

A satellite night-time photograph of Europe, showing city lights and geographical features. A large, bright green circle is overlaid on the image, containing the main title text.

OIA Annual General Meeting and Conference 2022

Helsinki, Finland

12. June 2022





- A merger between the European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO), and the Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe (FORE) in March 2018
- 7 Board Members, 1 CEO and Secretariat
- Four Committees – Education, Communication, Policy and Research are based on volunteers
- Members of The Osteopathic International Alliance

Why this document?

- Many national associations are in the process of regulation of the profession where this kind of document is useful
- Stakeholders, e.g. insurance companies, governments and osteopaths who would like to know, which demands there are, to be able to practice in different European countries.

I'm moving to Italy

My name is Mary and I would like to move to Italy and practice Osteopathy there. I cannot really find any Information how Osteopathy is regulated in Italy, and under which requirements I am allowed to work there, and hope you can help me here

Structure of the document

1. General introduction of the profession: definition of Type I and Type II education, definition of the term "regulation", short history, standards – WHO Benchmarks and the CEN standard
2. Overviews: Population & Regulation, Education Overview & Osteopathic Practice
3. Regulation and status in 12 different countries: Italy is in the process, Norway just gained regulation. Country population, numbers of osteopaths, Regulator, educational level, status of the profession etc.
4. Appendix: National law on regulation



The voice
of Osteopathy
in Europe





Regulation of the Osteopathic Profession in Europe

An Overview

First Edition OCTOBER 2021



Contents

Introduction and aims of the EFFO	Page 3
Policy Committee statement	Page 4
Definition of the term regulation	Page 5
Type I and Type II Osteopathy training programmes	Page 5
Benefits of regulating osteopaths	Page 6
Osteopathy and brief history	Page 7
Osteopathic standards	Page 8
Osteopathic Education Committee statement	Page 9
Population and regulation overview	Page 10
Education overview	Page 12
Osteopathic practice overview	Page 13
Regulation in detail	
Regulation in Cyprus	Page 14
Regulation in Denmark	Page 16
Regulation in Finland	Page 18
Regulation in France	Page 20
Regulation in Iceland	Page 23
Regulation in Italy	Page 25
Regulation in Luxembourg	Page 27
Regulation in Malta	Page 29
Regulation in Norway	Page 32
Regulation in Portugal	Page 34
Regulation in Switzerland	Page 36
Regulation in the United Kingdom	Page 37
Appendices	
Appendix 1: Danish law on regulation	Page 39
Appendix 2: French law on regulation	Page 43
Appendix 3: Portuguese law on regulation	Page 46

The European Federation & Forum for Osteopathy (EFFO) is an organisation of organisations, and represents the professional associations of osteopaths from 22 countries in Europe, as well as from Canada and Israel. The aim of the EFFO is to establish standards, regulation and recognition for all osteopaths in Europe. Our mission is to advance the awareness and recognition of the role that osteopaths play in the health and wellbeing of the public, and ensure high standards of osteopathic care as well as patient safety.



Introduction

The European Federation & Forum for Osteopathy (EFFO) represents the lead professional associations of osteopaths and regulatory authorities from 22 countries in Europe, as well as from Canada and Israel. The EFFO aims to establish standards, regulation and recognition for all osteopaths in Europe. Our mission is to advance the awareness and recognition of the role that the osteopathic profession contributes to the health and wellbeing of the public, and ensure high standards of osteopathic care as well as patient safety.

The EFFO came about as a merger between the European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO), and the Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe (FORE) in March 2018. One of the successes of the two organisations is the establishment of the European CEN (Centre Européen de Normalisation) Standard for Osteopathic Healthcare Provision in 2015. The EFFO itself are members of the OIA which is a global osteopathic organisation of over 60 professional associations, regulators, universities and research groups, representing osteopaths and osteopathic physicians as two streams of the same profession.

The following regulation overview of the osteopathic profession is based on information collected by the Policy Committee within the EFFO and with contributions from all our membership, in 2021. The content in this document will be updated annually, and has been approved by the Board of the EFFO, the respective national organisations, and the Policy Committee.

We would be very pleased to provide further information if needed.

