress. The Assembly calls on the member states to model their approach on their neighbours' experiments and, whenever possible, to co-ordinate their position with regard to these medicines.*

*The Assembly believes that in the future alternative or complementary forms of medicine could be practised by doctors of conventional medicine as well as by any well-trained practitioner of non-conventional medicine (a patient could consult one or the other, either upon referral by his or her family doctor or of his or her free will), should ethical principles prevail.'*

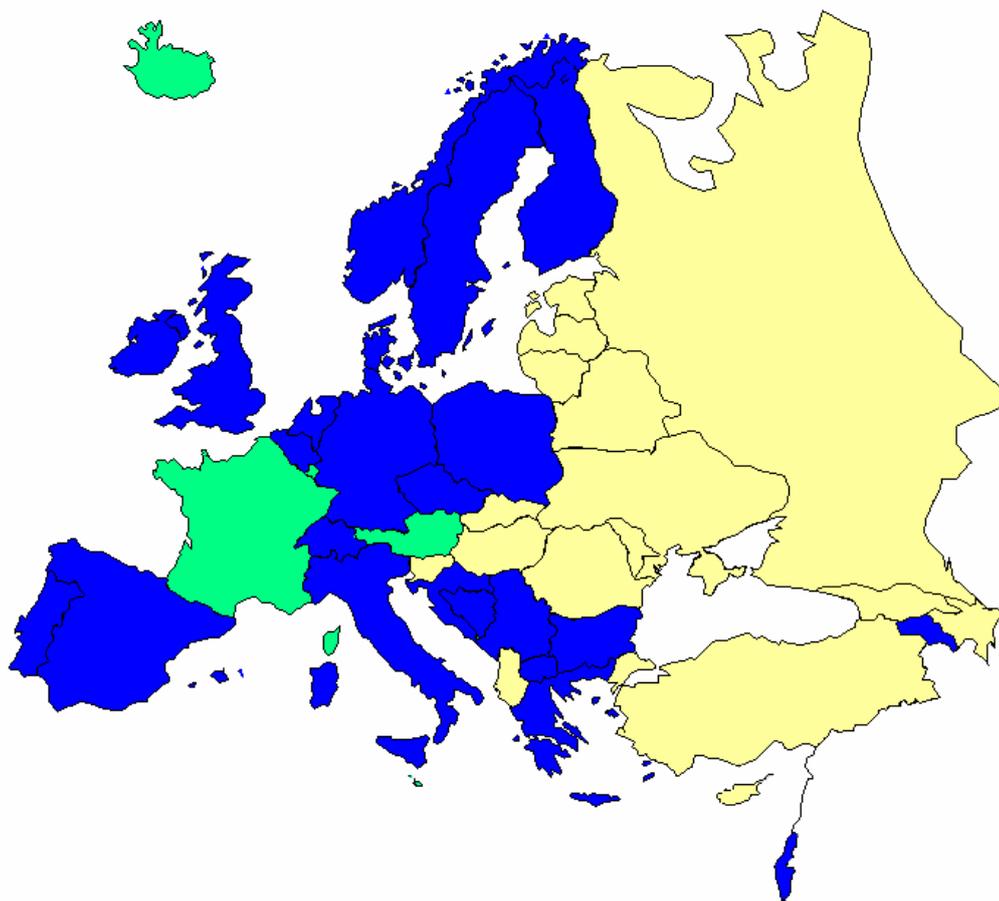
## ECCH policy recommendations

ECCH considers that the following recommendations must be met with in order for all patients across Europe to have freedom of choice in their health care and to have access to safe, effective high quality homeopathic treatment. Implementing these recommendations will ensure that legislation is harmonised across Europe and citizens within the European Union and greater Europe will have equal rights and opportunities.

- 1 ECCH calls on all European and European national authorities to ensure that legislation allows patients to consult homeopaths throughout Europe for the greater benefit of all citizens, in accordance with Council of Europe Resolution of 1999 "that alternative and complementary forms of medicine could be practised by doctors of conventional medicine as well as by any well trained practitioner of non-conventional medicine (a patient could consult one or the other, either upon referral by his or her family doctor or of his own free will), should ethical principles prevail."
- 2 ECCH recommends all European authorities and European national authorities act to ensure that legislation establishes the effective voluntary self-regulation of homeopaths. ECCH has agreed and recommends the following criteria for voluntary self-regulation as a required minimum \*:
  - I A single national professional body, where appropriate, established according to common high standards of education, registration and practice agreed across Europe
  - II Patient representation on all standard setting committees – particularly for complaints and professional conduct procedures
  - III An accreditation process for institutions providing homeopathic education
  - IV Continuing Professional Development
  - V Professional Indemnity Insurance for all practitioners
  - VI Code of Ethics and Practice
  - VII Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures
- 3 ECCH calls on all European authorities and European national authorities to ensure that legislation allows for the homeopathic treatment of **all** patients irrespective of age, gender, condition or socio-economic status.
- 4 ECCH calls on all European authorities and European national authorities working on legislation to do with homeopathy and particularly the regulation of homeopaths, to consult with representatives of ECCH and established national associations of the homeopathic profession to ensure any legislation is appropriate for the profession, and to include representatives of the profession on their working committees in order to include their important understanding of homeopathic treatment.
- 5 ECCH calls on all European authorities and European national authorities to establish budgets for the financing of research projects on homeopathic treatment, in particular within the area of preventative health care.

\* Based on the Foundation for Integrated Medicine's recommendations (6).

**European Council for Classical Homeopathy**  
**Represented in 28 countries**  
Including countries with contact persons



## Countries included in the report

The following 43 countries have been included in this report: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

This includes all 25 European Union member states: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; as well as the following five EU candidate countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Turkey ([http://europa.eu.int/abc/governments/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/abc/governments/index_en.htm)). It also includes the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland ([www.efta.int](http://www.efta.int)). We have also included Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine, which are all listed as European countries on major encyclopaedia websites (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe> and <http://geography.about.com/library/maps/blreurope.htm>). All these countries, with the exception of Belarus, are members of the Council of Europe (<http://assembly.coe.int>). We have also added Armenia and Israel, where there are member associations of the European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH). Israel also has observer status with the Council of Europe. European states that have not been included are: Andorra, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican City. The reason is that they are in some way affiliated with larger countries. Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Jersey are all crown dependencies affiliated with the United Kingdom. San Marino and the Vatican City are affiliated with Italy, Monaco with France, and Andorra with Spain.

## Methodology used in the report

The purpose of this report is to present an overview of the legal situation for the practice of homeopathy in Europe. A questionnaire was developed and sent by post or email to homeopaths and/or homeopathic doctors in all countries, with the exception of Moldova, where we were unable to find any contact addresses. The questionnaire can be found below. Filled in questionnaires were returned from 35 countries. We did not receive responses from the following seven countries: Belarus, Cyprus, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Turkey and Ukraine. Information about the situation in Cyprus, Iceland, Lithuania and Luxembourg has therefore been gathered from a European Commission funded report on the use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the treatment of patients suffering from cancer (7). Information for Belarus and Ukraine was included from the previous ECCH report (8). We have, as already mentioned, been unable to gather information about the situation in Moldova. We were also unable to obtain any information from Turkey. References about the situation in individual countries will mostly be listed in the chapter entitled 'The Legal Situation for the Practice of Homeopathy in Europe – Country by Country'. **Should any part of this report not accurately describe the situation in a specific country, or if the legal situation should change, any comments and corrections will be appreciated, and included in a future revised version of the document. Comments and corrections may be sent to ECCH at the address listed on the comments and corrections form at the end of this document.**

The questions asked were:

### 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment?

NB: This question relates to whether patients can receive homeopathic treatment in any way, whether provided by a trained homeopath or by other healthcare practitioners.

### 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath?

Can patients choose to consult with a homeopath without referral?

If not – how do patients access homeopathic treatment?

NB: This question concerns patients' rights to consult with homeopaths. If the answer is 'yes' to this question, this means that a patient can freely choose to consult a homeopath, meaning she or he does not have to be referred by a medical doctor or any other practitioner. This question does not differentiate between homeopaths and doctors who practise homeopathy.

### 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath?

NB: A homeopath is a practitioner who has had a substantial education and training in homeopathy, and who is not a medical doctor (doctors practising homeopathy are called 'homeopathic doctors'). If the answer is 'yes' to this question it means that it is not illegal for professional homeopaths to practise and the practice of homeopathy is not restricted to medical doctors or other statutorily recognised healthcare practitioners only.

Please provide us with references.

NB: Please send the full reference to any laws that regulate the practice of homeopathy, CAM therapies or other relevant legislation (in some countries this may e.g. be 'legislation for treatment of patients for someone who is not a medical doctor').

### 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy?

NB: By legal restrictions we mean legal restrictions that prevent patients from having freedom of access to homeopathy. One possibility may be that the practice of homeopathy is restricted to medical doctors or that medical doctors are not allowed to practise homeopathy. It does NOT include special situations, e.g. in some countries only medical doctors are allowed to treat diseases like cancer, diabetes and venereal diseases. This report does not include legal restrictions directly linked to homeopathic remedies/homeopathic medicinal products. ECCH has published a separate report on the legal situation for remedies.

Please provide us with references.

NB: Please send the full title and the date of the relevant legislation or regulation.

