

Introduction

The European Committee for Homeopathy (hereinafter called ECH) was founded in 1990 with the aim to represent all European doctors specialized in homeopathy and organized in national associations. It is the announced task of the ECH to promote the scientific development of homeopathy and to ensure and harmonize standards in homeopathic education, training and practice across Europe. Furthermore, the ECH supports the provision of high-quality homeopathic care in a medical context and the integration of high-quality homeopathy into European health care (cf. www.homeopathyeurope.org/about-ech).

For the first time archival documents of the ECH were handed over to the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation in 2013. They were supplemented by a second delivery in 2014. Altogether the total body of records comprises approximately ten shelf meters of documents including digital media. They are composed in several European languages, whereas English was used most frequently. Their contents are fully indexed and resemble the activities of the ECH from the date of its foundation until 2012. The original order of the archival documents was maintained. Therefore, the arrangement of the inventory to some extent reflects the internal organizational structure of the ECH, which is subdivided into several subcommittees responsible for issues like politics, research, education and pharmacy. The subcommittees are governed by the council.

The archived material of the ECH constitutes an insightful historical source for the contemporary history of alternative medicine in general and the contemporary history of homeopathy in particular in the context of its institutionalization, professionalization and the interaction of its supporters with health policy makers at national and European level. The funds are stored under the reference number "VECH". The use for scientific research purposes is only permitted after prior written approval of the ECH Board.

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List of Abbreviations

DZVhÄ	Deutscher Zentralverein Homöopathischer Ärzte
HOMEOMED	program implemented to improve the efficiency of research in the field of homeopathy
BIOMED	Biomedical and Health Research Program
CORDIS	Community Research and Development Information Services
LMHI	Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis
CLIFICOL	Clinical Files Collection
CAM	Complementary and Alternative Medicine
ECHAMP	European Coalition on Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medical Products
ECCH	European Central Council of Homeopaths
SOCHOM	Public Health, Health Services Research and Safety. Society and Health Service Survey. Evaluation of Effectiveness on Quality of Life of a non-conventional therapy: Homeopathy
FP	Framework Program
NGO	Non-governmental organization