

2016 Naturopathic Numbers Report



Acknowledgements

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As part of the formation of the World Naturopathic Federation (WNF) the Executive set out to determine the breadth and depth of naturopathy world-wide. The initiative involved a detailed survey in 2015 and number of surveys carried out the Naturopathic Roots Committee and the Professional Mapping Committee. It also involved a detailed website analysis looking for references to the practice of naturopathy / naturopathic medicine.

This report is the initial analysis of the breadth of practice of naturopathy globally. It is our intention to update this report on a bi-annual basis. To access the other [reports published by the WNF please click here](#).

Survey Design and Process

Over the last couple of years, the WNF have been collecting lists of naturopathic organizations and institutions from around the world. In January of 2015 the formal process of compiling the information by type of organization and by world region began.

The World Health Organization criteria for world regions was used. The only modification was that the Americas was divided into North America and Latin America and the Caribbean in order to match to the [other WNF Reports](#).

Between September of 2015 and May of 2016 a detailed internet review was done which included searching each country with key words such as naturopathy and naturopathic medicine.

We recognize that the content of this report is limited, to some degree, to the information that is available by general search over the internet. We also recognize that differentiating between national and regional organizations is not always straight-forward. By formally publishing this report we anticipate that we will be able to fine tune the numbers for 2018.

Overview of the Report

The report indicates that naturopathy is practiced in eighty-one (81) countries which represents 36% of all countries around the world. As a traditional and complementary system of medicine, naturopathy is unique in that it has a strong presence in five world regions – Europe, North America, Western Pacific, Latin America and Asia.

At the time of writing this report, the WNF membership spans all world regions. There are over 90 naturopathic educational institutions and over 20 research institutions globally.

Based on our current data there are between 75,000 and 100,000 naturopaths / naturopathic doctors practicing around the world. Due to the lack of data in a number of countries, in this report we are not reporting numbers of naturopaths / naturopathic doctors by country or world region. This report focuses exclusively on the number of organizations, not individuals. For the purposes of this initial report the primary attention has been given to identifying the number of national naturopathic organizations and naturopathic educational institutions.

Countries Practicing Naturopathy / Naturopathic Medicine

Naturopathy / Naturopathic Medicine is practiced in every world region. Table 1 outlines the number of countries practicing naturopathy / naturopathic medicine by world region. Naturopathy is practised extensively in Europe, Latin America and North America, Asia and Western Pacific.

Appendix A list the individual countries, by world region, that practice naturopathy.

Table 1: Countries Practising Naturopathy / Naturopathic Medicine

	Total number of countries	Countries Practicing Naturopathy / Naturopathic Medicine	% of Countries
Africa	47	11	23%
Asia	11	4	36%
Eastern Mediterranean	22	7	32%
Europe	54	27	50%
Latin America	51	22	43%
North America	3	2	67%
Western Pacific	37	8	22%
Total	225	81	36%

General Overview of Naturopathic Organizations

Table 2 provides an overview of the number of naturopathic organizations / institutions by world region. Further details on national naturopathic organizations and naturopathic educational institutions are outlined in the following sections.

Assessing the number of regional naturopathic organizations is challenging as not all regional organizations have websites and hence were not identified in our analysis. The WNF is aware of four main countries that have regional naturopathic organizations – Canada, Germany, India and the United States.

The number of other naturopathic organizations is also difficult to determine as there are a number of organizations that support natural medicine, not specifically naturopathic medicine. For the purposes of this report we have only reported those organizations that are listed as being naturopathic support organizations. Many of the “other” naturopathic organizations are research organizations or specialized naturopathic organizations. Please check out the WNF website for a [listing of naturopathic research organizations](#). According to our currently data, 72% of all specialized naturopathic organizations reside in North America. We expect a more detailed analysis of specialized naturopathic organizations in subsequent WNF reports.

