

CAM-Research in Austria

A Survey 2009 and
steps towards a roadmap

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www.gesundheitsforschung.at



ESIHR

- **European Society of Integrative Health Research (Vienna, Austria)**
 - Society for the promotion of CAM Research by networking and knowledge sharing
 - Workshops and Projects
- In collaboration with

SCigenia Research Support, Project Design & Management

www.scigenia.com



CONTENT

- **Overview**
- Some specific results
- Conclusions and Outlook



CAM Research in Austria

Survey and Workshop

- carried out in 2009 by ESIHR
- Survey financed by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research
- Content:
 - CAM research topics
 - priorities of researchers for a CAM research roadmap
 - financial needs
- Workshop sponsored by the
 - Federal Ministry of Science and Research and the
 - Federal Ministry of Health



METHODS USED

- Questionnaire
 - qualitative and
 - quantitative items
- About 200 questionnaires sent to
 - individual researchers
 - institutions and
 - practitioners
- 122 respondents: 40% female researchers

QUESTIONNAIRE

6 categories of research fields (multiple choices possible):

- Traditional Alternative Medical Systems in Non-European Cultures (e.g. TCM, Ayurveda,...)
- Biological Therapies and Traditional European Medicine (e.g. phytotherapy, Kneipp, domestic cures, climate therapy, etc.)
- Manipulative body based Therapies (e.g. osteopathy, massage therapies, manual therapies)
- Mind-Body Therapies (e.g. Yoga, TaiChi, relaxing techniques, meditation, etc.)
- Methods emerging from TEM (e.g. Homeopathy, Anthroposophy,...)
- Other fields



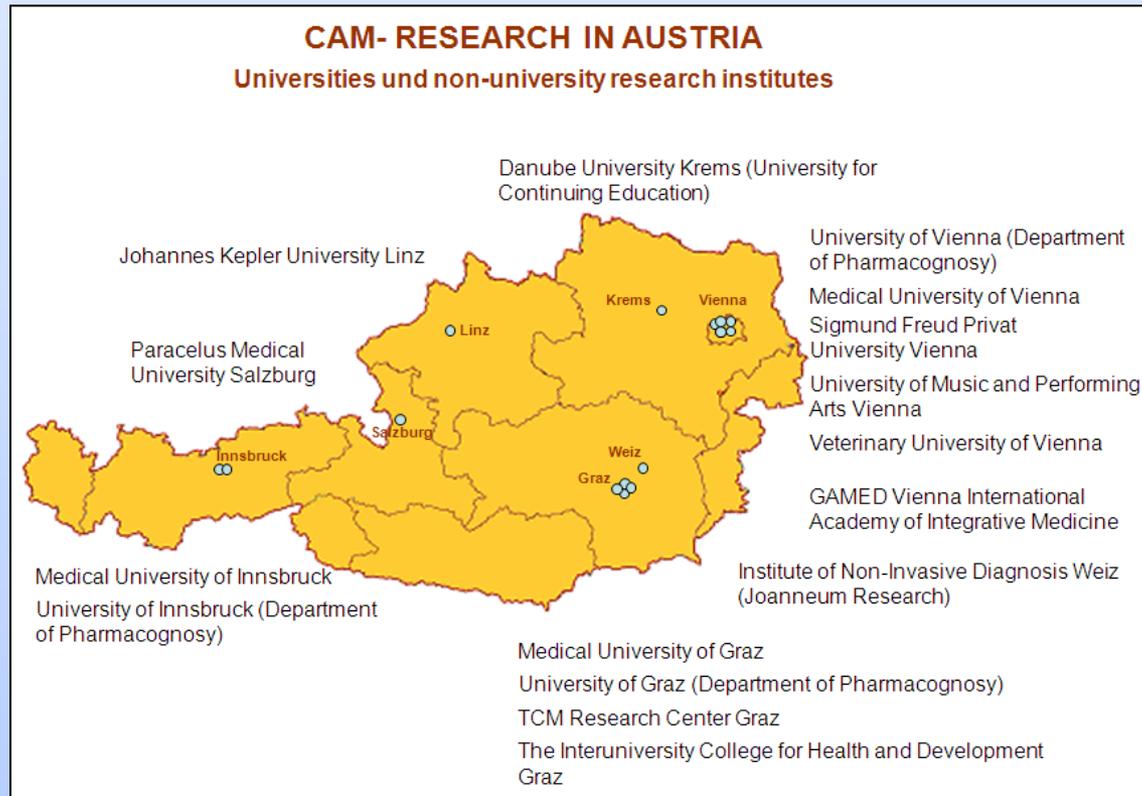
MAIN RESULTS

- Survey of CAM research fields in Austria
 - Importance of CAM research in universities and non-university research institutions
 - High diversity of research topics and CAM-practices
 - High importance of research on medicinal plants (Pharmacognosy, Phytotherapy) and natural products<
- Respondents' priorities for CAM research
- Projects sizes and needs for public funding

