

Guidelines for Professional Naturopathic Organizations

Goals of Professional Naturopathic Organizations

The following are the general goals of a naturopathic association:

- Represent the naturopathic profession either nationally or jurisdictionally
- Promote the naturopathic profession to government, other health care professional organizations, insurance companies, corporations and the public
- Advocate on behalf of the naturopathic profession with government – for regulations, access etc.
- In the absence of government regulation establish a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for the naturopathic profession
- Unite naturopathic practitioners for the benefit of the profession overall
- Collaborate with other naturopathic organizations and educational institutions
- Provide benefits and services for members of the organization

Steps to Formation and Development of a Professional Naturopathic Association

The following are the steps that are generally required when creating a naturopathic association, whether it be a regional or national association:

- Prior to starting any professional association, it is important to have a good idea of the naturopathic community in your country / region. Identify the status of naturopathy in your country / region and the regulations or rules that you need to comply with.
- Ideally you want one national naturopathic association representing the country and regional naturopathic associations representing each jurisdiction, if the regulations of healthcare professionals in your country are by region. As much as possible, build alliances and work together to strengthen the naturopathic profession.
- Creation of a professional organization generally requires two or three professionals with the same mission, but it can be started by a single individual. If it is started by a single individual, it is important to review the mission of the organization and to get others input once there are enough members.
- Professional associations are generally required to be registered with the government under the laws that govern not-for-profit organization or corporations.
- Review the WNF policy statements to better understand the recommendations for naturopathic organizations associations and the practice of naturopathy globally.

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- To start a professional organization, you require Bylaws. The WNF provides a Bylaws template on the WNF website at [www](http://www.worldnaturopathicfederation.org). Note: By-laws must comply with whatever the law requires in your particular country/jurisdiction/region.
- Establish guidelines specific for the organization. The most important standards are the criteria for membership such as educational training and examination(s). Other guidelines may include:
 - Grandfathering policy
 - Policy on Regulation
 - Policy on Self-Governance
- Establish member benefits. Examples may include:
 - Malpractice Insurance
 - Posting of members by region on your website
 - Membership newsletters
 - Member discounts on service/products
 - Supporting in how to set up a practice adapted to local and national legalization
- Establish a website and social media presence
- Attract members

Ongoing Activities

The ongoing activities of a professional association often includes:

- Membership meetings
- Communication with members
- Engaging with media
- Building alliances with government and lobbying for regulation
- Working with government, insurance companies, large corporations, etc.
- Communication with other naturopathic organizations and naturopathic educational institutions and keeping members updated
- Supporting efforts for accreditation of naturopathic educational programs
- Communication with WNF. Participating in mentorship programs (either as a mentor or as a mentee), participation in committees
- Self-Governance (see document on Self-Governance Guidelines)
- Financial accountability to the membership



WNF Support

If you are forming a professional naturopathic organization and you have any questions or concerns, please let the WNF know at info@worldnaturopathicfederation.org and we will, help you if we can, or we will work to find another organization that can support you.

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