The Kneipp Bund e.V. (German registered Kneipp Association) is an umbrella organization of more than 600 Kneipp societies with about 160,000 members and as such is the largest non-commercial health-organization in Germany. The aim of the association as stated in the statute is “healthy people”; and thus it is dedicated to the prevention of diseases and promotion of health. Based on the teachings of Sebastian Kneipp (1821-1897) the Kneipp Association propagates a concept of health that is both worthwhile and up-to-date. It is composed of the elements water, exercise, diet, natural remedies and balance of life.

The Kneipp Association offers something for everyone in the way of health promotion: for women and men, for young and old, for rich and poor. For example the individual Kneipp societies offer numerous courses and activities. Lectures and courses focus on a healthy diet, the use of natural remedies, Kneipp-applications and issues concerning alternative medicine; they organize exercise and relaxation groups as well as holiday trips or hiking and cycling tours.

In addition to this the Kneipp Association promotes sustainable health programs in social settings. It trains, supervises and certifies institutions which strive to incorporate the Kneipp health concept into their everyday routine. Meanwhile the Kneipp Association has awarded its seal of approval to approximately 680 institutions, including health farms, seniors’ facilities, health spa centers, camp sites, schools and almost 400 day-care facilities.

Moreover, the Kneipp Association runs two spa hotels, which offer the classical Kneipp therapies, and operates two educational institutions: The Sebastian Kneipp Vocational School (SKS) has trained 8,550 Kneipp bath attendants, physiotherapists, pedicurists and masseurs so far; the Sebastian Kneipp Academy (SKA) offers courses throughout the country that are attended by about 3000 people annually.

The “Kneipp Journal” is published monthly and addresses all members of Kneipp societies; the magazine “Kneipp Kindergarten” is directed in particular at day-care nurses, teachers and parents. The health tips given here are supplemented by numerous other media of the Kneipp Publishing House in the field of health as well as by the health-website www.kneippvisite.de.

The Kneipp Center, which also serves as headquarters of the German Kneipp Association, is located in Bad Wörishofen, where Sebastian Kneipp worked from 1855 onwards. Moreover the Federal Association has a political branch, the Berlin Office. Since 1962 the International Kneipp Movement has been organized as an association under the name of “Kneipp Worldwide”. Its members include the German Kneipp Association, as well as organizations and single persons throughout the world.

In December 2015 the German Commission for UNESCO announced that “Kneippism – traditional knowledge and practice according to Sebastian Kneipp” has been included in the German Nationwide Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The application was submitted by the Kneipp-Bund e.V., together with the city of Bad Wörishofen and the Association of German Kneipp Spas and Kneipp Health Resorts (Verband Deutscher Kneippheilbäder und Kneippkurorte e.V.). The Kneipp movement is proud of this appreciation – as it reflects the contemporary significance of traditional naturopathic treatment with the goal to preserve and restore human health in the 21st century.