

International relations

DBfK is a well-integrated part of the international network of nurses. DBfK is ICN member, member of the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), of several specialty organizations, such as EONS (oncology), ESGENA (gastro-enterology), HORATIO (mental health) and ENSA (nursing students). In addition, DBfK is member of the European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations and WHO, which was established in 1996.

APN - Community Health Nursing in Germany

In 2017 the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Agnes-Karll Society in the German Nurses Association initiated the project. The aim is to find out the specific qualification requirements for Community Health Nurses in order to implement a master program. Community Health Nursing (CHN) is the much-needed innovative occupational profile in Germany. The project focuses on the introduction of master's degree programs as well as lobbying for this new role. Starting in 2020 it will be possible to study Community Health Nursing at three universities in Germany on master's level.

Community Health Nursing is one example of Advanced Practice Nursing (APN). We aim to implement APN in Germany increasingly.



Self-regulation of Nurses - Pflegekammer

DBfK for many years has been supporting the concept of self-regulation for nurses in Germany. Because of the German constitution regulation is a prerequisite of the German states (Laender).

We have been successful in establishing regulators (Pflegekammern) in three German states and two more states are underway.

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About DBfK - The German Nurses Association

Structure, objectives and activities, membership ...



The German Nurses Association was founded in 1903 by Agnes Karll and became a founding member of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). In 1909, Agnes Karll was elected president of ICN. Over the years, DBfK has changed its name several times and is presently called „Deutscher Berufsverband für Pflegeberufe“ (German Association of Nursing Professionals). It is the largest free professional nurses' association in Germany.

Structure

Following the federal system of the country, the German Nurses Association consists of one national office and four offices of regional branches. The regional branches are dealing with all requests of the individual member and are responsible for all matters concerning regional legislation, whereas the national office is entrusted with national and international affairs. The members register with the regional office.

The governing body of DBfK at national level is the General Assembly of Delegates. The General Assembly consists of 28 representatives of the regional branches and 28 delegates from the expert groups structured by different fields of nursing practice.

There is one national board of directors and four regional boards. The boards govern the association and are elected by members, in the case of the national board by delegates. The regional presidents are members of the national board of directors, too.

Objectives and Activities

The German Nurses Association aims to

- represent the interest of its members in relation to employers, authorities and other organizations
- advise regional, national and international legislative bodies on nursing matters
- improve working conditions for nurses
- provide information on professional developments
- promote professional standards and quality management by improving basic and post basic education for nurses
- offer its members possibilities to maintain a high level of professional competence, such as seminars, post basic courses, workshops, congresses etc.
- support nursing research by co-operating with universities and nursing research institutes
- define and promote ethical standards for the profession



- make society aware of the importance, the contribution, achievements and efficiency of professional nursing
- demonstrate the power of nursing within the health care system through innovative concepts like family health nursing, advanced practice nursing, case management and others
- co-operate with national and international organizations of nursing and health care.

Membership

The nursing profession in Germany is built by three branches of nurses (general nurse, pediatric nurse and geriatric nurse). Every nurse, as well as nurse students and nurse assistants, can apply for membership. Members not only participate in the process of policy making but can also take active part in the professional development of their special field of nursing.

Services for Members

DBfK renders the following services to its members:

- individual professional and legal counselling
- legal protection insurance
- professional liability insurance
- educational programmes
- publication of a monthly nursing journal, newsletters and a website
- information on new developments and trends
- participation in national and international conferences
- counselling and information service for nurses wanting to work abroad
- membership in ICN and other international nursing organizations.

In order to attain its objectives, the association runs several institutes. The regional branches hold institutes for education and training whereas the national office has its own publishing department, which is responsible for editing the DBfK-aktuell column in Germany's most read nursing journal "Die Schwester Der Pfleger".

National relations

DBfK is recognized by local, regional and national governments as an independent organisation for the nursing profession. Its experience and advice are sought on every important matter related to health care, e.g. legislation, education, human resource planning and the allocation of financial resources in the field of nursing.