**5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist?**

If yes: What sort? Please send the full title and the date of the relevant legislation or regulation.

References. Please send the full title and the date of the relevant reference.

NB: In *voluntary self regulation*, the profession regulates itself. There is no Act of Parliament, therefore no legal requirement for the way the profession is regulated. The professional body can decide for itself how it is regulated.

In *statutory self regulation*, the profession regulates itself, within criteria laid down by an Act of Parliament. The profession is actively involved in development of the regulatory criteria. The professional body then has to follow and put in place all the requirements asked for by that law. The title "homeopath" is protected by Act of Parliament, so that the only practitioners who can call themselves "homeopath" are those who meet the requirements of the national register.

In *statutory regulation* the Government has complete control over the regulation for the profession. The Government sets out legal requirements for the profession, and the profession has no involvement. The profession only has to ensure it meets the Government's requirements.

**6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country?**

- a) Anyone:
- b) Statutorily regulated:
  - Homeopaths:
  - Medical doctors:
  - Dentists:
  - Nurses:
  - Midwives:
  - Physiotherapists:
  - Chiropractors:
  - Osteopaths:
  - Heilpraktikers:
  - Other statutorily regulated practitioners (specify):

NB: This report only includes information on homeopathic treatment of human beings. ECCH has published a separate report on the homeopathic treatment of animals (9).

**7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected?**

NB: This raises the question as to whether the title 'homeopath' is protected by law in your country.

**8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system?**

**9) Expenses for treatment**

**a) Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system?**

**b) Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way?**

Please specify whether this covers:

- Expenses for consultations:
- Expenses for remedies:

Please specify whether expenses are covered through:

- The national healthcare system or a state insurance system:
- Private insurance companies:

**10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded?**

**a) by the Government**

**b) other sources**

This question has been asked to give a short overview of funding for research in homeopathy in European countries. Question b) includes any kind of research on homeopathy funded by sources other than the Government.

## Results

### Collected information

This report presents information on 42 out of 43 countries. We were unable to obtain information on the situation in Moldova, and only a little information about the situation in Cyprus and Turkey. For most countries all 10 questions have been answered.

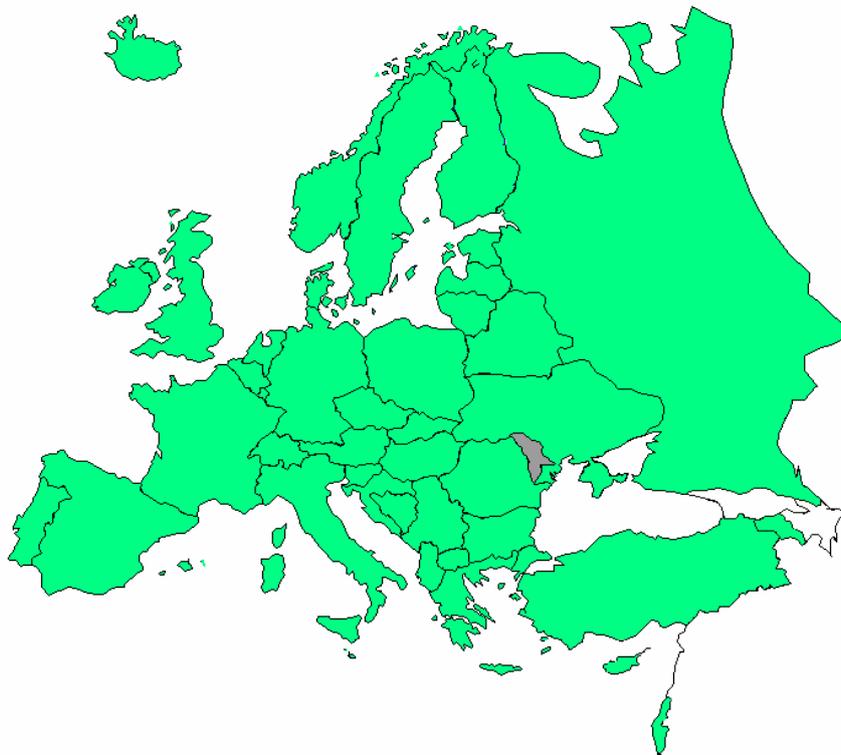
#### 1. Patients' access to homeopathic treatment

Patients have access to homeopathic treatment in all the 42 countries we have obtained information about. We have been unable to obtain information on the situation in one country (Moldova).

#### 2. Patients' right to self-refer to a homeopath

Patients in all 42 countries can self-refer to either to a homeopath and/or a homeopathic doctor, depending on national legislation. We have been unable to obtain information on the situation in one country (Moldova).

Patients have access to homeopathy  
and may refer to a homeopath  
in all 42 countries



### **3. Where it is legal to practise as a homeopath**

It is legal to practise as a homeopath in 21 countries, including the majority (14) of all EU member countries, and all four EEA member countries. It is illegal for someone who is not a medical doctor or recognised healthcare professional to practise in 17 countries, including nine EU member countries. The situation is unclear or unknown to us in four countries, including one EU member country.

It is legal to practise in Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. It is legal to practise in the majority of all Swiss cantons (20 out of 26).

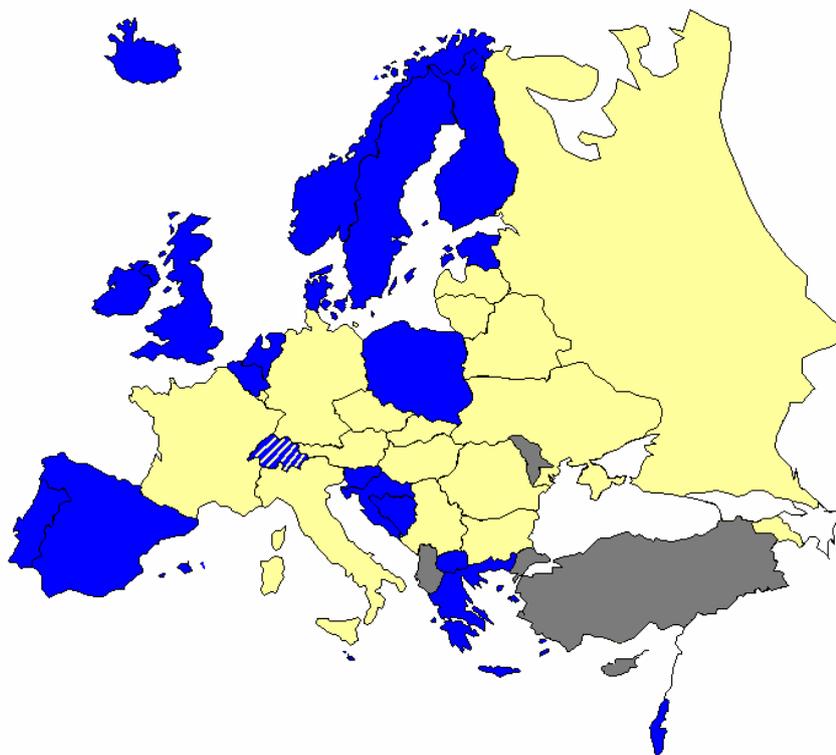
It is illegal to practise in Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine. It is illegal to practise in six out of 20 Swiss cantons.

In Germany homeopathy may only be practised by medical doctors or Heilpraktikers (34). A Heilpraktiker is a CAM practitioner who has passed a local health authority exam. Heilpraktikers must use the title 'Heilpraktiker' and may also inform which therapies they offer, such as homeopathy.

It is unclear whether homeopaths may practise in Albania, as there is no legislation for the practice of homeopathy and there are no homeopaths who are not medical doctors. We have been unable to obtain information on whether it is legal to practise in Cyprus. An EU CAM Cancer report states that "In Cyprus treatment is restricted to legally regulated personnel" (7). The same report also states that "... the practice of the authorities is to follow amendments of the United Kingdom. If someone is allowed to practise under UK regulations, then they may also practise their alternative activities in Cyprus." It is legal for homeopaths to practise in the United Kingdom. The information on the EU CAM Cancer report therefore contradicts itself and we are unable to draw any final conclusions, as we have not received information from any contacts in Cyprus. We have been unable to obtain information on the legal situation in Moldova and Turkey.

