

Health education and health promotion are important aspects of the German public health service.

Explanatory notes on Guiding Concepts of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Glossary of concepts, strategies and methods in health promotion and Disease Prevention

Health promotion is a complex and interdisciplinary field of action. For a fruitful collaboration, all persons involved need to agree on shared technical terms, concepts and courses of action which overcome the thresholds of single professional disciplines. Without such shared understanding, misunderstandings are inevitable, and pursuing shared goals together is more difficult.

Hence, since 1993, the German [Federal Centre for Health Education](#) (German: [Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung](#)) develops and publishes a glossary of health promotion and disease prevention keywords. The glossary contains explanations of core concepts in the field and provides an integrated overview of current scientific and political debates on the topic in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

A growing demand for - and interest in - sharing scientific and practical knowledge and experiences across the borders of countries and languages arises from the advancing globalization and the "digital revolution" with its new ways to communicate. The Federal Centre for Health Education aims to encourage and facilitate this exchange and to make the interpretation of strategies, methods and concepts in German-speaking countries visible and comprehensible.

Therefore, in an initial phase, we provide English translations for 20 (out of ca. 120) recently revised and updated keywords in the German glossary. The selected keywords are unique in their interpretation and usage in German-speaking countries; in contrast, keywords in the German glossary which originate from English-speaking countries and are being used in a similar fashion in Germany (e.g., "social marketing") were not selected for translation into English. The editorial team* takes account for the identification and naming of the German keywords, for the recruitment of authors and for the selection of the English keywords.

The glossary targets scholars as well as practitioners who are interested in drawing comparisons with German-language countries and are looking for stimuli and suggestions for their work. It also provides students and lecturers in the health sciences with orientation and studying aids or planning aids.

** Members of the editorial team are: Alf Trojan, Lotte Kaba-Schönstein, Peter Franzkowiak, Guido Nöcker, and Stephan Blümel*

Browse!

The following Guiding Concept is only selected randomly!

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Health Protection

Joseph Kuhn, Andreas Böhm

The term "health protection" comprises measures that serve to deflect dangers to the life and health of human beings; these are generally grounded in legal standards. Many of the delineations to the concept of health promotion are reflected in these two characteristics. Different from health promotion, health protection is based on a pathogenetic approach (salutogenetic perspective). Further, health protection is characterized by *obligations to act*, that is, it may intervene in the personal privacy of individuals and limit the organizational autonomy of institutions. This makes a differentiated legal basis for these interventions absolutely necessary, something that is not true for health promotion.

→ [more](#)

Frequently selected Guiding Concepts

→ [Initial and Further Education in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention](#)

→ [Health Promotion and Migrant Backgrounds](#)

→ [Health Promotion and Integrated Care](#)

→ [Biomedical Perspective](#)

→ [Child Protection and Disease Prevention / Health Promotion](#)

→ [Health Promotion in Nursery Schools and Child Day-care Centres](#)