With kind regards,



Hanna Tómasdóttir
Hanna Tómasdóttir
President



Maurice Cheng
Maurice Cheng
Chief Executive

Regulation of the Profession

The EFFO strongly urge all governments across Europe to recognise and regulate osteopathy as an independent, primary healthcare profession.

We recommend that the title 'osteopath' is protected by law, and that osteopaths and osteopathic physicians can only use the titles if they meet certain statutory conditions in terms of competencies and registration and/or licensure. This would normally require statutory registration, set out in national or state/provincial law, as the health professional must comply with set standards of practice that protect the patients they treat.

Patients should be able to consult an osteopath, confident in the knowledge that the practitioner is able to practise efficiently, effectively and safely. Countries which have properly trained and regulated osteopaths see the benefits of high patient satisfaction, safe practise and good patient outcomes.

The profession has well established internationally recognised education and practice standards, and has achieved statutory regulation and licensing in 11 countries in Europe as of 2021. Those countries are Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Norway achieved governmental support for regulation in December 2020, and the legal proposition is pending at the moment. Italy have recognised the status of osteopaths as an independent healthcare profession, and are working towards regulation.

In countries where there is, yet, no statutory regulation of the osteopathic profession, we strongly advise all relevant stakeholders, national organisations, healthcare and governmental bodies, to use and comply with the European CEN standard EN 16686 on Osteopathic Healthcare Provision, published in 2015.

On behalf of the EFFO Policy Committee



Hanna Tómasdóttir, (Denmark/EFFO)
Chair, EFFO Policy Committee, EFFO President

Members:

- Evangelos Evangelou, (Cyprus)
- Jean Bofferding (Luxembourg)
- Lluís M. Horta, (Spain/EFFO)
- Maurice Cheng (UK/EFFO)
- Michel Van Espen (Luxembourg)
- Nancy Spence (Canada)
- Nejc Mikič (Slovenia)
- Nina Köck-Mittendorfer (Austria)

What does the term 'regulation' mean?

"Regulated by law normally means that the title 'osteopath' is protected by law, and that osteopaths and/or osteopathic physicians can only use the titles if they meet certain statutory conditions in terms of competencies and registration and/or licensure. This would normally require statutory registration, as the health professional must comply with set standards of practice that protect the patients they treat; statutory regulation is set out in national or state/provincial law."

(Adapted from the Osteopathic International Alliance statutes 3.1)

Training programmes

According to the CEN standard and the WHO Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy, there are two types of osteopathy training programmes:

- *Type I training programmes are aimed at those with little or no prior healthcare training, but who have completed high school education or equivalent; and*
- *Type II training programmes are aimed at those with prior training as healthcare professionals.*

Benefits of regulating Osteopaths:

- Regulation of the osteopathic profession leads to standardised, appropriate and recognised education standards, which improves patient safety
- Protection of the title 'osteopath' means that citizens can be reassured that the osteopathic practitioner have the skills and competences to convey safe and effective osteopathic treatment
- The *Comité Européen de Normalisation*, CEN, issued a European Standard on Osteopathic Healthcare Provision in 2015, (EN 16686), developed in partnership with the two former European osteopathy organisations: European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO) and the Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe (FORE), now merged as the EFFO. The CEN standard sets a benchmark for high quality clinical practice, education, safety and ethics for Osteopathy in Europe and has been published in 33 European countries, and has served as a key reference for the legislative work related to regulation. Read more about the CEN standard here: <https://www.cencenelec.eu>
- As primary contact healthcare practitioners, osteopaths can relieve waiting lists for medical attention, as well as forming an integral part of multidisciplinary team working. The profession across Europe numbers some 60,000 highly trained healthcare practitioners, which are a key additional source of healthcare provision, particularly in a post COVID-19 health economy.
- The EU mission of "Free movement - EU nationals" will be further supported when the osteopathic profession is regulated in all countries in the EU:

"Free movement of workers is a fundamental principle of the Treaty enshrined in Article 45 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and developed by EU secondary legislation and the Case law of the Court of Justice. EU citizens are entitled to:

- look for a job in another EU country
- work there without needing a work permit
- reside there for that purpose
- stay there even after employment has finished
- enjoy equal treatment with nationals in access to employment, working conditions and all other social and tax advantages"

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=457>

A brief history of osteopathy

Osteopathy is a primary contact and patient-centred healthcare discipline. The profession was founded by Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, an American physician and surgeon, in the late 1800s, and was brought to Europe, by one of his students, John Martin Littlejohn, in the early 1900s. John Martin Littlejohn founded one of the leading osteopathic universities in Europe today, the University College of Osteopathy (UCO), founded in 1915 (formerly the British School of Osteopathy).

