

Specific CAM issues in the CEE countries

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In 1999 the Council of Europe published a resolution on non-conventional medicine.

In it the Council stated, that:

- various forms of medicine should not compete with one another: it is possible for them to exist side by side and complement one another;
- a common European approach to non-conventional medicine based on the principle of patient's freedom of choice in healthcare should not be ruled out;
- the best guarantee for patients lies in a properly trained profession, which is aware of it's limitations, has a system of ethics and self-regulation and is also subject to outside control;
- member states should model their approach of their neighbors' experiments and, whenever possible, co-ordinate their position with regard to these medicines;
- alternative or complementary forms of medicine could be practiced by doctors of conventional medicine as well as by well-trained practitioners 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), ethical principals should prevail.

The CAM situation in the world, as well as in separate countries and the new member states and CEE, was investigated many times and thanks to them we have information. But some details of these studies let us think that information in several cases is not complete.