#### **Homeopaths may practise in 21 countries**

**Legislation varies in Switzerland**



#### **4. Legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy**

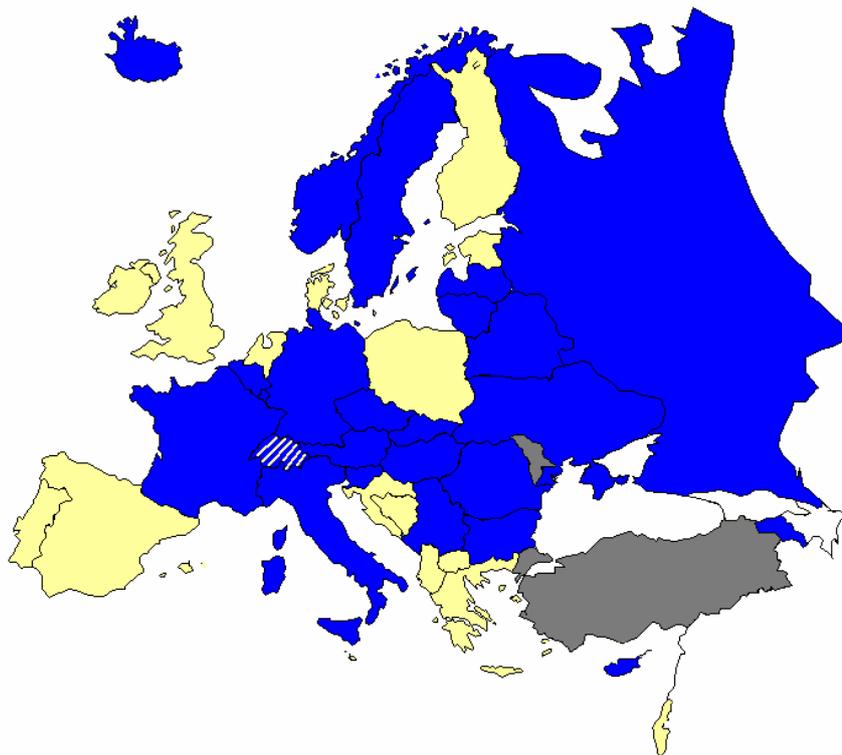
There are legal restrictions in 24 countries, including 14 EU member countries and three out of four EEA member countries. Restrictions are, with one exception, not for homeopathy specifically, but for any practitioner of CAM therapies.

There are legal restrictions in Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine.

In 17 countries the practice of homeopathy is restricted to some sort of statutorily regulated healthcare practitioner. Only medical doctors and/or dentists may practise in 12 countries. In one country medical doctors, dentists and nurses may practise. In one country medical doctors, dentists and physiotherapists may practise. In one country medical doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists and pharmacists may practise. In another country medical doctors and Heilpraktikers may practise. In yet another country any legally regulated healthcare practitioner may practise.

In two countries statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners are prohibited from practising homeopathy, but anyone else may practise. Four countries have introduced legislation for the practice of CAM therapies which also introduce legal restrictions. We have been unable to obtain information on the situation in two countries (Moldova and Turkey).

#### **There are legal restrictions in 24 countries**



#### **Countries where only legally recognised healthcare practitioners are allowed to practise**

Only medical doctors and/or dentists may practise in Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine. In France only medical doctors, dentists and nurses may practise homeopathy. In Latvia only medical doctors, dentists and physiotherapists may practise. In Germany only medical doctors and Heilpraktikers may practise. In Luxembourg only legally regulated personnel may practise. In Serbia and Montenegro it is only legal for healthcare practitioners to treat patients. This includes medical doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists and pharmacists.

In Belarus, Lithuania and Romania medical doctors must obtain a certificate of training or a licence to practise homeopathy. In Belarus medical doctors must have three years clinical experience in general medicine, followed by a two month course with 312 hours of lectures and clinical training in homeopathy.

In Lithuania medical doctors who have obtained a specialisation in another field may obtain an additional license for homeopathic practice after completing a 216 hour postgraduate course (only university diplomas are valid).

In Romania medical doctors and dentists may practise after having passed an examination following a three-year long training programme. In Ukraine medical doctors may register a licence of her or his main speciality and add a note stating “with the use of the homeopathic method”. Also in Ukraine, homeopathy cannot be used in oncology, infectious diseases and psychiatry.

In Bulgaria homeopathy is the only CAM therapy that may be practised by medical doctors and dentists only. There are no requirements for medical doctors’ and dentists’ education and training in homeopathy.

### **Countries where legally recognised healthcare practitioners are prohibited from practising homeopathy**

In Slovenia medical doctors are prohibited from practising homeopathy and must sign a statement saying they will not practise homeopathy or any other CAM therapy. Anyone except medical doctors may practise.

In Sweden statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners are prohibited from practising homeopathy and any other CAM therapy that has not been scientifically proved. The exception is if a patient asks for it, if there is no risk involved, if there is no parallel to conventional treatment and if all possible conventional treatments have been tried without relief. Anyone except statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners may practise.

### **Countries where there are laws for the practice of CAM therapies**

(Specific laws for individual therapies such as chiropractic, osteopathy and naprapathy have not been included.)

Belgium: Homeopathy is one of four CAM therapies that has been legally recognised. Only practitioners who have completed an approved education in homeopathy may practise.

Iceland: A law for CAM therapies was introduced in 2005. The law states that serious diseases and disorders, including communicable diseases that are regarded as hazardous to public health (according do law), shall only be treated by healthcare personnel. Practitioners who do not hold a title as healthcare personnel may however still treat patients when treatment takes place in cooperation or consultation with the patient’s medical doctor.

Norway: A law for CAM therapies was introduced in 2004. Serious diseases and disorders, including communicable diseases that are regarded as hazardous to public health (according to law), can only be treated by healthcare personnel. Practitioners who do not hold a title as healthcare personnel may however still treat patients when the purpose is to alleviate or moderate symptoms or consequences of the disease or disorder or side effects of given treatment or where the purpose is to strengthen the body’s immune system or its ability to heal itself. These practitioners may also treat any disease when treatment takes place in cooperation or consultation with the patient’s physician and the patient is old enough to consent to healthcare (according to the Patients’ Rights Act). This also applies to other patients if the health service has no curative or palliative treatment to offer the patient. The title ‘Registered Homeopath’ is legally protected (see question 5).

Portugal: A law introduced in July 2003 recognised the practice of homeopathy and five other CAM therapies. The new law enshrines the right of Portuguese citizens to freely choose the particular therapy they wish while also setting out the basis for the regulation of the practitioners who may practise these therapies as independent health care professionals. Under this law the practice of the therapies will be controlled and accredited by the Health Ministry while the education and the certification of degrees and diplomas for the practice of the therapies will be controlled by the Ministry of Education and Science and Higher Education.

### **Restrictive legislation in Sweden**

In Sweden non-statutorily authorised personnel are not allowed to treat children under the age of eight, pregnant women and women in labour. Also written advice or recommendations for treatment can only be given if the practitioner has seen the patient in person.

### **Legislation varies in Switzerland's cantons**

In Switzerland legislation varies from canton to canton. It is legal for homeopaths to practise in 20 cantons, and only medical doctors and dentists may practise in six cantons. Statutorily regulated homeopaths may practise in 14 cantons. In six cantons homeopaths must pass an official exam in order to be allowed to practise (Basel-Stadt, Baselland, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, Ticino, Thurgau). The six cantons where only medical doctors and dentists may practise are Aargau, Jura, Uri, Schwyz, Waadt and Zürich. In the remaining six cantons anyone may practise homeopathy. In some cantons midwives may practise homeopathy.

### **Legislation is unclear in Cyprus**

According to an EU CAM Cancer report, all treatment in Cyprus is restricted to legally regulated personnel (7). However, if someone is allowed to practise under United Kingdom regulations, then they may also practise their alternative activities in Cyprus. It is legal for homeopaths to practise in the United Kingdom. The information obtained in the EU CAM Cancer report therefore makes it impossible to draw any final conclusions.

## **5. Government regulation**

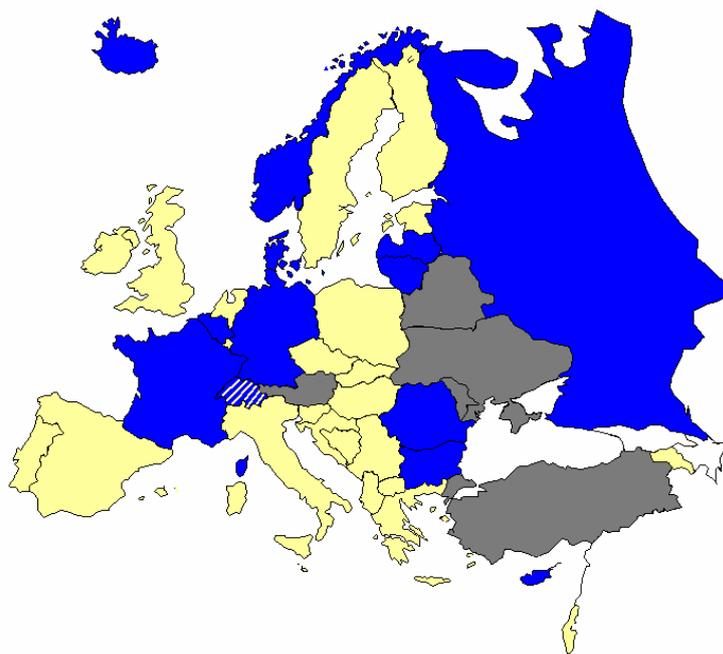
Governmental regulation of some sort has been introduced in 14 countries, including seven EU member countries and three out of four EEA member countries.

Government regulation exists in Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Romania, Russia and Switzerland.

In six out of these countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia) such regulation includes restricting the treatment of patients in general or the practice of homeopathy in particular to medical doctors and/or dentists. In Lithuania doctors must have obtained specialisation in another field and have finished a 216 hour university course in homeopathy. In one country (France) regulation includes restricting the treatment of patients in general or the practice of homeopathy in particular to medical doctors, dentists and nurses.

Five of these countries (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway) have positively regulated the practice of homeopathy and other CAM therapies. Governments have established voluntary public registers for CAM practitioners in Denmark, Iceland and Norway. As mentioned under question 4, legislation varies in Switzerland and is unclear in Cyprus. We have been unable to obtain information on the situation in five countries (Austria, Belarus, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine).