CONTENT

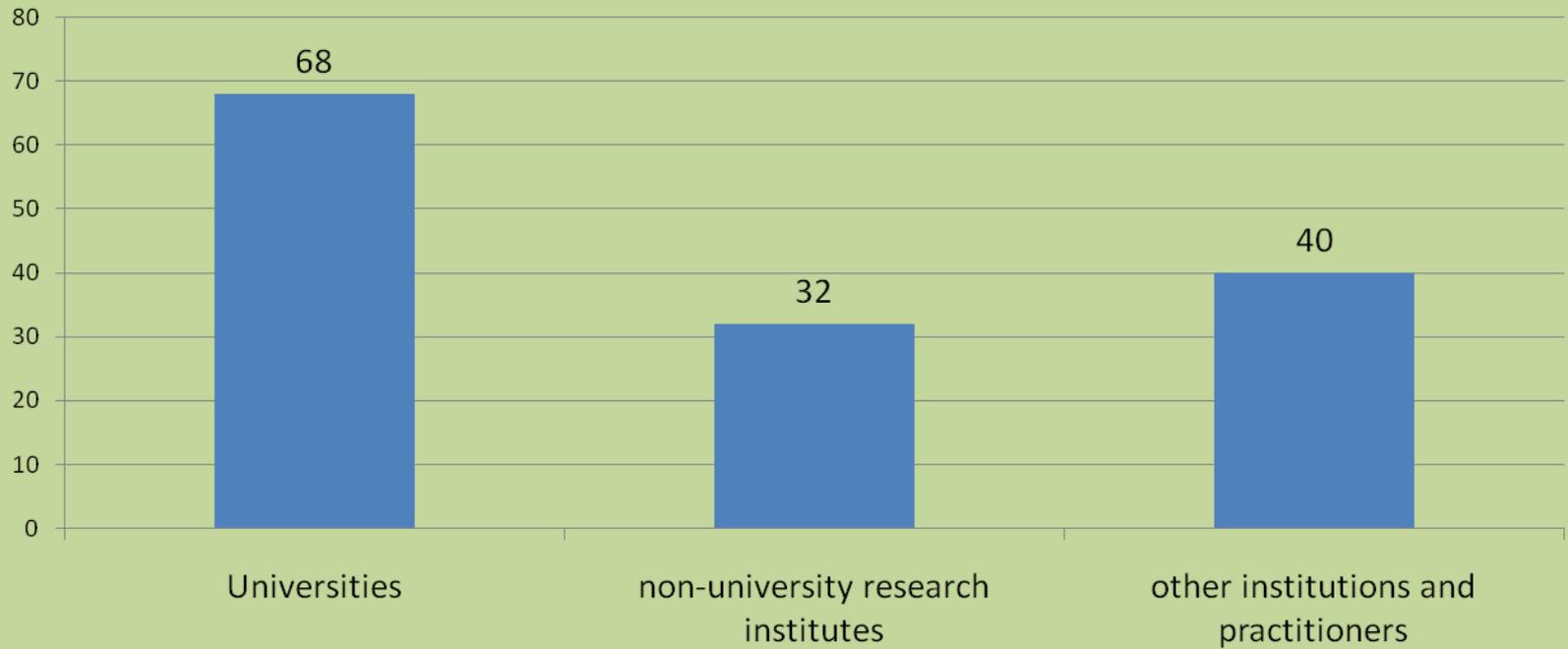
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Geographical distribution of research sites