According to the CEN standard, osteopathy can be described as:

"The practice of osteopathy uses osteopathic, medical and scientific knowledge to apply the principles of osteopathy to patient diagnosis and treatment. The aim of osteopathy is to improve and support all aspects of health and healthy development. Osteopathic treatment may be preventive, curative, palliative or adjuvant. Osteopaths analyse and evaluate the structural and functional integrity of the body using critical reasoning of osteopathic principles to inform individual diagnosis and treatment of the patient."

History of regulation of the osteopathic profession in Europe

11 countries in Europe have currently achieved regulation of the osteopathic profession on a statutory basis. Those countries are: Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

Statutory recognition of osteopaths started in Europe in 1993 with the Osteopaths' Act in the United Kingdom. This was followed five years later by the foundation of the UK statutory regulator, the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC). Osteopaths in the UK are first contact primary healthcare practitioners, to which the public can self refer. On graduating, which is at either Bachelor or Masters level, they have been trained and experienced to refer onwards to other healthcare professions as appropriate for the patient, and have an adverse incident record that is significantly better than the average in the National Health Service (NHS). Osteopaths in the UK are now recognised by NHS England as Allied Health Professionals, playing an important role in NHS transformation, as fellow health professions with the right skills and experience to relieve the immense pressure on waiting lists.

Since then other European countries have followed the UK lead in recognising and developing regulation for osteopaths, including Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Switzerland. Italy have now recognised the status of osteopaths as an independent healthcare profession, and are working towards regulation. Most recently, the Norwegian Parliament voted in favour of regulating osteopathy as a first contact primary healthcare profession, in December 2020.



In one of the most recent examples, osteopaths in Denmark have been recognised as a first contact healthcare profession in legislation passed in May 2018, by unanimous vote in the Danish Parliament. Authorisations, or license to practise as osteopaths, are issued by the Patient Safety Authority, who are the official regulator of all recognised healthcare professions. The authorisation process in Denmark was assisted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Benchmark for Training in Osteopathy, published in 2010, and the *Comité Européen de Normalisation* (CEN) standard for osteopathic practice and training, published in 2015. These two benchmark documents were of great assistance to the Danish government in their determinations, and for the Patient Safety Authority, where they served as a reference for the base level of education and as an overall qualification frame for the osteopathic profession. Both standards are used as reference standards by EFFO members and many of the osteopathic education providers across Europe.

Osteopathic standards

There are two international standards for osteopathy: The CEN standard and WHO Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy. The two standards are almost congruent.

The WHO Benchmarks describes the core philosophy and principles of osteopathy, the main types of osteopathic training programmes, core competencies, and a benchmark training curriculum.

The World Health Organization published Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy in 2010.

The *Comité Européen de Normalisation* (CEN) issued a European Standard on Osteopathic Healthcare Provision in 2015 (EN 16686), which was developed in partnership with the European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO) and the Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe (FORE), and took the preexisting WHO Benchmarks into account during development. The CEN standard sets a benchmark for high quality clinical practice, education, safety and ethics for Osteopathy in Europe and has been published in 33 European countries.

Read more about the CEN standard here:
www.cencenelec.eu

Osteopathic Education

The EFFO recognises the importance of maintaining and developing high standards for osteopathic education, as described in CEN Type I and Type II programmes.

Education programmes should meet national requirements for recognised qualifications, where applicable. Proof of qualification should state the level of education, preferably in the format of university degrees based on a defined level of ECTS or equivalent. Proof of qualification should be supported by a transcript of records or similar, describing the content and amount of training, preferably stating the number of ECTS.

Education providers (EPs) should on a regular basis undergo external audit, based on requirements described by CEN and/or national requirements for recognised qualifications. EPs not yet accredited by a nationally recognised auditor, should actively pursue accreditation by a relevant national governing body as a higher teaching institution. This applies for EPs delivering both Type I and Type II education programmes.