Table 2: General Overview of Naturopathic Organizations

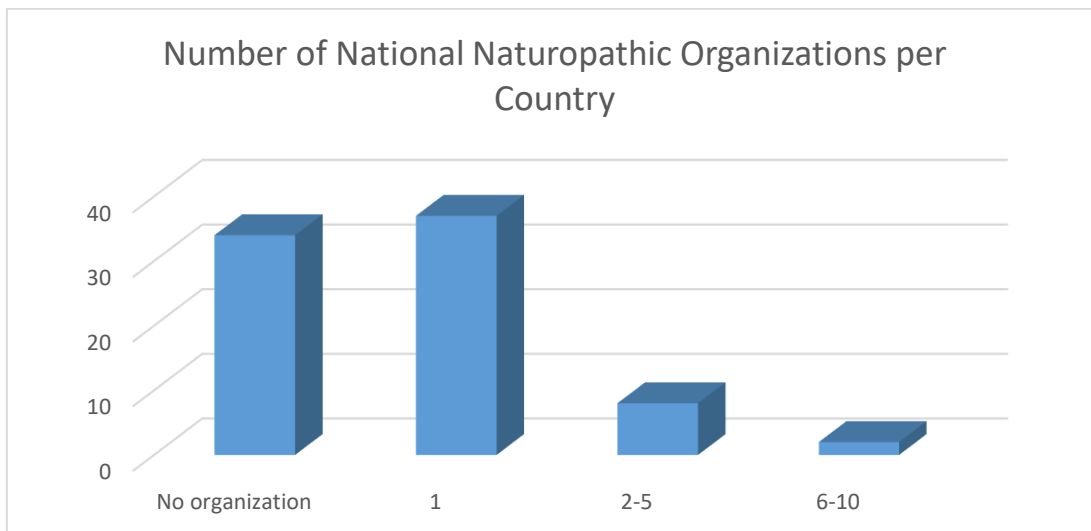
	Number of National Naturopathic Organizations	Number of Regional Naturopathic Organizations	Number of Naturopathic Institutions	Number of Other Naturopathic Organizations
Africa	5	0	2	0
Asia	2	11	22	3
Eastern Mediterranean	2	0	1	0
Europe	43	19	42	2
Latin America	17	5	12	0
North America	2	50	9	16
Western Pacific	9	2	6	1
Total	81	87	94	22

National Naturopathic Organizations

The WNF is aware of eighty-one countries that practice naturopathy. Of those, 42% of the countries do not yet have a national naturopathic organization. Generally speaking, especially in smaller countries, the first organization to be started is the national organization. Many of the countries that do not report having a national organization state that the primary reason is the low number of naturopaths / naturopathic doctors in their country.

In some countries, especially in Europe where naturopathy has been practiced for years, it is common for there to be more than one national organization. In fact, both of the countries that reported more than 6 national organizations and 50% of those countries that reported having two to five national organizations reside in Europe.

Chart 1: Number of National Naturopathic Organizations per Country



Naturopathic Educational Institutions

In all WNF initiatives involving naturopathic educational institutions, the WNF uses the criteria set by the World Health Organization (WHO). That is, the WNF only acknowledges those naturopathic educational institutions that meet the minimal educational standards.

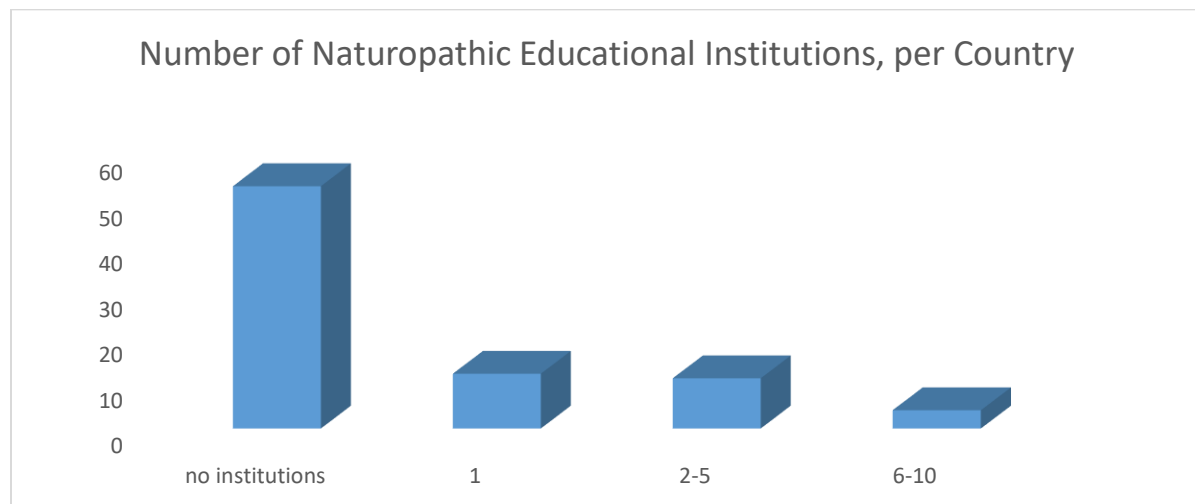
The WNF is aware of ninety-four (94) naturopathic educational institutions around the world. As seen in Table 1, every world region offers naturopathic education., the majority, forty-two (42) reside in Europe. The [WNF Naturopathic Roots 2016 Report](#) outlines the differences in naturopathic educational standards by world region.