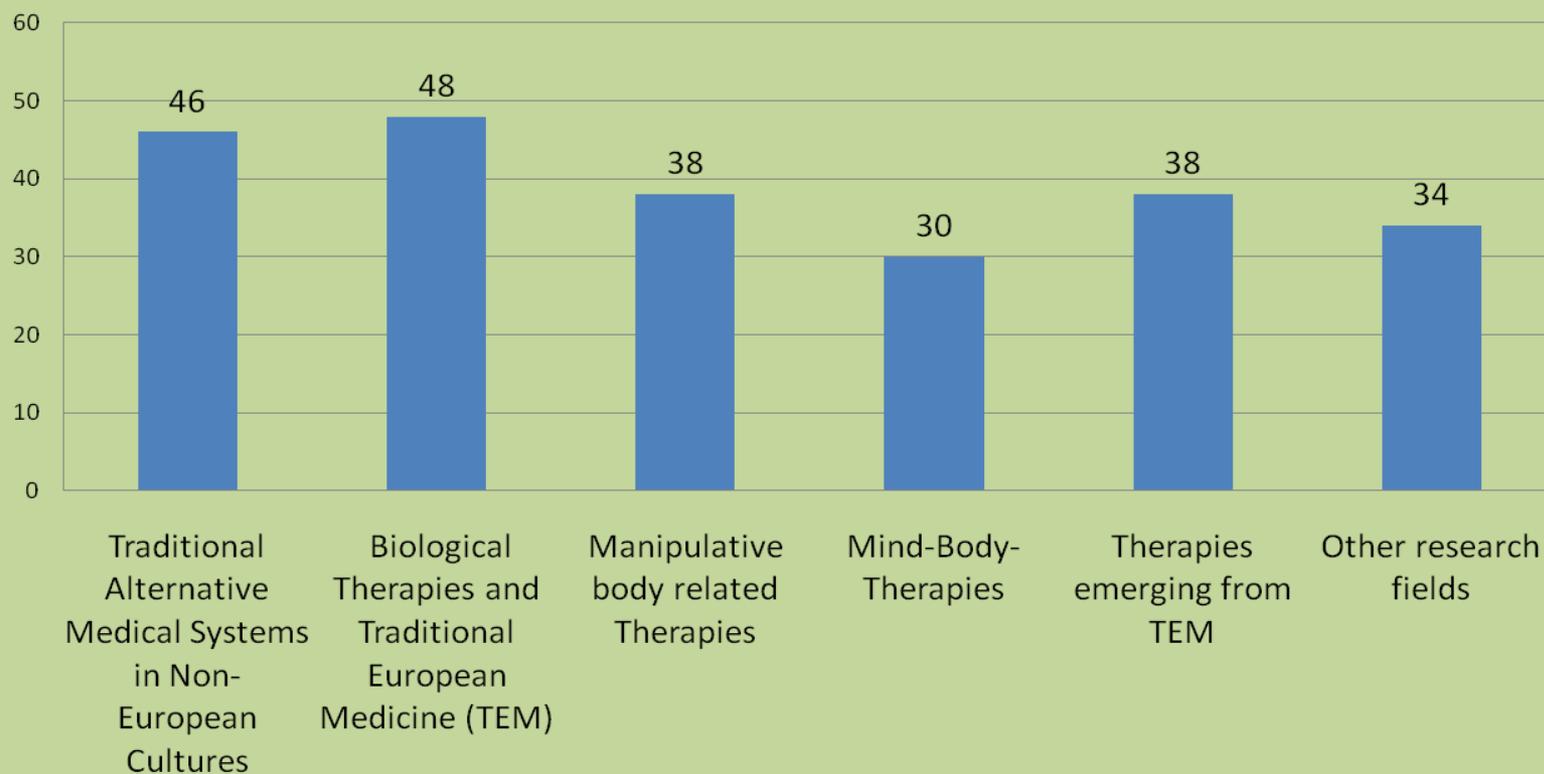


The main research institutions are located in the capital (Vienna) and other university cities.