Tomas Collin, (Norway)
Chair of the Education Committee

Members:

- Jonathan Bailey-Teyletche (UK/EFFO)
- Maurice Cheng (UK/EFFO)
- Giacomo Consorti (Italy)
- Robert Grech (Malta)
- Sandra Lois (Spain)
- Sandra Rinne (Finland)
- Dirk Segers (Belgium)
- Vangelis Skotiniotis (Greece)
- Nancy Spence (Canada)



Population and Regulation Overview

Iceland

Population **368,000**
 Osteopaths in Total **8**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **No¹**

United Kingdom

Population **68 million**
 Osteopaths in Total **5,500**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **No¹**

France

Population **67 million**
 Osteopaths in Total **25,600**
 Primary Health Care **No**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **No¹**

Switzerland

Population **8.6 million**
 Osteopaths in Total **1,300**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **No¹**

Portugal

Population **10.1 million**
 Osteopaths in Total **2,050**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **No**

¹ **No** - legislation passed prior to CEN publication

² **No** - CEN has been presented to the Ministry

³ **Yes** - Norway is in process of regulation

⁴ **Not yet** - Italy is in process of regulation

Finland

Population **5.5 million**
 Osteopaths in Total **500**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **No¹**

Norway

Population **5.5 million**
 Osteopaths in Total **425**
 Primary Health Care **Yes³**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes³**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **Yes³**

Denmark

Population **5.8 million**
 Osteopaths in Total **220**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **Yes**

Luxembourg

Population **636,000**
 Osteopaths in Total **250-300**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **Partly**

Liechtenstein

Population
 Osteopaths in Total
 Primary Health Care
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected

Malta

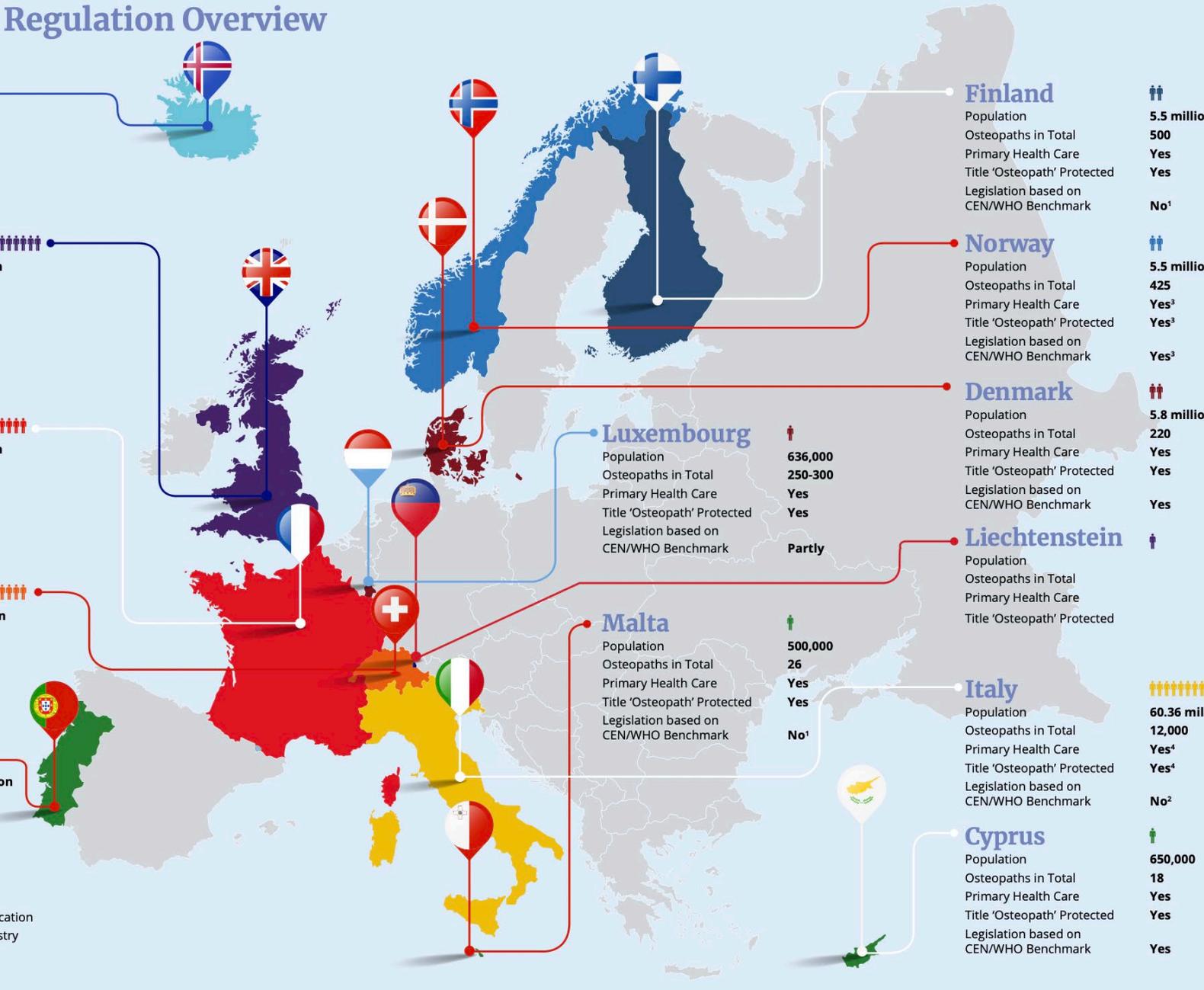
Population **500,000**
 Osteopaths in Total **26**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **No¹**