### **Government regulation exists in 14 countries**



## **Countries that have positively regulated the practice of homeopathy and other CAM therapies**

(Specific laws for individual therapies such as chiropractic, osteopathy and naprapathy have not been included.)

Belgium: Homeopathy is one of four CAM therapies that have been legally recognised. Only practitioners who have completed an approved education in homeopathy may practise.

Denmark: The Government has established a voluntary public register for CAM practitioners.

Germany: Heilpraktikers may practise homeopathy and other CAM therapies according to German law. All Heilpraktikers must pass an official exam.

Iceland: A law for CAM therapies was introduced in 2005. Legislation establishes a voluntary official registration scheme for CAM practitioners. The objective of regulation is to ensure safety of those who seek or use CAM practitioners, and to ensure the quality of the service as far as possible. The register includes providers who have had a basic health education, have accomplished practical training under supervision, and hold current indemnity insurance. An Icelandic CAM organisation will take on the necessary tasks for registration and maintaining the register. The register will be voluntary and providers will be self-regulated through their member associations.

Norway: A law for CAM therapies was introduced in 2004. The Government has established a public voluntary register for CAM practitioners. Only persons who are registered as practitioners of alternative treatment in the register may use the designation 'registered' along with their professional title of alternative therapist. The title 'Registered Homeopath' is legally protected. The Department provides regulations for a voluntary register for health care personnel and others practising alternative treatment. Hereunder may be given regulation on registration fees and annual fees for continuation of the registration. The register is voluntary. This means that practitioners may still practise in spite of not being on the register. They may however not state that they are on the register or use the title 'Registered Homeopath'.

Practitioners must:

- Belong to an organisation which has been accepted onto the register for alternative practitioners;
- Run their business in an appropriate way (follow regulations for running of businesses);
- Follow their association's Code of Ethics;
- Be registered at The Brønnøysund Register Centre (Brønnøysundregistrene), which registers all businesses in Norway.

Organisations must be approved by the authorities and must have:

- Criteria for the education and practice of the group of practitioners they represent;
- Binding Codes of Ethics;
- Complaints and disciplinary procedures;
- The possibility to exclude practitioners who do not comply with the association's Code of Ethics.

Portugal: A law introduced in July 2003 recognised the practice of homeopathy and five other CAM therapies. The new law enshrines the right of Portuguese citizens to freely choose the particular therapy they wish while also setting out the basis for the regulation of the practitioners who may practise these therapies as independent health care professionals. Under this law the practice of the therapies will be controlled and accredited by the Health Ministry while the education and the certification of degrees and diplomas for the practice of the therapies will be controlled by the Ministry of Education and Science and Higher Education. Regulation has however not been introduced yet.

## **6. Who can legally practise homeopathy**

Anyone may practise homeopathy in 19 countries, including 12 EU member countries and three out of four EEA member countries.

In 17 countries the practice of homeopathy is restricted to some sort of statutorily regulated healthcare practitioner. Only medical doctors and/or dentists may practise in 12 countries. In one country medical doctors, dentists and physiotherapists may practise. In one country medical doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists and pharmacists may practise. In one country only medical doctors and Heilpraktikers may practise. In yet another country any legally regulated healthcare practitioner may practise.

In two countries statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners are prohibited from practising homeopathy, but anyone else may practise.

Legislation varies in one country. The situation is unclear in two countries.

We have been unable to obtain information on the situation in two countries (Moldova and Turkey).

### **Countries where anyone may practise**

Anyone may practise homeopathy in Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Macedonia, Spain and the United Kingdom.

In Belgium, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, these practitioners must however have completed an education in homeopathy.

In Iceland, in order to be included in the voluntary public register for alternative practitioners, homeopaths must have a basic health education, have accomplished practical training under supervision, and hold current indemnity insurance.

In Norway, in order to be included in the voluntary public register for alternative practitioners, homeopaths must

- Belong to an organisation which has been accepted onto the register for alternative practitioners;
- Run their business in an appropriate way (follow regulations for running of businesses);
- Follow their association's Code of Ethics;
- Be registered at The Brønnøysund Register Centre (Brønnøysundregistrene), which registers all businesses in Norway.

Organisations must be approved by the authorities and must have

- Criteria for the education and practice of the group of practitioners they represent;
- Binding Codes of Ethics;
- Complaints and disciplinary procedures;
- The possibility to exclude practitioners who do not comply with the association's Code of Ethics.

These homeopaths may use the legally protected title 'Registered Homeopath'.

### **Countries where only statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners may practise**

Only medical doctors and/or dentists may practise in Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine. In France medical doctors, dentists and nurses may practise. In Latvia medical doctors, dentists and physiotherapists may practise. In Serbia and Montenegro medical doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists and pharmacists may practise. In Germany medical doctors and Heilpraktikers may practise. In Luxembourg any legally regulated healthcare practitioner may practise.

In Belarus, Lithuania and Romania medical doctors must obtain a certificate of training or a licence to practise homeopathy. In Belarus medical doctors must have three years clinical experience in general medicine, followed by a two month course with 312 hours of lectures and clinical training in homeopathy. In Lithuania medical doctors who have obtained a specialisation in another field may obtain an additional license for homeopathic practice after completing a 216 hour postgraduate course (only university diplomas are valid). In Romania medical doctors and dentists may practise after having passed an examination following a three-year long training programme. In Ukraine medical doctors may register a licence of her or his main speciality and add a

note stating “with the use of the homeopathic method”. Also in Ukraine, homeopathy cannot be used in oncology, infectious diseases and psychiatry.

### **Countries where statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners may not practise**

In Slovenia and Sweden statutorily healthcare practitioners are prohibited from practising homeopathy, but anyone else may practise.

### **Legislation varies in Switzerland’s cantons**

In Switzerland legislation varies from canton to canton. It is legal for homeopaths to practise in 20 cantons, and only medical doctors and dentists may practise in six cantons. Statutorily regulated homeopaths may practise in 14 cantons. In six cantons homeopaths must pass an official exam in order to be allowed to practise (Basel-Stadt, Baselland, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, Ticino, Thurgau). The six cantons where only medical doctors and dentists may practise are Aargau, Jura, Uri, Schwyz, Waadt and Zürich. In the remaining six cantons anyone may practise homeopathy. In some cantons midwives may practise homeopathy.

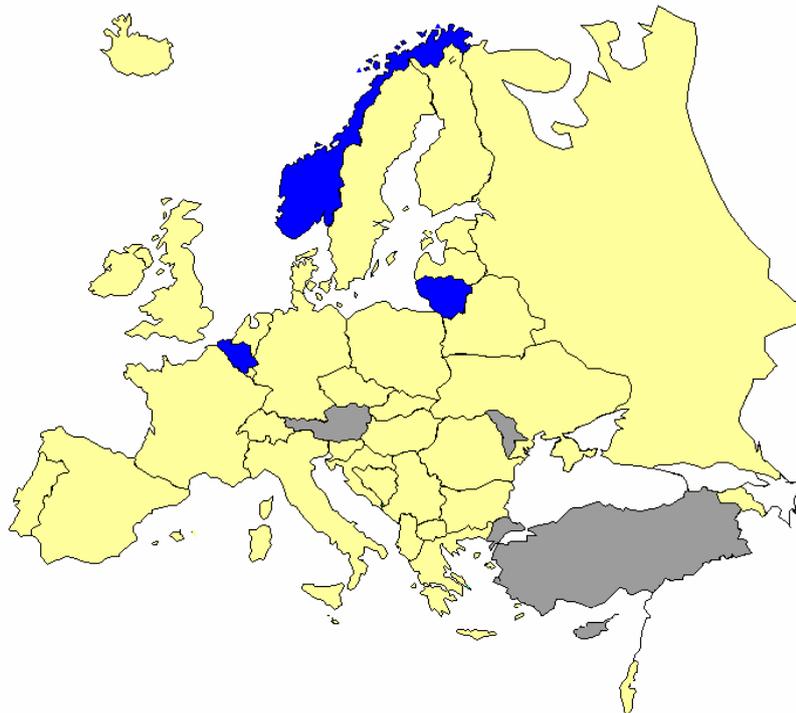
### **Countries where the situation is unclear**

It is unclear exactly who can practise homeopathy in Albania. The only practitioners currently practising are medical doctors. It is also unclear who can practise homeopathy in Cyprus. According to an EU CAM Cancer report, all treatment in Cyprus is restricted to legally regulated personnel (7). However, if someone is allowed to practise under United Kingdom regulations, then they may also practise their alternative activities in Cyprus. It is legal for homeopaths to practise in the United Kingdom. The information obtained in the EU CAM Cancer report therefore makes it impossible to draw any final conclusions.

### **7. Protection of the title ‘homeopath’**

The title ‘Homeopath’ is legally protected in Belgium. The title ‘Registered Homeopath’ is legally protected in Norway. The title ‘Doctor Homeopath’ is legally protected in Lithuania.