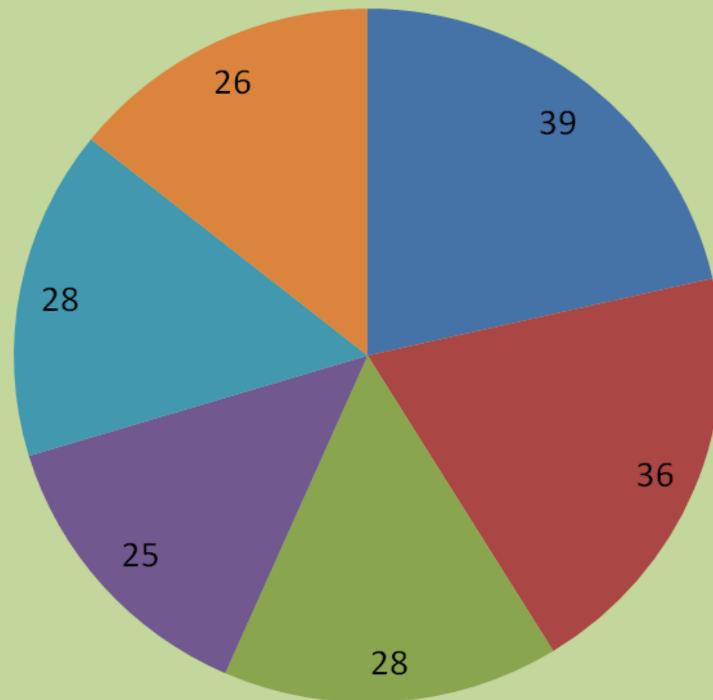
Institutions



Self Assessment of Researchers

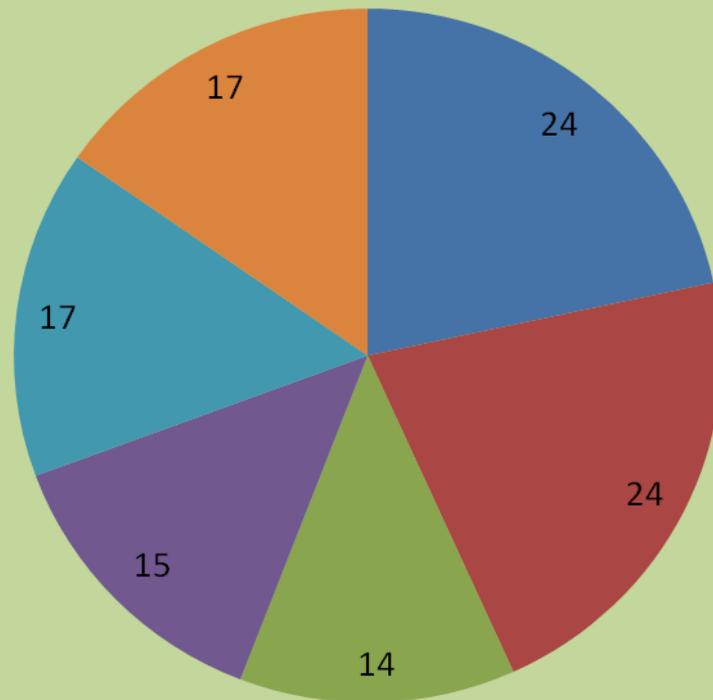


Current Research Topics



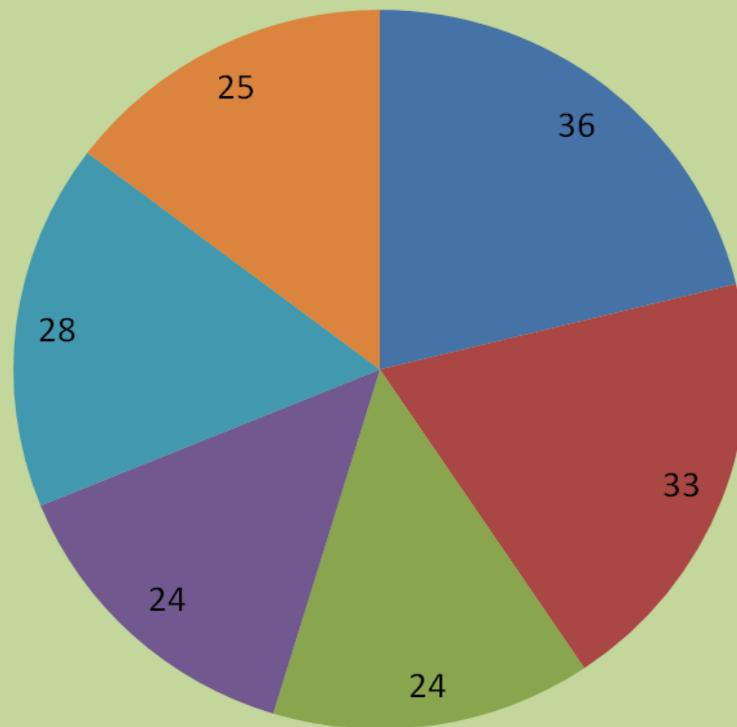
- Traditional Alternative Medical Systems in Non-European Cultures
- Biological Therapies and Traditional European Medicine (TEM)
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- Mind-Body-Therapies
- Therapies emerging from TEM
- Other research fields

