

## **SUMMARY**

The thesis investigates the connection between education and regulation of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). The 1997 decrees made it obligatory to have a medical degree in order to practice several branches of CAM. According to my results the present regulation along with the complexity of the different CAM branches can not ensure the protection of the patients and it is not common in the EU countries.

I have conducted a survey to check the practice of CAM education in EU member state medical faculties. In spite of the increasing number of political and professional statements the number of medical faculties offering CAM education has not increased in the last 5 years. Since there are major differences between the educational practice of EU countries I have checked the relation of the presence of CAM education and social demand for CAM. Social demand was measured using the following indicators: frequency of CAM usage in the population, share of OTC drugs and minerals/vitamins in the overall drug market. I found no relation between the presence or absence of CAM education and the above mentioned indicators. Thus one can conclude that social demand on its own is not enough to shape the medical curriculum.

Hungary has four medical faculties and all of them offer or offered some form of CAM training in the gradual course. My investigation of the attitude of medical students towards CAM clearly shows that most medical students are interested in CAM techniques and that they feel it important to have the teaching of these methods integrated into their curriculum. CAM is more popular among female medical students and students from upper years. This finding is in line with international data.

Up to date there is no common and uniform idea in the EU and in Hungary of how to integrate CAM training in the future. The integration process is slow and confused. However, no matter how slow the integration process is, it is evident that the teaching of certain CAM branches will have to be part of the medical curriculum.

