Osteopathy – a global presence
Osteopathy in Germany - Development and Strategies

Challenges of implementing Osteopathy as a primary health care profession in Germany

Prof. Marina Fuhrmann M.Sc., D.O.

President Verband der Osteopathen VOD e.V.
Situation in Germany
Overview

• 10,000 Osteopaths
  Most of them organized in osteopathic associations
  • 10 million patients` contacts
  • 100 insurances subsidize Osteopathy
    (more than 130 million € in 2013)
Situation in Germany

Overview

Osteopathy is being offered by:

• Physican and „Heilpraktiker“

• Physiotherapists with additional osteopathic education

• Basic educated Osteopaths

• Academic Osteopaths
Situation in Germany

Overview

Osteopathy from the economic point of view:

10,000 Osteopaths

5,000 employed practice assistants

10 million patient contacts

1.5 billion € (1.8 billion USD) turnover per year

450 € (540 million USD) taxes per year
Osteopathy in Germany

History

• Building up the first Osteopathic Association in Germany
Osteopathy in Germany

History

- VOD was established as the first Osteopathic Association in Germany in 1994
  - And is the only non profit Organisation for Osteopathy
Osteopathy in Germany

History

• More than 4.300 members in 2017
Osteopathy in Germany

Targets

• Working for establishing the profession Osteopath in the German health system
  • Quality management supervision
Osteopathy in Germany

Member Services

- Quality Management
- Information and consultation
- Biggest German quality-controlled therapists list
- Standards for certification
  (Special employee for certification control)
- VOD-Lawyer
- Advertising/Web-Site-Check
- Business Start up consultation
- Providing VOD-Logo
- Webinars (for example liability risks, advertizing, billing questions)
Osteopathy in Germany

Public relations

- Campaigns for establishing the profession
Osteopathy in Germany

Public relations

• Campaigns for promoting Osteopathy
  (International Osteopathic Health Week 2016)
Osteopathy in Germany

Public relations

- Campaigns for promoting Osteopathy „Children for Tomorrow“—(Osteopathic Health Week 2014)
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Public relations

- Campaigns for promoting Osteopathy
- Annually Charity Project – 2017 for handycapped Children
Osteopathy in Germany

Information

- Informing and explaining
- Annually Fairs
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Information

- Informing and explaining to public and politics
- Public health fairs
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Information

- Running biggest German website for Osteopathy

Facebook and Twitter-Activities and vodevosteo canal

www.osteopathie.de
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Conferences

• International Congresses
• 2017 is the 20th VOD-Congress
Osteopathy in Germany

Science & Studies

- Scientific further development and studies
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Science & Studies

- PALPATION PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY FRESENIUS UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE ATSRI
Osteopathy in Germany
Science & Studies

• Official German cooperation partner DO-Touch-Net-Project

Carried out Do-Touch-Net-Study
• Combined with the adverse advance study we set up an additional study.
Osteopathy in Germany
Science & Studies

Is it the first time you see an Osteopath?
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Who did you already consult?
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Who recommended the Osteopath?
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Cost-Effectiveness-Study – BKK Advita Insurance
Reducing costs in health system for more than 15%
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Newborn Study - AFO
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Print & PR

- VOD-News, DO and Patients’ Magazine
Osteopathy in Germany

International Networking

- International Engagement

FORE, EFO, OIA
Educational Concepts for Osteopathy in Germany

• More than 20 schools/institutes/academies with up to 5 years of Osteopathy-Education
  First started in 1989
  Different types of education (full time & part-time)

• The VOD cooperates with several partner-schools and gives recommendations
Educational Concepts for Osteopathy in Germany

• 3 Universities
  Fresenius Idstein,
  Fresenius Munich,
  Dresden University, DIU
Educational Concepts for Osteopathy in Germany

• In 2008 the VOD initiated the process of academization and developed the curriculum for the first German Bachelor program in Osteopathy in cooperation with a working group of 10 different osteopathic professors to achieve a comment consent

• From 2010 on the VOD gave support for the first osteopathic full time program Bachelor, BSc
• (also financial support / Start-up-financial support)
Educational Concepts for Osteopathy in Germany

- FULL ACCREDITATED MASTER PROGRAM WAS STARTED in 2015,
  NEXT STEP to set up PhD Programs
Lobbying

Regularly contact and exchange with ministries and parliament
Expert-Meetings in the German Parliament
Working together with other Osteopathic Associations
Lobbying

Developed job profile for Osteopathy
Lobbying

VOD succeeded in stopping the implementation of Osteopathy into Physiotherapy and the end of Osteopathy in October 2016
Lobbying

Expecting new regulation after election in autumn 2017
Thank You very much for Your kind attention!

Verband der Osteopathen (VOD e.V.)
Untere Albrechtstraße 15
65185 Wiesbaden

www.osteopathie.de
VOD e.V.
Bundesvertretung der Osteopathen in Deutschland