Italy

Population **60.36 million**
 Osteopaths in Total **12,000**
 Primary Health Care **Yes⁴**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes⁴**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **No²**

Cyprus

Population **650,000**
 Osteopaths in Total **18**
 Primary Health Care **Yes**
 Title 'Osteopath' Protected **Yes**
 Legislation based on CEN/WHO Benchmark **Yes**



Education Overview

	Education Level Required to Practise	Type I educated within association	Type II educated within association	Osteopathic Physicians	Type of education offered
	Master/DO	16	2	None	None
	Bachelor	50	170	1	Type II
	Bachelor	120	80	3	Both Type I & Type II
	See page 21	550	150	1.000-2.000	Both Type I & Type II
	Bachelor	3	0	None	None
	See page 26	1634	2590	23	Both Type I & Type II
					
	Master*	30	50	Between 5-10	None
	Bachelor	26	0	No data	Type I **
	Bachelor/DO	200	175	None	Type I
	Bachelor	1845	205	No data	Type I
	Master	No data	No data	No data	Type 1
	Bachelor	5000	50	50 - estimate	Both Type I & Type II

* Read more on page 28

** Read more on page 30

Osteopathic Practice

	Private Practice	National Health Services	Restrictions to practise	Reimbursed by State	Reimbursed by Insurance	VAT on consultations
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X
	✓	X	X	X*	X	X
	✓	✓****	✓	✓****	✓	X**
						
	✓	✓***	✓	X	✓	✓
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X

* No, but unions

** Yes - until regulation will be finalized!

*** In theory

**** When the regulation process will be over



Education Overview

	Education Level Required to Practise	Type I educated within association	Type II educated within association	Osteopathic Physicians	Type of education offered
	Master/DO	16	2	None	None
	Bachelor	50	170	1	Type II
	Bachelor	120	80	3	Both Type I & Type II
	See page 21	550	150	1.000-2.000	Both Type I & Type II
	Bachelor	3	0	None	None

Osteopathic Practice

	Private Practice	National Health Services	Restrictions to practise	Reimbursed by State	Reimbursed by Insurance	VAT on consultations
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X
	✓	X	X	X*	X	X

Regulation in Cyprus

Based on information received from the national osteopathy association, Cyprus Osteopathic Association, COA.



Country Population, Numbers of Osteopaths & National Association

Cyprus has a population of 850,000 inhabitants, and there are a total of 18 practicing osteopaths. All 18 osteopaths are members of the only osteopathic professional association, the Cyprus Osteopathic Association, COA.

There are at present no student members of COA, and no osteopathy students in Cyprus.

There are also no osteopathic physicians within COA, and no official data on any osteopathic physicians practising in Cyprus.

Regulation, Regulator & Links to Official Documents Related to Regulation

Osteopathy has been regulated as a Healthcare Profession in Cyprus since 3 July 2020 by Law Number 2020 (N. 78(I) of 2020, and the title 'Osteopath' is protected.

