

Complimentary medicine in Latvia.

By Professor Nikolajs Nikolajevs
(The President)

Complimentatry & alternative medicines (CAM) in Latvia are a full-in-rights methods of Western Academic medicine since 1993.

Nevertheless, the achievement of Latvia in the field of CAM integration within the public health services and educational process were highly appreciated in the special Review devoted to an estimation of Acupuncture in the countries of Europe, elaborated by the University of Nacheutel (Swiss) under a management of Dr. Stefano Madalena (2000).

Acupuncture in the E.C.

- **Among 40 countries, in which by interactive interrogation the position of Medical Acupuncture was studied, Latvia directly after Germany, borrowed a little bit unusual to the so small country 2 (!) place...**
- **The legal application of acupuncture in Latvia is regulated by the special medical by-laws acts...**

CAM in LATVIA...

- On the basis of special regulation of a Council of the Ministers (Nr.431 from 23.12.1997, item 29) the Register of Medical Specialities and Methods has authorized the status of additional speciality – Acupuncture (code SS-07), alongside with the Homeopathy...
- Ten methods of diagnostics and the therapies (among those also Ayurvedic Medicine) enjoy the legal status and were recommended as safe to wide application in the institutions of public health services of Latvia since that time...

Certification and control ...

- **The power of certification and control** of any professional activities of doctors in the field of CAM was delegated by a Council of the Ministers of Latvia and the Medical Society to the professional **Association of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques**, up till now providing these activities quite successfully, according to the authorized educational Standards and certification Programs.
- **The Association was founded among the very first within a structure of Latvian Medical Society (30.11.1990).**

Nowdays in Latvia there are over 450 certificated MD,s providing CAM...

- **Within the framework of the Trtaining Programs of Latvian Medical Academy, the International Training Course for CAM was founded in September, 1991.**
- **Since 1997 the training process (450 lecture hours + 100 hours of clinical practice) is provided exclusively through the Professional Association headed by Prof., Dr. Nickolay A. Nickolaev, and not only for Latvia, but also for a vast majority of MD,s from E.C. countries...**

Internationalizations

- The Association of Latvia is integrated within the International Council for Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques (ICMART) – where Prof. Nickolajev enjoys the position of President since 2006.
- It is also an active member of World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS) since 1993.
- Since 1992 national Associations of 3 Baltic countries are integrated within the Baltic clinical Centre for CAM and Traditional Chinese medicine.
- Thus, Latvia provides the the qualified experts in the field of CAM for all the Baltic Region, including Scandinavia...

CAM are only partially covert by private health insurance Companies.

- **Latvia has monopolistic system of application of medical Acupuncture.**
- **Only qualified **Medical Doctors** has the legal right to provide CAM diagnostic methods and treatment...**
- **Non-doctors are out of medical by-laws and their activities in this field is strictly prohibited...**