

Self-portrayal

Tasks

The idea behind the foundation of the "Fachverband Drogen und Rauschmittel e.V." (**fdr**) was to create a professional association to represent organizations specializing in help with drugs. It is an association of non-profit-making institutions providing in- and out-patient help which covers the entire spectrum of this field of work.

The constitution of the (**fdr**) has hardly changed since its foundation. The object of the professional association is to support professional work for addicts and those at risk of addiction, in particular young people, with the following activities, among others:

- Providing advice and supporting the work in outpatient, semi-inpatient and inpatient facilities.
- Promoting further and advanced training of skilled workers.
- Representing the social and health interests of its members.
- Contributing to need-oriented care with psychosocial assistance.
- Scientific accompaniment of the practical work.

A particular feature of this association is that it cannot itself run facilities for drug help. This is to avoid conflicts of interest with the work of its members. The association has grown continually over a period of 25 years, and has continued to develop its professionalism of its work.

Whereas the 13 founder members only represented some 70 drug help facilities, 62 associations of institutions now belong to the (**fdr**) and they run some 300 facilities for help with addiction. In the meantime, the (**fdr**) has expanded its work and now covers the field of legal drugs in addition to its previous work in the field of illegal drugs.

The institutions belonging to the professional association have over 1,00 employees who treat approximately 30,000 clients per year. Some 1,200 in-patient beds are available.

Cooperation

The Fachverband Drogen und Rauschmittel e.V. is a member of the parity charitable association. It thus supports the idea of parity, that is equal respect and opportunities for everyone, and commits itself to working according to the principles of tolerance, openness and diversity, and without any connection to any religious denomination or political party.

Membership of the Deutsche Hauptstelle für Suchtfragen (German Center for Addiction - www.dhs.de) facilitates cooperation with other addiction help associations. This national union of associations coordinates and represents the interests and supports the practical work of its members.

The role of the professional associations

Professional associations provide valuable assistance to practical facilities. The Fachverband Drogen und Rauschmittel e.V. offers support to its member organizations when it comes to representing their interests and providing qualified consultancy services. Professional associations are increasingly taking on a coordination

and steering role as a result of the differentiation of the "addiction help" field of work. They thus complement the work of the charitable organizations, which have to concentrate on managing the tasks of independent institutions.

Problems which tie up workers, especially in small facilities, are continually cropping up in the field of in- and out-patient addiction help. Some needs, task and problems cannot be solved by individual facilities, whose main task has to be maintaining their existence. Charitable and sponsoring organizations with fields of activity extending well beyond drug work frequently cannot answer the specialized questions of addiction help facilities. They need a strong professional association to represent the interests of addiction and drug help, for their public presentation, and to ensure that they are given their due importance in specialist discussion. As one of the working principles of the Fachverband Drogen und Rauschmittel e.V. is that the person rather than the drug is the focus of its work. Drug work consequently also covers alcohol and medicament dependency and addictions that are not substance related.

Names, addresses, facts

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The Fachverband DROGEN UND RAUSCHMITTEL e.V. was founded on 3 April 1979. It is registered under number VR 7418 in the **Vereinsregister** (register of societies and associations) at the Frankfurt District Court.

The Hannover Tax Office has recognized its **non-profitmaking status** under number 25/ 206/ 35961 - II.