

KNEIPP-BUND e.V.

FEDERAL ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION

Who we are

The Kneipp-Bund e.V. is the largest non-profit German health association. It is registered under the German Civil Code and serves as an umbrella organisation for more than 200,000 people in Germany organized in nearly 500 local “Kneipp-Vereine”, and in more than 700 certified institutions, such as kindergartens, elementary schools, facilities for the elderly, health spa resorts and hotels, guest houses and health farms. Also among its members are numerous affiliated professional institutions.

The Kneipp-Bund is based in Bad Wörishofen, Bavaria, as well as in Berlin where it established a capital office in 2002.

History

The Kneipp-Bund was founded in 1897 in Bad Wörishofen, shortly after the death of Monseigneur Sebastian Kneipp. At that time, a Kneipp association already existed in Berlin. In the early 1920s, after all activities had ceased during World War I, the two associations merged. A decade later, more than 50,000 members had already joined the Kneipp movement. World War II again interrupted all accomplishments, the association underwent several name changes and was incorporated into the “Third Reich Working Group of Associations for Natural Living and Healing” between 1940 and 1945. After the end of WW II, all associations in Germany were dissolved by the occupying powers.

The Kneipp-Bund was re-established in 1949 but it took years for the Kneipp movement to regain momentum. In the 1950s, membership could successfully be enlarged for a second time to a total of 50,000, and the headquarters were moved to Munich in 1968. Since 1987, however, the Kneipp-Bund has been located at its current statutory seat in Bad Wörishofen.

German unification opened up a new field of activity in the early 1990s. Numerous ‘Kneipp-Vereine’ were established in the newly-formed German states with membership steadily amounting to now roundabout 6,000. In 2002, the Kneipp-Bund established its representation in Berlin.

Anniversary Year 2021: Celebrating Sebastian Kneipp’s 200th Birthday

2021 marks a special year in the history of the Kneipp movement. Like thousands of “Kneippists” around the world, the Kneipp-Bund e.V. will recognize and celebrate this 200th anniversary with year-round celebrations throughout Germany. The central festivities will take place in May 2021 in Bad Wörishofen.

Kneipp Worldwide

The Kneipp movement decided to “go international” in 1962. The association “Kneipp Worldwide” consists of the federal umbrella organisations in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, as well as smaller institutions and individual members from different European states. In addition, Kneipp Worldwide is represented in South Korea and maintains contact in the U.S.A. On the whole, 46 nations are represented in this international confederation.



Nationwide Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Based on a common application by the Kneipp-Bund, the Association of Kneipp Spas and Health Resorts and the City of Bad Wörishofen, “Kneippism – Traditional Knowledge and Practice According to Sebastian Kneipp” has been included in the Nationwide Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage since December 2015. Thereby, the German UNESCO Commission acknowledged the Kneipp movement’s contribution to a profound anchoring of this knowledge and practice in the society.

Ever since, the Kneipp-Bund has been even stronger committed to its mission “Healthy People” and guided by its leitmotiv “Innovation by Tradition”. Kneipp’s natural and holistic healing concept, composed of the elements water, exercise, nutrition, natural remedies and life-balance, has continuously been advanced and readjusted according to latest scientific findings. Today, Kneipp is considered “Modern Medicine”, and it is more up to date than ever.

The Kneipp Movement: Memberships and Cooperation Network

The Kneipp-Bund e.V. is part of a wide-spread cooperation network and a member in several leading German health-policy institutions, among them Bundesvereinigung Prävention und Gesundheitsförderung (BVPg), Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund (DOSB), and Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband (DPWV). Its own network includes health insurances, professional associations, health policy experts and representatives from public life as well as individual manufacturers of health products.

The Kneipp-Bund operates a private training institute (Sebastian-Kneipp-Akademie, SKA) and a state-approved vocational school for physiotherapists, massage and balneo therapists with special focus on Kneipp hydrotherapy (Sebastian-Kneipp-Schule, SKS).

Scientific Research: Kneipp is Modern Medicine

In 2009, the Kneipp-Bund initiated the establishment of an endowed chair for naturopathy at the Institute for Social Medicine, Epidemiology and Health Economics of the international renowned Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Since then, financial support has been provided from a consortium of committed organisations with the aim to enable and support the necessary research in this field. As a major success, the results from a prospective, exploratory, comparative, two-armed cohort study on “Complementary and Integrative Medicine in Nursing Homes”, carried out from 2010 to 2015, were published and gained wide-spread attention. The study was co-financed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). At the beginning of 2020, the Charité executive board decided to turn the chair into a regular and permanent professorship.

More information

Kneipp Worldwide

kneippworldwide.kneippbund.de

Kneipp-Bund e.V.

www.kneippbund.de

SKA Training Institute

www.kneippakademie.de

SKS Vocational School

www.kneippschule.de

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

www.unesco.de/en/kneippism-traditional-knowledge-and-practice-according-sebastian-kneipp

Chair for Naturopathy at Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin

www.epidemiologie.charite.de/en/research/complementary_and_integrative_medicine_research_unit/naturopathy_and_integrative_medicine_group

200th Anniversary of Sebastian Kneipp

www.kneipp2021.de