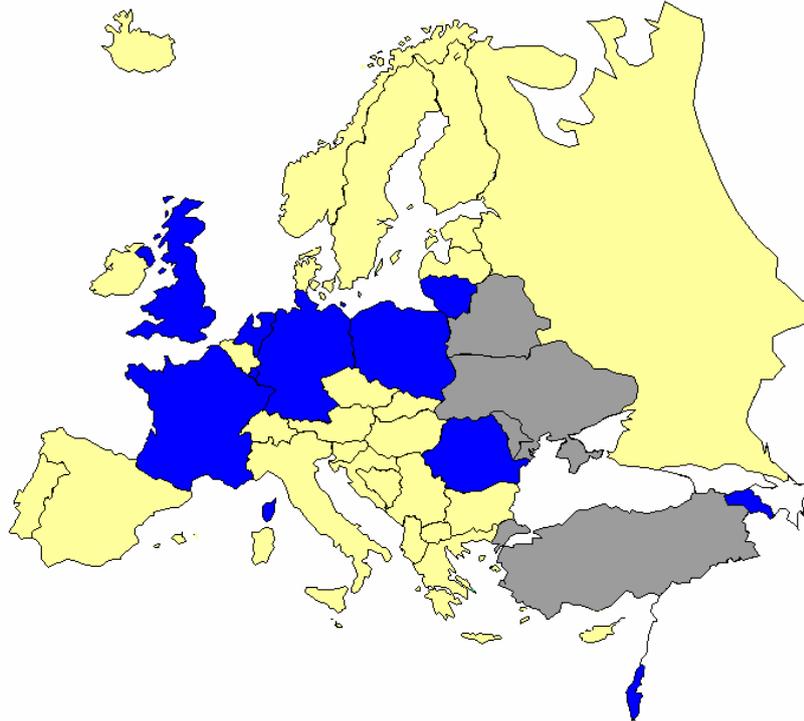
**The title 'Homeopath', 'Registered Homeopath' or 'Doctor Homeopath' are legally protected in three countries**



## **8. Homeopathy available within the public healthcare system**

Homeopathy is available within the public healthcare system in 10 countries (Armenia, France, Germany, Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom). In Israel homeopathy is offered within the setting of the national healthcare system, but it is not subsidised. Although homeopathy is not available within the public healthcare system in Austria, homeopathic remedies are being prescribed in acute cases in some hospitals. We have been unable to obtain information on the situation in four countries (Belarus, Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine).

**Homeopathy is available within  
the public healthcare system  
in 10 countries**



## **9. Expenses for treatment**

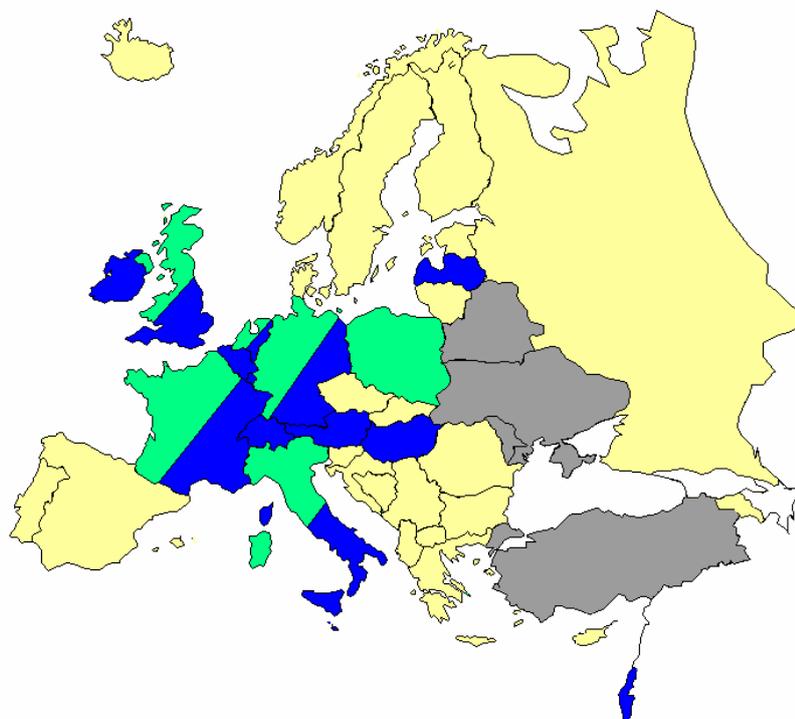
### **a) Homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system**

Homeopathy is available free of charge (partially or fully) through the national healthcare system in five countries (France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom). In France cost for treatment and 35 % of costs for homeopathic medicines are reimbursed through the national healthcare system. In Germany homeopathic treatment is available free of charge when provided by medical doctors who are within the national healthcare system. In the Netherlands homeopathy is available free of charge through the national healthcare system, provided the patient has additional health insurance. In Poland homeopathy is available free of charge through the national healthcare system, provided the patient is treated by a homeopathic doctor working within the national healthcare service. Homeopathic treatment may be free of charge if provided by a homeopathic doctor in a hospital. In the United Kingdom homeopathy is available free of charge through the national healthcare system provided it is given directly by, or on referral from, a general practitioner. The expenses for both the consultations and homeopathic medicines are covered.

### **b) Reimbursement of costs for homeopathic treatment**

Costs for homeopathic treatment and/or medicines are partially or fully reimbursed in 14 countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom). This includes both state insurance in seven countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom), and private insurance in 11 countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Switzerland, United Kingdom). In Germany private insurance companies refund expenses for homeopathic treatment provided by both medical doctors and Heilpraktikers. State insurances partly pays for homeopathic treatment in certain circumstances, including expenses for homeopathic medicines in treatment of children under the age of 12 years, provided treatment is given by a medical doctor with a special education in homeopathy.

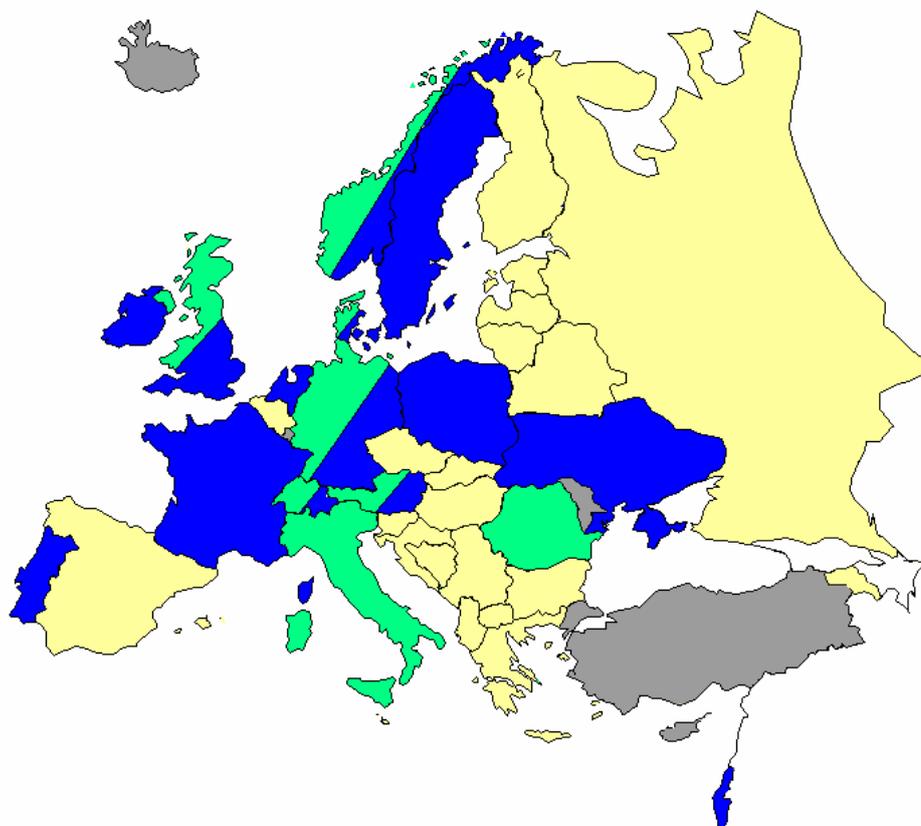
**Costs for homeopathic treatment are reimbursed  
by state insurance in seven countries  
and by private insurance in 11 countries**



## **10. Funding for research**

Funding for research in homeopathy has been granted in 16 countries, including 11 EU member countries and two EEA member countries (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom). In eight countries funding has been granted from the Government (Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Norway, Romania, Switzerland, United Kingdom) and in 14 countries funding has been granted from other sources (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom). The situation is unknown one way or the other in five countries (Cyprus, Iceland, Luxembourg, Moldova, Turkey).

