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## **The Use of Nursing Theories in Nursing Education Programs in Germany, Austria and Switzerland**

### ***Problem***

There are no evident information on how nursing theories are used in nursing education programs in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Although there are some translation of several nursing theories from the US and from UK nothing is known to what extend the theories are used for curriculum development or teaching strategies. The "Gemeinschaft zur Förderung der Krankenpflege e.V." made a orienting study in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to find to what extend nursing theories are in use. This study, was also done in the US in 2002.

### ***Method***

The survey questions were translated in to German and reference was made to the different educations systems. The questionnaire was sent to 1600 nursing schools in Germany, Austria and the german-speaking part of Switzerland. 568 responded to the survey (35,5%) This study was conducted to reveal information whether nursing schools in german-speaking countries offering theory based lessons and which theories are particular favoured.

### ***Results***

The survey showed that nursing theories are used in nursing education. The theories were mainly used for the identification of nursing problems. Most schools offered special learning units. The favoured theories are OREM, Roper and PEPLAU.

### ***Conclusion***

Conclusions about the quantity and the quality of using nursing theories can not be made. Further research can be based on this study results and should address the qualitative use of nursing theories in nursing education.

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