Research Topics 2011



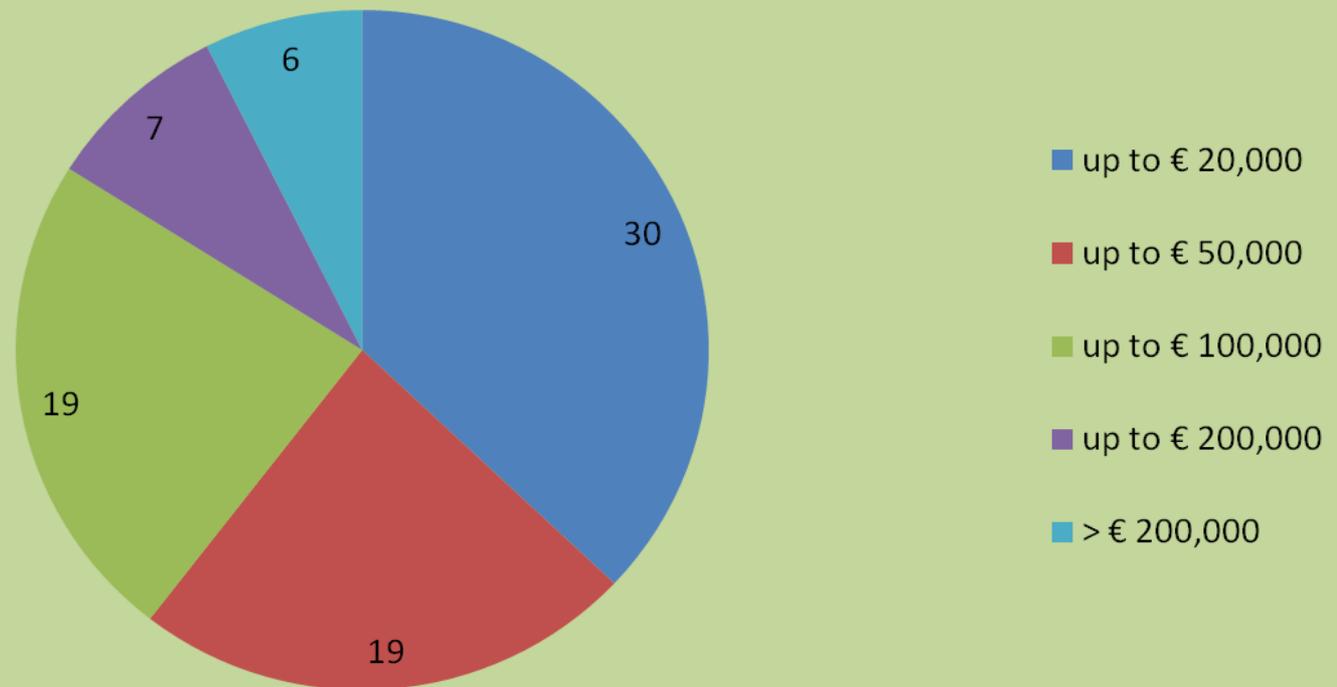
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Priority 1 Research Topics



- Traditional Alternative Medical Systems in Non-European Cultures
- Biological Therapies and Traditional European Medicine (TEM)
- Manipulative body related Therapies
- Mind-Body-Therapies
- Therapies emerging from TEM
- Other research fields

Project Size 2009



Financial Needs 2009 - 2013



About 50% of the CAM researchers who need additional financial resources aim for public subsidies.



Workshop CAM Research

Recommended focus for future research promotion:

- Emphasis on European traditions of healing
- Scientific foundation and evaluation of holistic approaches
- Prevention and therapies based on native medicinal herbs
- Manipulative body related therapies and Mind-body-therapies as new fields of research
- Scientific foundation of CAM-methods to raise Austria's competitiveness in the international health tourism

Aim: Improved supply quality by research



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Conclusions 1

CAM research should be supported by public sources:

- CAM research offers the opportunity to improve health services, but there is a substantial need for research:
- Models (for prognoses) to be developed,
- Modes of action to be found and
- CAM-methods evaluated.
- There is a wide range of relevant research projects in Austria,
- many CAM-research projects need public funding.



Conclusions 2

- **Networking activities (national and EU level):**
 - to stimulate partnerships and
 - to promote CAM research.
- **Workshops supported by public authorities and/or private sponsors:**
 - to present and discuss results of CAM-research
 - to present intended research projects
 - to offer a forum for investors and CAM-researchers
 - to discuss research roadmaps and financial needs and support



Outlook

To integrate the currently scattered researchers in a research community and to provide a long term perspective as well we suggest installing

a national coordination and contact point

in order to

- actively promote networking
- constitute a national research platform
- serve as an international contact point
- promote public awareness
- promote public health