**The Government has funded  
research in homeopathy in eight countries  
and research has been funded by others in 14 countries**



## Summarising Tables

**Table I**

Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment?

| Country                | Yes       | No       | Unknown  |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>42</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> |
| Albania                | 1         |          |          |
| Armenia                | 1         |          |          |
| Austria                | 1         |          |          |
| Belarus                | 1         |          |          |
| Belgium                | 1         |          |          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1         |          |          |
| Bulgaria               | 1         |          |          |
| Croatia                | 1         |          |          |
| Cyprus                 | 1         |          |          |
| Czech Republic         | 1         |          |          |
| Denmark                | 1         |          |          |
| Estonia                | 1         |          |          |
| Finland                | 1         |          |          |
| France                 | 1         |          |          |
| Germany                | 1         |          |          |
| Greece                 | 1         |          |          |
| Hungary                | 1         |          |          |
| Iceland                | 1         |          |          |
| Ireland                | 1         |          |          |
| Israel                 | 1         |          |          |
| Italy                  | 1         |          |          |
| Latvia                 | 1         |          |          |
| Liechtenstein          | 1         |          |          |
| Lithuania              | 1         |          |          |
| Luxembourg             | 1         |          |          |
| Republic of Macedonia  | 1         |          |          |
| Malta                  | 1         |          |          |
| Moldova                |           |          | 1        |
| Netherlands            | 1         |          |          |
| Norway                 | 1         |          |          |
| Poland                 | 1         |          |          |
| Portugal               | 1         |          |          |
| Romania                | 1         |          |          |
| Russia                 | 1         |          |          |
| Serbia and Montenegro  | 1         |          |          |
| Slovakia               | 1         |          |          |
| Slovenia               | 1         |          |          |
| Spain                  | 1         |          |          |
| Sweden                 | 1         |          |          |
| Switzerland            | 1         |          |          |
| Turkey                 | 1         |          |          |
| Ukraine                | 1         |          |          |
| United Kingdom         | 1         |          |          |

**Table II**

Can patients self-refer to a homeopath?

| Country                | Yes       | No       | Unknown  |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>40</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>3</b> |
| Albania                | 1         |          |          |
| Armenia                | 1         |          |          |
| Austria                | 1         |          |          |
| Belarus                | 1         |          |          |
| Belgium                | 1         |          |          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1         |          |          |
| Bulgaria               | 1         |          |          |
| Croatia                | 1         |          |          |
| Cyprus                 |           |          | 1        |
| Czech Republic         | 1         |          |          |
| Denmark                | 1         |          |          |
| Estonia                | 1         |          |          |
| Finland                | 1         |          |          |
| France                 | 1         |          |          |
| Germany                | 1         |          |          |
| Greece                 | 1         |          |          |
| Hungary                | 1         |          |          |
| Iceland                | 1         |          |          |
| Ireland                | 1         |          |          |
| Israel                 | 1         |          |          |
| Italy                  | 1         |          |          |
| Latvia                 | 1         |          |          |
| Liechtenstein          | 1         |          |          |
| Lithuania              | 1         |          |          |
| Luxembourg             | 1         |          |          |
| Republic of Macedonia  | 1         |          |          |
| Malta                  | 1         |          |          |
| Moldova                |           |          | 1        |
| Netherlands            | 1         |          |          |
| Norway                 | 1         |          |          |
| Poland                 | 1         |          |          |
| Portugal               | 1         |          |          |
| Romania                | 1         |          |          |
| Russia                 | 1         |          |          |
| Serbia and Montenegro  | 1         |          |          |
| Slovakia               | 1         |          |          |
| Slovenia               | 1         |          |          |
| Spain                  | 1         |          |          |
| Sweden                 | 1         |          |          |
| Switzerland            | 1         |          |          |
| Turkey                 |           |          | 1        |
| Ukraine                | 1         |          |          |
| United Kingdom         | 1         |          |          |

**Table III**

Is it legal to practise as a homeopath?

| Country                | Yes       | No        | Unknown  |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>22</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>4</b> |
| Albania                |           |           | 1        |
| Armenia                |           | 1         |          |
| Austria                |           | 1         |          |
| Belarus                |           | 1         |          |
| Belgium                | 1         |           |          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1         |           |          |
| Bulgaria               |           | 1         |          |
| Croatia                | 1         |           |          |
| Cyprus                 |           |           | 1        |
| Czech Republic         |           | 1         |          |
| Denmark                | 1         |           |          |
| Estonia                | 1         |           |          |
| Finland                | 1         |           |          |
| France                 |           | 1         |          |
| Germany                |           | 1         |          |
| Greece                 | 1         |           |          |
| Hungary                |           | 1         |          |
| Iceland                | 1         |           |          |
| Ireland                | 1         |           |          |
| Israel                 | 1         |           |          |
| Italy                  |           | 1         |          |
| Latvia                 |           | 1         |          |
| Liechtenstein          | 1         |           |          |
| Lithuania              |           | 1         |          |
| Luxembourg             |           | 1         |          |
| Republic of Macedonia  | 1         |           |          |
| Malta                  | 1         |           |          |
| Moldova                |           |           | 1        |
| Netherlands            | 1         |           |          |
| Norway                 | 1         |           |          |
| Poland                 | 1         |           |          |
| Portugal               | 1         |           |          |
| Romania                |           | 1         |          |
| Russia                 |           | 1         |          |
| Serbia and Montenegro  |           | 1         |          |
| Slovakia               |           | 1         |          |
| Slovenia               | 1         |           |          |
| Spain                  | 1         |           |          |
| Sweden                 | 1         |           |          |
| Switzerland            | 1         | 1         |          |
| Turkey                 |           |           | 1        |
| Ukraine                |           | 1         |          |
| United Kingdom         | 1         |           |          |

**Table IV**

Legal restrictions

| Country                | Yes       | No        | Unknown  |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>24</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>2</b> |
| Albania                |           | 1         |          |
| Armenia                | 1         |           |          |
| Austria                | 1         |           |          |
| Belarus                | 1         |           |          |
| Belgium                | 1         |           |          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |           | 1         |          |
| Bulgaria               | 1         |           |          |
| Croatia                |           | 1         |          |
| Cyprus                 | 1         |           |          |
| Czech Republic         | 1         |           |          |
| Denmark                |           | 1         |          |
| Estonia                |           | 1         |          |
| Finland                |           | 1         |          |
| France                 | 1         |           |          |
| Germany                | 1         |           |          |
| Greece                 |           | 1         |          |
| Hungary                | 1         |           |          |
| Iceland                | 1         |           |          |
| Ireland                |           | 1         |          |
| Israel                 |           | 1         |          |
| Italy                  | 1         |           |          |
| Latvia                 | 1         |           |          |
| Liechtenstein          |           | 1         |          |
| Lithuania              | 1         |           |          |
| Luxembourg             | 1         |           |          |
| Republic of Macedonia  |           | 1         |          |
| Malta                  |           | 1         |          |
| Moldova                |           |           | 1        |
| Netherlands            |           | 1         |          |
| Norway                 | 1         |           |          |
| Poland                 |           | 1         |          |
| Portugal               |           | 1         |          |
| Romania                | 1         |           |          |
| Russia                 | 1         |           |          |
| Serbia and Montenegro  | 1         |           |          |
| Slovakia               | 1         |           |          |
| Slovenia               | 1         |           |          |
| Spain                  |           | 1         |          |
| Sweden                 | 1         |           |          |
| Switzerland            | 1         | 1         |          |
| Turkey                 |           |           | 1        |
| Ukraine                | 1         |           |          |
| United Kingdom         |           | 1         |          |

**Table V**

Government regulation

| Country                | Yes       | No        | Unknown  |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>14</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Albania                |           | 1         |          |
| Armenia                |           | 1         |          |
| Austria                |           |           | 1        |
| Belarus                |           |           | 1        |
| Belgium                | 1         |           |          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |           | 1         |          |
| Bulgaria               | 1         |           |          |
| Croatia                |           | 1         |          |
| Cyprus                 | 1         |           |          |
| Czech Republic         |           | 1         |          |
| Denmark                | 1         |           |          |
| Estonia                |           | 1         |          |
| Finland                |           | 1         |          |
| France                 | 1         |           |          |
| Germany                | 1         |           |          |
| Greece                 |           | 1         |          |
| Hungary                | 1         |           |          |
| Iceland                | 1         |           |          |
| Ireland                |           | 1         |          |
| Israel                 |           | 1         |          |
| Italy                  |           | 1         |          |
| Latvia                 | 1         |           |          |
| Liechtenstein          |           | 1         |          |
| Lithuania              | 1         |           |          |
| Luxembourg             |           | 1         |          |
| Republic of Macedonia  |           | 1         |          |
| Malta                  |           | 1         |          |
| Moldova                |           |           | 1        |
| Netherlands            |           | 1         |          |
| Norway                 | 1         |           |          |
| Poland                 |           | 1         |          |
| Portugal               |           | 1         |          |
| Romania                | 1         |           |          |
| Russia                 | 1         |           |          |
| Serbia and Montenegro  |           | 1         |          |
| Slovakia               |           | 1         |          |
| Slovenia               |           | 1         |          |
| Spain                  |           | 1         |          |
| Sweden                 |           | 1         |          |
| Switzerland            | 1         | 1         |          |
| Turkey                 |           |           | 1        |
| Ukraine                |           |           | 1        |
| United Kingdom         |           | 1         |          |

**Table VI**

Legal protection of title

| Country                | Yes      | No        | Unknown  |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>3</b> | <b>36</b> | <b>4</b> |
| Albania                |          | 1         |          |
| Armenia                |          | 1         |          |
| Austria                |          |           | 1        |
| Belarus                |          | 1         |          |
| Belgium                | 1        |           |          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |          | 1         |          |
| Bulgaria               |          | 1         |          |
| Croatia                |          | 1         |          |
| Cyprus                 |          |           | 1        |
| Czech Republic         |          | 1         |          |
| Denmark                |          | 1         |          |
| Estonia                |          | 1         |          |
| Finland                |          | 1         |          |
| France                 |          | 1         |          |
| Germany                |          | 1         |          |
| Greece                 |          | 1         |          |
| Hungary                |          | 1         |          |
| Iceland                |          | 1         |          |
| Ireland                |          | 1         |          |
| Israel                 |          | 1         |          |
| Italy                  |          | 1         |          |
| Latvia                 |          | 1         |          |
| Liechtenstein          |          | 1         |          |
| Lithuania              | 1        |           |          |
| Luxembourg             |          | 1         |          |
| Republic of Macedonia  |          | 1         |          |
| Malta                  |          | 1         |          |
| Moldova                |          |           | 1        |
| Netherlands            |          | 1         |          |
| Norway                 | 1        |           |          |
| Poland                 |          | 1         |          |
| Portugal               |          | 1         |          |
| Romania                |          | 1         |          |
| Russia                 |          | 1         |          |
| Serbia and Montenegro  |          | 1         |          |
| Slovakia               |          | 1         |          |
| Slovenia               |          | 1         |          |
| Spain                  |          | 1         |          |
| Sweden                 |          | 1         |          |
| Switzerland            |          | 1         |          |
| Turkey                 |          |           | 1        |
| Ukraine                |          | 1         |          |
| United Kingdom         |          | 1         |          |

