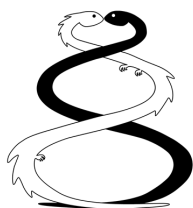


Press Release



## Interuniversity EU Master's in Complementary Health Sciences

### European University Deputies Sign the Schengen Agreement

#### Academic Quality in the Complementary



Representatives of a network of 35 European University Institutes came together at the historic Schengen Castle, Luxemburg, on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, to sign an agreement on an EU Master's in Complementary Health Sciences. The EU-funded programme will be taught in universities and colleges in the UK, Luxemburg, Austria and Germany from 2005 on. The Scandinavian and other countries are supposed to follow.

“Health care professionals are often very well skilled in their complementary or alternative medical field”, project coordinator Chris Endler from Austria, said. “But they are looking for a wider horizon: for knowledge on public health, for psychological qualification, for the interdisciplinary cooperation of biology, medicine, health sciences, humanities, philosophy of science and complementary medicine. They want to know the state of the art in research, and many of them want to participate in the research process themselves.”

”And the consumer as well, the client or patient, needs to know about the general qualification of his or her therapist; transparency is needed”, independent observer Lorraine Williams, representative of the Prince of Wales Foundation for Integrated Health, UK, stated.

“In order to be taken seriously, complementary medicine needs academic networks. In the European countries, we have the pieces for an impressive, really European puzzle,” Jean Huss, deputy to the Parliament of Luxemburg, pointed out.

“Europe should find her own health identity”, Endler said. “When you compare the WHO ranking of health systems worldwide, European countries perform quite well. Regarding public health, Europe seems to be less individualist than the Far West (US) and less mass oriented than the Far East. This seems to be a good balance. It is here that *mainstream* and *complementary* may come together in a balanced way. Europe has a strong archaic and transcendental basis, and she developed the European Enlightenment. It is here that *intuition* and *scientific reflection* may come together. Europe gave birth to the psycho-analytic movement, and it is here that the role of *therapeutic interaction* was first explored in a scientific way. After all, Europe suffered from herself in various wars and studied the necessity of peaceful *collaboration*. Quite apart from arrogance towards those cultures worldwide where complementary methods come from, or where technical medicine is more advanced, we deserve a European self confidence in integrated health care.”

The EU Master's programme is funded by the European Commission (Leonardo da Vinci A/02/B/F/PP-124.205 with a total of about 250.000 €). Its partners have developed an EU-wide concerted strategy and standard for academic scientific and psychosocial qualification of professionals

in alternative, complementary and integrated medicine and health care. Agreements for credits, module and student transfer within these partners assure European and international exchange.

The topics of the EU Master's programme in Complementary Health Sciences are

- health promotion (WHO), individual and community promotion of health: health-related knowledge
- deepening of psychosocial skills
- competency in communication in helping relationships and in public work
- understanding paradigms and outlines of complementary approaches
- the state of research in complementary medicine
- knowing how to participate in studies, to design and perform studies, and to write a scientific thesis.

The Interuniversity College ([www.inter-uni.net](http://www.inter-uni.net)) is the institution that initiated the project at an Austrian campus in 2000. The British-Austrian staff run a post-academic distance learning course leading to an MSc / EU Master's in Complementary Health Sciences, with currently 130 students and graduates from various fields of academic health care professions. Typically, students are in the role of disseminators of this information. The Austrian Course is based on Austrian University Law.

At present, this is the only supported *distance* learning course that leads to an EU Master's in Complementary Health Sciences. Campus Luxemburg will open for students in November 2005.

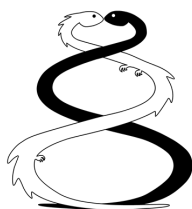
The accompanying course leads to the Postgraduate Certificate after 1, to the Diploma after 2 and to the EU Master's degree after 2-3 years, depending on the student's previous qualification. It combines the didactic possibilities of group seminars, supported multimedia sessions, reading and formulating work and Internet tutoring. Course fee is € 1250.- per semester. For further information, contact [www.inter-uni.net](http://www.inter-uni.net) and [college@inter-uni.net](mailto:college@inter-uni.net).

The final agreement of the Schengen meeting was signed on a boat on the river Mosel, in a similar way to the Schengen agreements regulating the European borders. Represented nations ranged from Iceland in the North to Italy in the South and from the UK in the West to Hungary in the East. Israel and Egypt had the status of guests.

The participants have, a. o., agreed that alternative, complementary and integrated medicine and health care have to be

- understood as an important factor in public and in individual health care
- embedded in a general knowledge of health promotion and public health
- guided by psychological skill and self-awareness
- advanced in an interdisciplinary discussion on an academic level.
- submitted to further quality control and promotion of quality
- submitted to further high quality academic research

For further information on the *EU-inter-uni.net for complementary and integrated health sciences*, see [www.inter-uni.net](http://www.inter-uni.net).



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