



EUROPEAN REGION OF THE WCPT

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GERMANY

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Our office hours:

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Country information:



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Population: 82.000.000

Number of Physiotherapists:

- in the association: 30.000

- in the country: 128.000 (2010)

Headquarters:

The German headquarter has 12 staff employees and a full time employed managing director. The association holds monthly executive meetings and furthers liasions with other health care professions and authorities. The German physiotherapy association is the professional body responsible for professional issues, physiotherapy education, and negotiations with statutory health insurances. They have established rules for professional conduct.

Migration Information:

Click here for detailed information regarding the migration procedures for Physiotherapists to:
[GERMANY](#)

Physiotherapy Education:

Basic Education Program:

The three-years education takes place at physiotherapy schools (270) which are at a polytechnical level. The minimum admission requirement for physiotherapy programs is completion of ten years of secondary level schooling. Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy and do not have a record of conduct that would disqualify them from practising physiotherapy. The theoretical and practical education is provided at school, the clinical education at affiliated hospitals or in other clinical settings. All physiotherapy students pass a state



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examination once the program is completed. Students receive

- a) Completion certificate of the physiotherapy school
- b) The granting of licence from the state which allows to bear the protected professional title "physiotherapist" and to practice the profession.

Bachelor program: Since 2001 there exist bachelor programs (> 30) at universities (of applied sciences) in order to upgrade the physiotherapy basic program to a Bachelor degree. There are two options combining the basic education with the bachelor program – either parallel or after the basic education. Since 2010 primary qualifying bachelor programs following a model clause are established so that as well the protected title physiotherapist as the academic bachelor degree will be gained after completing the bachelor studies.

Master program:

10 universities offer a master degree program for physiotherapist.

Germany has recognition of physiotherapy specialists. There are possibilities for advanced qualification (e.g. Bobath, Vojta, PNF, Manuelle Therapie, Manuelle Lymphdrainage) which are recognised through the statutory health insurance providers. Physiotherapists are involved both in teaching and research.

The German Federal Association of Physiotherapy has its own education department.

Status of profession:

Professional Title/ Qualification:

Physiotherapeut/Physiotherapeutin Legal protection of the title of physiotherapists has been



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established. All physiotherapists must be registered and obtain a licence to practice physiotherapy. Germany has established a code of ethics for physiotherapists. The "Ministry of Health" is responsible for the physiotherapy profession in Germany. The unemployment rate for physiotherapists is low at the moment.

Practice of physiotherapy:

The physiotherapy treatment is based on a medical referral. Germany offers both public and private physiotherapy services. The treatment cover for physiotherapy is paid both through the national health care system or privately the patient.

Twinning: