

Vision and Guiding Principles of NVS

Vision

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is regarded as an integral part of the Swiss health system. NVS is recognized as an important professional association in the field of CAM.

Guiding principles

Who we are

We are the largest and oldest professional association for CAM in Switzerland, with branches in all four linguistic regions.

Our association is open to all qualified practitioners of CAM as well as students of CAM and anyone interested in CAM.

We are committed to enhancing the reputation of CAM, protecting the interests of practitioners and promoting the wellbeing of their patients and clients.

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) includes both non-physician alternative medicine and complementary therapy methods.

Our objectives

We promote a holistic understanding of health in society and its institutions.

We want high-quality, transparent complementary and alternative medical care to be accessible to all members of the general public.

We advocate the social and official recognition of those methods of complementary and alternative medicine which tradition, experience or research have shown to be a valuable supplement or alternative to conventional medicine.

We would like to see CAM practitioners recognised as qualified and respected partners within the Swiss health system and its committees and institutions.

We attach as much importance to experience, empathy, intuition and holistic thinking as to sound professional training for CAM practitioners.

What we do

Politics:

We express our views on current issues in the field of healthcare policies.

We are actively engaged in creating and implementing guidelines for training and examinations in CAM professions.

We create transparency and are trusted by health insurance companies, authorities and the general public.

We promote openness and interdisciplinary thinking vis-à-vis other health professions and organisations.

We are members of the CAM organisations *Arbeitswelt Alternativmedizin* and *Arbeitswelt Komplementärtherapie*. In addition, we have an extensive network of national and international contacts.

Services:

We monitor and promote the professional competence of our members according to clear criteria and rules.

We support and encourage our members in all aspects of their professional activities and development.

We negotiate with authorities, health insurance companies and other institutions.

In particular, we support Traditional European Naturopathic Medicine (TEN).

We offer first-rate continuing education to our members and other interested persons.

Community:

We encourage our members to network and to exchange experiences beyond their own specializations and working methods.

How we work and what we can do

We are a democratically constituted organization with a flat hierarchy and lean structures. The French- and Italian-speaking parts of Switzerland are represented on our executive committee.

All the organs of the association and employees at all levels work as equal partners and communicate internally and externally in an open, respectful and businesslike manner.

The organizational, financial and personnel processes and structures are transparent, understandable and acceptable to our members.

The association's executive committee and members are engaged in ongoing dialogue, whereby they supply correct, up-to-date information via the most appropriate information channels.

We possess a high level of competence in questions concerning everyday practice, professional regulations and the health system in general, as well as in matters of organization and quality assurance.