**Table VII**

Availability within the national healthcare system and reimbursement of costs

| <b>Country</b>         | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Unknown</b> | <b>Free through NHS</b> | <b>Costs reimbursed</b> |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>10</b>  | <b>29</b> | <b>4</b>       | <b>5</b>                | <b>14</b>               |
| Albania                |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Armenia                | 1          |           |                |                         |                         |
| Austria                |            | 1         |                |                         | 1                       |
| Belarus                |            |           | 1              |                         |                         |
| Belgium                |            | 1         |                |                         | 1                       |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Bulgaria               |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Croatia                |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Cyprus                 |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Czech Republic         |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Denmark                |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Estonia                |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Finland                |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| France                 | 1          |           |                | 1                       | 1                       |
| Germany                | 1          |           |                | 1                       | 1                       |
| Greece                 |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Hungary                |            | 1         |                |                         | 1                       |
| Iceland                |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Ireland                |            | 1         |                |                         | 1                       |
| Israel                 | 1          |           |                |                         | 1                       |
| Italy                  |            | 1         |                |                         | 1                       |
| Latvia                 |            | 1         |                |                         | 1                       |
| Liechtenstein          |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Lithuania              | 1          |           |                |                         |                         |
| Luxembourg             | 1          |           |                |                         | 1                       |
| Republic of Macedonia  |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Malta                  |            | 1         |                |                         | 1                       |
| Moldova                |            |           | 1              |                         |                         |
| Netherlands            | 1          |           |                | 1                       | 1                       |
| Norway                 |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Poland                 | 1          |           |                | 1                       |                         |
| Portugal               |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Romania                | 1          |           |                |                         |                         |
| Russia                 |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Serbia and Montenegro  |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Slovakia               |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Slovenia               |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Spain                  |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Sweden                 |            | 1         |                |                         |                         |
| Switzerland            |            | 1         |                |                         | 1                       |
| Turkey                 |            |           | 1              |                         |                         |
| Ukraine                |            |           | 1              |                         |                         |
| United Kingdom         | 1          |           |                | 1                       | 1                       |

**Table VIII**

## Funding of homeopathy research

| Country                | Yes       | No        | Unknown  | Government | Other     |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>16</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>8</b>   | <b>14</b> |
| Albania                |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Armenia                |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Austria                | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Belarus                |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Belgium                |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Bulgaria               |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Croatia                |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Cyprus                 |           |           | 1        |            |           |
| Czech Republic         |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Denmark                | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Estonia                |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Finland                |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| France                 | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Germany                | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Greece                 |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Hungary                |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Iceland                |           |           | 1        |            |           |
| Ireland                | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Israel                 | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Italy                  | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Latvia                 |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Liechtenstein          |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Lithuania              |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Luxembourg             |           |           | 1        |            |           |
| Republic of Macedonia  |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Malta                  |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Moldova                |           |           | 1        |            |           |
| Netherlands            | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Norway                 | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Poland                 | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Portugal               | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Romania                | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Russia                 |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Serbia and Montenegro  |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Slovakia               |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Slovenia               |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Spain                  |           | 1         |          |            |           |
| Sweden                 | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Switzerland            | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| Turkey                 |           |           | 1        |            |           |
| Ukraine                | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |
| United Kingdom         | 1         |           |          |            | 1         |

## The Legal Situation for the Practice of Homeopathy in Europe – Country by Country

### ALBANIA (10)

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment?  
Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Unknown
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country?  
Unknown
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

### ARMENIA (11)

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment?  
Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No (12)  
Homeopathy has been accepted as a profession for medical doctors only.
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes (see 3).
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country?  
Medical doctors
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

### AUSTRIA (13)

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment?  
Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No (14)
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Only medical doctors may practise homeopathy. Reference: see 3.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist?  
Unknown
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country?  
Medical doctors (see 4).
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? Unknown
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No. However, homeopathic remedies are being prescribed in acute cases in some hospitals.
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, by some private health insurance companies.
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes
  - a) by the Government: Yes

- b) other sources: Yes

### BELARUS (8)

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment?  
Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Only medical doctors are allowed to treat patients irrespective of the therapy being used. These doctors must obtain a licence to practise homeopathy. A medical doctor must have 3 years clinical experience in general medicine, followed by a 2 month course with 312 hours of lectures and clinical training in homeopathy. There are certain legal discrepancies that reduce patients' access to homeopathy.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist?  
Unknown
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country?  
Medical doctors (see 4).
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Unknown
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Unknown  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Unknown
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

### BELGIUM (15)

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment?  
Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes (16-20)
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Practitioners must have an education to practise CAM therapies.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes (see 3).
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country?  
Only practitioners who have completed an approved education in homeopathy may practise.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? Yes (16)
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes. Expenses for consultations and homeopathic medicines are partly refunded through the national healthcare system, as well as by some private insurance companies.
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (21)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes (22)
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone, provided they have finalised education in homeopathy and have a certificate or diploma proving they can practise homeopathy.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

**BULGARIA (23)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes (24). Homeopathy is the only CAM therapy that may be practised by medical doctors and dentists only. There are no requirements for medical doctors' and dentists' education and training in homeopathy.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes (see 4).
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors and dentists (see 4).
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

**CROATIA (25)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

**CYPRUS (7)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes (26)
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Unknown
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Unknown
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. All treatment is restricted to legally regulated personnel. If someone is allowed to practise under United Kingdom regulations, then they may also practise their alternative activities in Cyprus.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes. All treatment is restricted to legally regulated personnel.
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Legally regulated personnel. If someone is allowed to practise under United Kingdom regulations, then they may also practise their alternative activities in Cyprus.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? Unknown
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Unknown
  - a) by the Government: Unknown
  - b) other sources: Unknown

**CZECH REPUBLIC (27)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors and dentists.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

**DENMARK (28)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes. The Government has established a voluntary public register for CAM practitioners (29).
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No

- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes  
a) by the Government: Yes  
b) other sources: Yes

#### **ESTONIA (30)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **FINLAND (31)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **FRANCE (32)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Only medical doctors, dentists and nurses may practise homeopathy.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes (see 4).
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors, dentists and nurses.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Yes, like any other consultation with a statutorily recognised healthcare practitioner.  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, cost for treatment and 35 % of costs for homeopathic

medicines are reimbursed through the national healthcare system.

- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes  
a) by the Government: Unknown  
b) other sources: Yes

#### **GERMANY (33)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No. Anyone treating patients must either be a medical doctor or a Heilpraktiker (34).
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Anyone treating patients must either be a medical doctor or a Heilpraktiker.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes (see 4).
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors, Heilpraktikers, midwives (only during pregnancy and childbirth).
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No.
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Yes, by medical doctors who are within the national healthcare system.  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes. Private insurance companies refund expenses for homeopathic treatment provided by both medical doctors and Heilpraktikers. Some state insurance partly pays for homeopathic treatment in certain circumstances, including expenses for homeopathic medicines in treatment of children under the age of 12 years, provided treatment is given by a medical doctor with a special education in homeopathy.
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes  
a) by the Government: Yes  
b) other sources: Yes

#### **GREECE (35)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **HUNGARY (36)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Only medical doctors and dentists may practise homeopathy.

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors and dentists.

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, by private insurance companies.

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No

a) by the Government: No

b) other sources: No

#### **ICELAND (7)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes (8)

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes (8)

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes.

Serious diseases and disorders, including communicable diseases that are regarded as hazardous to public health (according to law), shall only be treated by healthcare personnel. Practitioners who do not hold a title as healthcare personnel may however still treat patients when treatment takes place in cooperation or consultation with the patient's medical doctor.

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes

In 2005 the Icelandic Parliament passed a bill for CAM practitioners. Legislation establishes a voluntary official registration scheme for CAM practitioners. The objective of regulation is to ensure safety of those who seek or use CAM practitioners, and to ensure the quality of the service as far as possible. The register includes providers who have had a basic health education, have accomplished practical training under supervision, hold current indemnity insurance. The Icelandic CAM organisation will take on the necessary tasks for registration and maintaining the register. The register will be voluntary and providers will be self-regulated through their member associations.

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Unknown

a) by the Government: Unknown

b) other sources: Unknown

#### **IRELAND (37)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No. The only exception is the occasional use of homeopathic medicines in hospitals.

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, through private insurance companies.

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes

a) by the Government: No

b) other sources: Yes

#### **ISRAEL (38)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes. Homeopathy is offered within the setting of the national healthcare system, but it is not subsidized.