The Regulatory Body is Cyprus Registration Board:
Telephone Number: +357-99 444252.

First Contact Healthcare Profession & Standards for Practise

The osteopathic profession is a first contact health profession in Cyprus, and patients can self-refer. Osteopaths need to be registered before practicing osteopathy in Cyprus, but otherwise there are no restrictions to the scope of practice.

The Registration Council has the power to ask the applicant (osteopath) to do more clinical hours or cover academic areas, as well as testing the knowledge of the osteopath with oral, written, practical (technique) and clinical environment exams to bring them up to the Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN), the European standard for osteopathic practice and training, in order to register.

Osteopaths in Cyprus only work in private practice.

Educational Levels & Programmes

The level of education required to practice osteopathy in Cyprus is University Degree/ Masters or DO acquired in an EU state where there is a state register and the osteopath is able to join and practice in that state.

16 osteopaths in COA are Type I educated, and 2 are Type II educated.

No educational osteopathy programmes are offered in Cyprus.

Continuing Professional Development – CPD

There is a legal obligation of 30 hours of Continuing Professional Development per year. This involves lectures, seminars, webinars, workshops, etc., related to professional practice approved by the Cyprus Osteopathic Association.

VAT

There is no VAT on osteopathic consultations in Cyprus.

Insurance

Osteopathic treatments are covered by most insurance companies. Depending on the insurance policy some cover fully and some cover partly.

If you need further information, please contact:



Evangelos Evangelou, DO
President Cyprus Osteopathic Association, COA
Member of the Registration Board
Telephone Number: +357-99 444252
Email: aphrodite5@cytanet.com.cy



Educational Levels & Programmes

Students can study osteopathy either as a part-time or fulltime qualification. The minimum degree level for osteopaths in UK is a Bachelors degree although over 90% of students are on an integrated Masters level programme at present (MOst).

All educational programmes in the UK are validated or offered directly by accredited universities, and quality assessed by the regulator and by the Office for Students.

Continuing Professional Development – CPD

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is mandatory to practise osteopathy in the UK. CPD requirements are specified by the regulator, and are generally 30 hours study per year on average, with a particular focus on addressing key osteopathic practice standards.

VAT

Osteopathic treatments incur 20 % VAT in the UK.

Insurance

Osteopathic treatments are covered by all insurance Companies, but coverage varies depending on type of scheme.

If you need further information, please contact:



Maurice Cheng
Chief Executive Institute of Osteopathy, iO
maurice@osteopathy.org

Appendix 1

Danish law on regulation

Executive Order on the Authorisation of Osteopaths

Pursuant to section 2(2), section 3(1) and section 70b(4) of the Act on the Authorisation of Health Professionals and on Health Professions, cf. Consolidated Act no. 990 of 18 August 2017, as amended by Act no. 727 of 8 June 2018, the following is laid down by order: (A certified translation to English)

www.retsinformation.dk/eli/ta/2018/981

Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the Executive Order is to describe the conditions to be met to obtain authorisation as an osteopath.

Section 2. Only persons who have been granted authorisation as an osteopath have the right to use the title 'osteopath', cf. section 70b (2) of the Act on the Authorisation of Health Professionals and on Health Professions.

Persons covered

Section 3. This Executive Order covers persons who apply for a Danish authorisation as an osteopath (the applicant) and who are:

- (i) Trained in osteopathy in Denmark.
- (ii) EU/EEA nationals trained in osteopathy in an EU/EEA country other than Denmark.
- (iii) EU/EEA nationals trained in osteopathy in a non-EU/EEA country, and whose diploma is recognised in another EU/EEA country and who can demonstrate at least three years' professional experience as an osteopath in the EU/EEA country concerned.
- (iv) EU/EEA nationals trained in osteopathy in a non- EU/EEA country, but who are not covered by para (iii).
- (v) Non-EU/EEA nationals trained in osteopathy in an EU/EEA country other than Denmark or in a non-EU/EEA country.

Conditions for obtaining an authorisation as an osteopath

Section 4. On application, the Danish Patient Safety Authority grants authorisation as an osteopath to the persons referred to in section 3(1), para i), when the Danish Patient Safety Authority assesses that the applicant complies with the requirements of sections 7-9.



