

The logo for ESOE 2018 Toulouse is a large red hexagon with the text "ESOF" in white, "2018" in grey, and "TOULOUSE" in white below it. It is surrounded by several smaller, colorful hexagons (blue, yellow, purple, pink) containing various scientific icons like molecular structures and atoms.

ESOF
2018
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Homeopathy: the need for robust evidence to inform consumer choices

Dan Larhammar
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
EASAC: European Academies Science
Advisory Council



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*Aims: to promote the sciences
and strengthen their influence in society*



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**Dan Larhammar, President
Prof. of Molecular Cell Biology, Uppsala Univ.**

Background to KVA (=RSAS) initiative on homeopathy for EASAC

- Science community had concerns regarding widespread use of implausible, irrational and non-scientific alternative medicine.
- Science community had concerns regarding handling of homeopathic anthroposophical products in Sweden since 1993.

Why focus on homeopathy?

Homeopathy is one of the most implausible alternative medicine methods.

Homeopathic products in Sweden must not

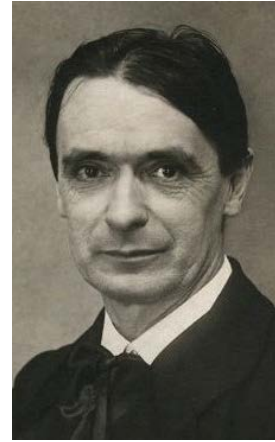
- state indication (purpose)
- be used for injection

Yet, anthroposophical homeopathic products are exempt from these restrictions in Sweden since 1993.

The EU requested in 2013 that this exemption should be discontinued.

Anthroposophy

Founded by Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925)



Anthroposophical medicine

Founded in early 1920s by Steiner and Ita Wegman (1876-1943)



Includes homeopathy, astrology,
doctrine of signatures (symbolic interpretations), etc.

Report 2014 from Swedish Medicinal Products Agency:

Four suggestions how to incorporate anthroposophical homeopathic products in the medicinal products legislation.

All four suggestions were considered unsatisfactory by science institutions: KVA, Karolinska Institute, Uppsala University, Swedish Pharmaceutical Society, etc.

Exemption has now been discontinued with a transition period of five years: Anthroposophy has to comply with general homeopathy regulations.

Reactions in Sweden

The debate was most intense in 2015 regarding anthroposophical homeopathy.

KVA wrote in Sweden's largest newspaper (Dec 2015):

“Homeopathic products cannot be called medicinal products”
(signed by four Nobel laureates)

“The term is misleading”

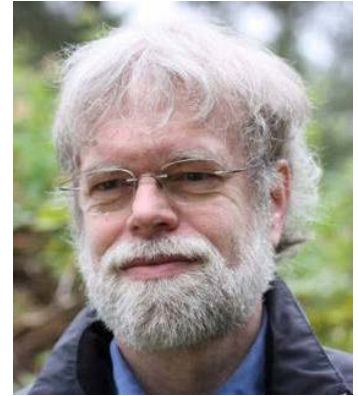
orange juice



'homeopathic
orange juice'

Homoeopathy and consumers' right to know

"There is no ethically acceptable justification for excepting homeopathic products from the consumers' right to know."