Table 3: Number of Naturopathic Educational Institutions, by World Region

	Total number of Naturopathic Educational Institutions by World Region	% of Countries
Africa	2	2%
Asia	22	23%
Eastern Mediterranean	1	1%
Europe	42	42%
Latin America	12	12%
North America	9	9%
Western Pacific	6	6%
Total	94	

Even though there are a large number of naturopathic institutions, 65% of countries practicing naturopathy do not have an naturopathic educational institution within their country. Chart 2 looks at how many naturopathic educational institutions there per country. Countries with a four or more naturopathic educational institutions include Canada, France, Germany, India, Switzerland and the United States.

Chart 2: Number of Naturopathic Educational Institutions, per Country.

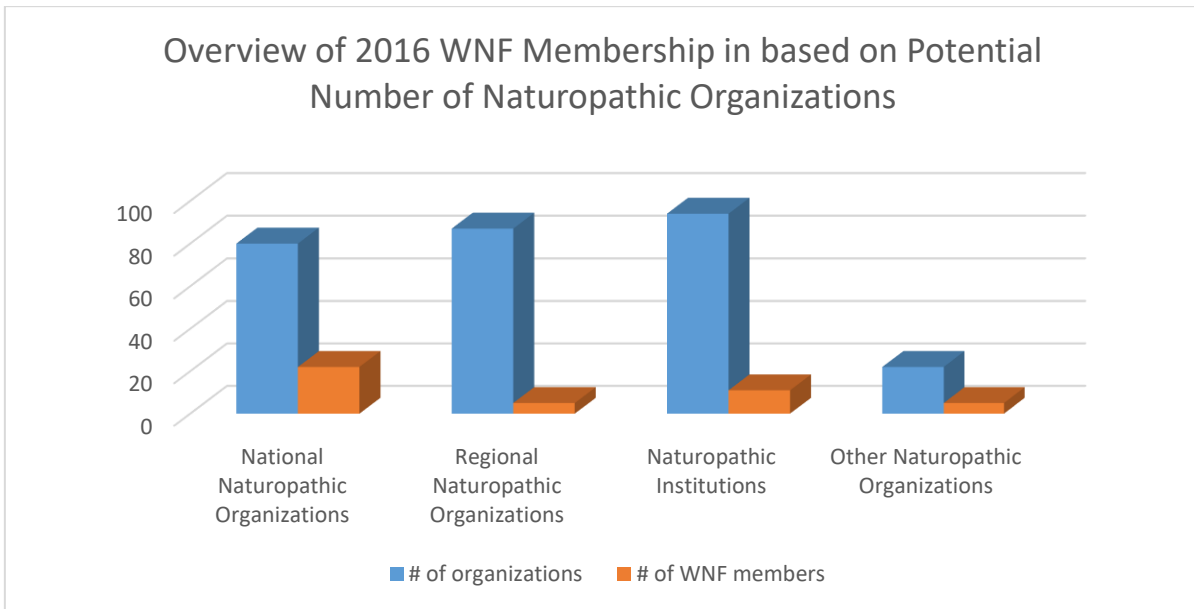


WNF Membership Based on Potential Naturopathic Organizations

As a non-profit membership organization, the WNF continually is assessing its membership status based on the potential number of membership organizations / institutions globally. Chart 3 looks at the 2016 status of WNF membership based on the potential number of organizations / institutions available.

WNF membership started in 2015. In the first eighteen months of initiating membership, the WNF is pleased to report that 28% of countries with national naturopathic organizations have joined and 12% of the qualified naturopathic educational institutions are WNF Educational Members. Chart 3 provides an overview of all categories and the respective membership involvement.

Chart 3: Overview of 2016 WNF Membership based on Potential Number of Naturopathic Organizations



We welcome all naturopathic organizations to send us information on their organization or to follow-up with the WNF to ensure that our information is complete. Please note the WNF will not be posting or sharing the database on naturopathic organizations / institutions.

To send any updates or inquiries please contact us at info@worldnaturopathicfederation.org

Appendix A: Countries that Practice Naturopathy / Naturopathic Medicine, by World Region

Africa (AFR)

The following countries practice naturopathy / naturopathic medicine in **Africa**: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Asia (South East)

The following countries practice naturopathy / naturopathic medicine in **South-East Asia**: India, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand

Eastern Mediterranean

The following countries practice naturopathy / naturopathic medicine in the **Eastern Mediterranean**: Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

Europe

The following countries practice naturopathy / naturopathic medicine in **Europe**: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

Latin America & the Caribbean

The following countries practice naturopathy / naturopathic medicine in the **Latin America & the Caribbean**: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Uruguay, Venezuela and Virgin Islands (US).

North America

The following countries practice naturopathy / naturopathic medicine in the **North America**: Canada, and United States

Western Pacific

The following countries practice naturopathy / naturopathic medicine in the **Western Pacific**: Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Vanuatu.