

The Project "Community Health Nursing"

The Robert Bosch Foundation and the Agnes-Karll-Corporation in the German Nurses Association¹ initiated the project. Aim is to find out the specific qualification requirements for Community Health Nurses in order to develop and implement a master program. Community Health Nursing (CHN) is a much needed innovative occupational profile in Germany.

The project is based on **the introduction of master's programs** as well as lobbying for this new role in advance practice nursing in Germany.

Three universities are funded:

► **Catholic University Munich**



► **University of Witten/Herdecke**



► **Philosophical-Theological University of Vallendar**

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Kirchlich und staatlich anerkannte
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These universities will develop and accredit the CHN-master's programs until 2020. The Agnes-Karll-Corporation provides supporting meetings and a study trip to Finland to get an insight into the daily work of Community Public Health Nurses.

Why Community Health Nursing in Germany?

Within the next few years, the demographic and epidemiologic development in many German regions will lead to massive challenges in primary health care and nursing services. The shortage of General Practitioners, which is structurally induced, especially in rural areas and social hot spots causes additional problems. Primary health care services for vulnerable groups in districts with a high number of diseases, as well as in rural areas, are becoming increasingly deficient.

The Council of Experts on the Development in the Health Care Sector (Sachverständigenrat²) therefore recommends to strengthen Nursing Services in Primary Health Care Services (SVR 2014). In other countries (e.g. US, Canada, Sweden, Finland and Slovenia) with similar problems, specially qualified nurses (e.g. Community Health Nurses) are already significantly involved in primary health care – a role model that does not exist in Germany yet. It has become clear that academic training programs for Community Health Nurse need to be further developed and implemented in Germany.

Development

As the first step a concept for Community Health Nursing in Germany was developed. This included the recording of existing public health training programs, in particular in the field of community health nursing. Further qualification requirements were derived from these findings. A definition of the role of Community Health Nurses was drafted including task and performance profiles. Initial proposals for structural changes in work organization as well as the financing bases of Community Health Nurses were discussed and developed.

The scope of practice of Community Health Nursing includes e.g. chronic disease management, coordination/treatment of patients with several health conditions (multimorbidity), health promotion and prevention. Also included are coordination, control and management of care processes.



COMMUNITY
HEALTH
NURSING

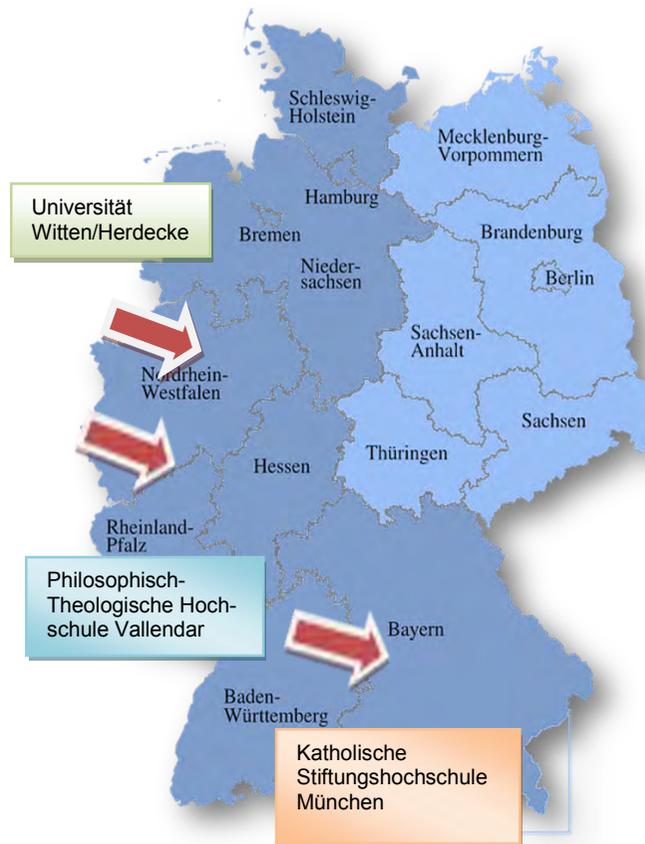
¹ Deutscher Berufsverband für Pflegeberufe DBfK

² A group of scientists who give advice to the Federal Minister of Health

Scope of Practice

Community Health Nurses in Germany would be expected to undertake frequently recurring routine activities like health assessments, ensuring compliance with medication, the collection of diagnostic findings and their documentation, monitoring of chronically ill patients, guidance on self-management, assessments including mental condition and cognition blood sampling, health promotion and prevention. A specific nursing competence to support self-management in chronic disease and educational intervention approaches (patient education, counseling) completes their profile. Community Health Nurses organize support-processes, take over case management and coordinate services of the stakeholders. They improve the health conditions in different communities like suburbs, villages, small towns and districts or municipalities and connect between the community, e.g. the Public Health Service and the Primary Care Center. The results of the project are published in German "Community Health Nursing in Germany", Agnes-Karll-Corporation 2018, www.dbfk.de/chn

Funded universities up to 2020



Community Health Nursing in Germany

Development, accreditation, implementation of master degree programs

A project of the Agnes-Karll-Corporation in the German Nurses Association and the Robert Bosch Foundation