Appendix 3

Portuguese law on regulation

Regulation, Regulator & Links to Official Documents Related to Regulation

Link to National Law:

Act 45/2003

Framework law for non-conventional therapies

<https://dre.pt/pesquisa/-/search/656122/details/maximized>

Regulated by Act 71/2013

<https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/499569/details/normal?q=Lei+n.%C2%BA%2071%2F2013>

Also by Government Ordinance No.207-B/2014 (it regulates characterization and functional content of the osteopathic profession)

<https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/58217869/details/normal?q=Portaria+207-%2F2014+de+8+de+outubro>

And by Government Ordinance N°. 172-E/2015 (it regulates the general requirements that must be satisfied by the cycle of studies leading to a degree in Osteopathy)

<https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/58217869/details/normal?q=Portaria+207-%2F2014+de+8+de+outubro>

Link to Regulator Body:

Administração Central do Sistema de Saúde, I.P. (ACSS, I.P.) – (Central Administration of the Health System/Ministry of Health) - <http://www.acss.min-saude.pt/>

Link to the National Register:

Yes. Central Administration of the Health System, I.P. - <http://www.acss.min-saude.pt/>

Educational Levels & Programmes

Only Type I programs are offered in Portugal, at Higher Educational Institutions:

CESPU – ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE DO VALE DO AVE (Vila Nova de Famalicão)

ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE ATLÂNTICA (Oeiras)

ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE DA CRUZ VERMELHA PORTUGUESA (Lisboa)

ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE JEAN PIAGET DE VILA NOVA DE GAIA (Porto region)

ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE NORTE DA CRUZ VERMELHA PORTUGUESA (Oliveira de Azemeis)

ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE RIBEIRO SANCHES (Lisboa)

ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE JEAN PIAGET DE SILVES (Algarve)

INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DO PORTO – ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE (Porto)

Only the above programs at the Higher Educational Institutions are allowed to offer osteopathic education, and are accredited by the A3ES - Agência de Avaliação e Acreditação do Ensino Superior (Higher Education Assessment and Accreditation Agency) and by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education.



Regulation

Achievements & Downsides

D E N M A R K



- Primary Healthcare Profession and ‘Osteopat’ is protected title -since 1 July 2018
- No restrictions to scope of practice
- Manipulations of the spine only allowed for MD’s, Chiros and Physios
- 191 license to practice

Downsides from different perspectives

Economical Perspective:

- Self-financed by individual osteopaths
- 800€ for the authorization – license
- 320 € annually for administration of inspections from the Patient Safety Authority



Downsides from different perspectives

Educational Perspective

- Type II Programmes, without healthcare background can't get a license to practice. 6 Denials
- No Danish Regulated nor Accredited education



Downsides from different perspectives

The Osteopathic Community

- Split in the beginning, facebook groups
- Small fraction of 6 members, non-licensed
- “Too many rules” and “too much administration”
- Focus on evidence-based treatment. Loss of identity for some? – Visceral & Cranial



Achievements

Huge recognition for the whole profession!

- Ministry of Health and other governmental bodies
- General public
- The Healthcare Sector
- Insurance Companies



Achievements

COVID – 19 Pandemic

- Able to work throughout the Pandemic
- Meetings with Ministry of Health and all other Healthcare Professions
- Osteopaths implicitly mentioned in the official C-19 guidelines



Achievements

Economical Perspective

- 15 Insurance Companies reimburse osteopathic treatments, partly or fully
- Agreement with PFA in re. to Pension and Health Insurance
- We were allowed to work through COVID-19
- Good Patient Flow – Osteopaths are busy!



Achievements

Educational Perspective

- Type I, accredited Danish education. Free of charge, EQF level 6 - 240 ECTS.
- Co-operation with VIA University College and our friends and colleagues in Oslo, Kristiania University College



Achievements

Osteopathic Community

- Almost all osteopaths are members of DO
- Membership boost: 312% 2013-2020
- Osteopaths are grateful and proud of their authorisations



Achievements

Governmental Working Groups

- National Clinical Guidelines on Headache. Three published peer-reviewed articles
- “Journalbekendtgørelse” – guidelines for patient notes. Sector specific for osteopaths
- Benchmarks for osteopathic practice





Thank You!