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, through private insurance companies.

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes

a) by the Government: No

b) other sources: Yes

#### **ITALY (7, 39)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes, only medical doctors may practise homeopathy.

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors.

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, through both public and private health insurance.

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes (40)

a) by the Government: Yes (40)

b) other sources: Unknown

#### **LATVIA (41)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No (42)

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes

- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes (43, 44)
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors, dentists, physiotherapists.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, with the rare exception of some private insurance companies.
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **LIECHTENSTEIN (45)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No. However, the title 'Dip.hom.SHI' is legally protected.
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **LITHUANIA (7, 8, 46)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Only medical doctors may practise homeopathy after having obtained a certificate of training at the university. According to the Health Minister's order of February 5th 1999, homeopathy is medical specialization. Medical doctors who have obtained a specialisation in another field may get an additional license for homeopathic practice after completing 216 hours postgraduate course (only university diplomas are valid). The following conditions can not be treated with homeopathy: cancer, tuberculosis, acute infectious diseases, schizophrenia and affective insanity.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes. The Government controls regulation of homeopaths. The Lithuanian Association of Homeopaths is involved in developing regulatory criteria, but has not direct influence on regulation (also see 4).
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? Yes, the title 'doctor homeopath' is legally protected.
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes
- 9) Expenses for treatment:

- Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **LUXEMBOURG (7, 8)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Only legally regulated personnel may practise.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Only legally regulated personnel may practise.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? Unknown
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Unknown  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Unknown  
a) by the Government: Unknown  
b) other sources: Unknown

#### **MALTA (48)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, through private insurance companies.
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **MOLDOVA**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Unknown
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Unknown
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Unknown
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Unknown
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Unknown
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Unknown
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? Unknown
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Unknown
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Unknown

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way?

Unknown

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded?

Unknown

a) by the Government: Unknown

b) other sources: Unknown

#### **NETHERLANDS (49)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No (50)

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Yes, through additional health insurance.

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes (see previous question).

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes

a) by the Government: No

b) other sources: Yes

#### **NORWAY (51)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes (52)

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes (52)

Serious diseases and disorders, including communicable diseases that are regarded as hazardous to public health (according to law), shall only be treated by healthcare personnel. Practitioners who do not hold a title as healthcare personnel may however still treat patients when the purpose is to alleviate or moderate symptoms or consequences of the disease or disorder or side effects of given treatment or where the purpose is to strengthen the body's immune system or its ability to heal itself. These practitioners may also treat any disease when treatment takes place in cooperation with or in consultation with the patient's physician and the patient is old enough to consent to healthcare (according to the Patients' Rights Act). This also applies to other patients if the health service has no curative or palliative treatment to offer the patient.

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes (52) The Government has established a public voluntary register for CAM practitioners. The Register was established on 1 June 2004 (53).

Only persons who are registered as practitioners of alternative treatment in the register may use the designation 'registered' along with their professional title of alternative therapist. The Department provides regulations for a voluntary register for health care personnel and others practising alternative treatment. Hereunder may be given regulation on

1. registration fee and

2. annual fee for continuation of the registration.

The register is voluntary. This means that practitioners may still practise in spite of not being on the register.

They may however then not state that they are on the register.

Practitioners must

- Belong to an organisation which has been accepted onto the register for alternative practitioners;
- Run their business in an appropriate way (follow regulations for running of businesses);
- Follow their association's Code of Ethics;
- Be registered at The Brønnøysund Register Centre (Brønnøysundregistrene), which registers all businesses in Norway.

Organisations must be approved by the authorities and must have

- Criteria for the education and practice of the group of practitioners they represent;
- Binding Codes of Ethics;
- Have complaints and disciplinary procedures;
- The possibility to exclude practitioners who do not comply with the association's Code of Ethics;

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No, but the title 'Registered homeopath' is legally protected, as a result of the law relating to the alternative treatment of disease, and criteria established in the public voluntary register for CAM practitioners (52, 53)

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes

a) by the Government: Yes

b) other sources: Yes

#### **POLAND (54)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes. According to Polish law only medical doctor or dentists may treat. Practitioners practicing CAM in Poland heal. This is legal according to Polish Classification of Goods and Services, according to which a homeopath registers his activity at point 85.14.13-00.30 defined as (55): "Services delivered by paramedical personnel, including homeopathic services and similar, excluding services delivered by medical doctors".

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone, provided they use the word 'heal' to describe their activities.

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Yes. Consultations are free of charge, provided the patient is treated by a homeopathic doctor working within the national healthcare service. Homeopathic treatment may be free of charge if provided by a homeopathic doctor in a hospital.

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes

a) by the Government: No

b) other sources: Yes

**PORTUGAL (56)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes (57). A law introduced in July 2003 recognised the practice of homeopathy and five other CAM therapies. The new law enshrines the right of Portuguese citizens to freely choose the particular therapy they wish while also setting out the basis for the regulation of the practitioners who may practise these therapies as independent health care professionals. Under this law the practice of the therapies will be controlled and accredited by the Health Ministry while the education and the certification of degrees and diplomas for the practice of the therapies will be controlled by the Ministry of Education and Science and Higher Education. Regulation has however not been introduced yet.
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: Yes

**REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (47)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

**ROMANIA (58)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Only medical doctors and dentists may practise, after having passed an examination following a three-year long training programme.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes (see 4).
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors and dentists.

- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes
  - a) by the Government: Yes
  - b) other sources: No

**RUSSIA (59)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes, only medical doctors may practise.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

**SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO (60)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. It is only legal for healthcare practitioners to treat patients.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists, pharmacists.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No
  - a) by the Government: No
  - b) other sources: No

**SLOVAKIA (61)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No. Only medical doctors may practise.
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes (see 3).
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Unknown
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Medical doctors.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **SLOVENIA (62)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes. Medical doctors are prohibited from practising homeopathy and must sign a statement saying they will not practise homeopathy or any other CAM therapy.
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone except medical doctors.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **SPAIN (63)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Unknown  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Unknown
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **SWEDEN (64)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes (65)
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes (66). Statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners are prohibited from practising homeopathy and any other CAM therapy that has not been scientifically proved. The exception is if a patient asks for it, if there is no risk involved, if there is no parallel to conventional treatment and if all possible conventional treatments have been tried without relief.

Non-statutorily authorised personnel are not allowed to treat children under the age of eight, pregnant women and women in labour (65). Also written advice or recommendations for treatment can only be given if the practitioner has seen the patient in person.

- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone, except statutorily regulated healthcare practitioners.
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? No
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? No  
a) by the Government: No  
b) other sources: No

#### **SWITZERLAND (67, 68)**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Legislation varies. It is legal for homeopaths to practise in 20 cantons, and only medical doctors and dentists may practise in six cantons (see 5).
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes (see 3 and 5).
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Yes. Statutorily regulated homeopaths may practise in 14 cantons. In six cantons homeopaths must pass an official exam in order to be allowed to practise (Basel-Stadt, Baselland, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, Ticino, Thurgau). In another six cantons only medical doctors and dentists may practise (Aargau, Jura, Uri, Schwyz, Waadt, Zürich). In the remaining six cantons anyone may practise homeopathy. In some cantons midwives may practise homeopathy.
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? The situation varies (see 5).
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? No
- 9) Expenses for treatment:  
Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? No  
Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, expenses for treatment are partially reimbursed through some private health insurance companies.
- 10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes  
a) by the Government: Yes  
b) other sources: Yes

#### **TURKEY**

- 1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes
- 2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Unknown
- 3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Unknown
- 4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Unknown
- 5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? Unknown
- 6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Unknown
- 7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? Unknown
- 8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Unknown

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Unknown

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Unknown

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded?

Unknown

a) by the Government: Unknown

b) other sources: Unknown

#### **UKRAINE (8)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment?

Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? No

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? Yes.

Only medical doctors are allowed to treat patients irrespective of the therapy being used. Homeopathy is not a medical speciality, so there are no requirements for homeopathic training. Homeopathy can not legally be used in oncology, infectious diseases and psychiatry (69). According to the constitution any citizen has the right to be treated by any method, free of charge. This does however not include private practitioners. A medical doctor may register a licence of her or his main speciality and add a note: "with the use of the homeopathic method."

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist?

Unknown

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country?

Medical doctors

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Unknown

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Unknown

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Unknown

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes

a) by the Government: No

b) other sources: Yes

#### **UNITED KINGDOM (70, 71)**

1) Do patients have access to homeopathic treatment? Yes

2) Can patients self-refer to a homeopath? Yes

3) Is it legal to practise as a homeopath? Yes

4) Are there any legal restrictions to the practice of homeopathy? No

5) Does any sort of Governmental regulation exist? No. Homeopathic doctors are however regulated by the Faculty Act of 1952 (72).

6) Who can legally practise homeopathy in your country? Anyone

7) Is the title 'homeopath' legally protected? No

8) Is homeopathy available within the public healthcare system? Yes

9) Expenses for treatment:

Is homeopathic treatment available free of charge through the national healthcare system? Yes

Are the costs for treatment reimbursed in any way? Yes, both expenses for consultations and homeopathic medicines are refunded by public or private health insurance.

10) Has any research in homeopathy been funded? Yes

a) by the Government: Yes

b) other sources: Yes

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