Sven Ove Hansson
Journal of Internal Medicine
2013

Reactions in Sweden to EASAC statement 2017

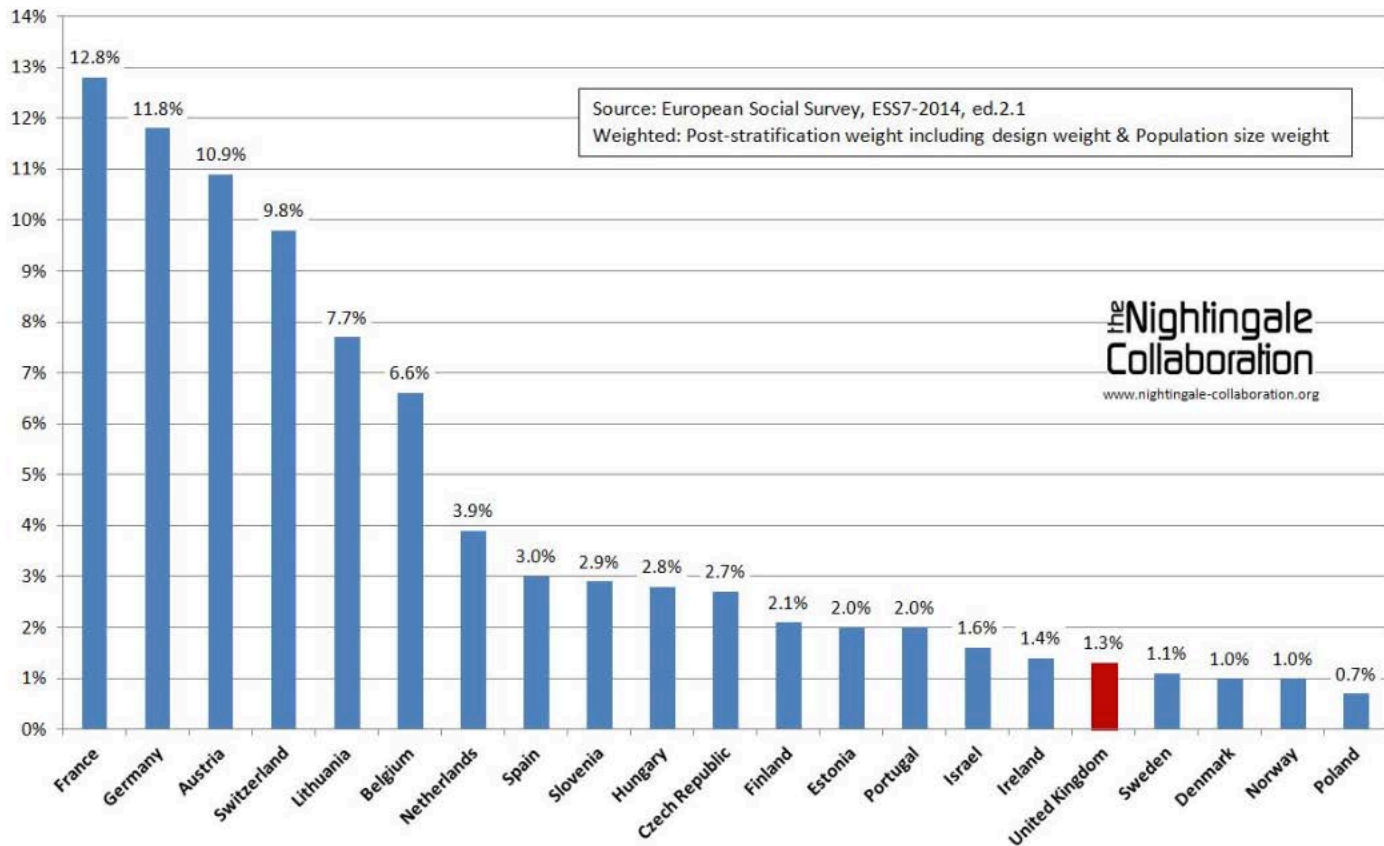
Not much...

Reactions had already happened in 2015.

Homeopathy and anthroposophy are very minor in Sweden.

No pharmacies sell homeopathic products.

Homeopathy use in previous 12 months in 21 countries



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Anthroposophists called their homeopathic products
'anthroposophical medicinal products'.

They hardly ever used the word homeopathy.

They never acknowledged the implausibility of homeopathy.



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Enough with the Fake Medicine: CFI Files Suit against CVS for Homeopathy

“The Center for Inquiry (CFI) is a nonprofit educational organization. Its primary mission is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values.”

CVS is the largest drug retailer in the U.S. with approximately 10,000 stores.

Probably most decision-makers and consumers are unaware of the scientific facts that undermine the concept of homeopathy.

How can we get decision-makers to realize the implausibility of homeopathy and stop this deception of consumers?



If we do not point out the implausibility of homeopathy now, future historians of science will wonder how we could this continue for more than 200 years.

Now
is the time
to act!

“For our descendants”

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