

Nursing Education in Germany – Challenges and Obstacles in Professionalization

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AGENDA

- Introduction
- Background
- Current state
- Developments
- Goal

Fundamental changes in demographics

- growing number of old people (>80 years)
- growing prevalence of geriatric and gerontopsychiatric diseases (dementia, multimorbidities)
- changes from acute illness to chronic diseases
- changing structures of family and social networks
- early discharge from hospital
- growing requirements in patients' education of self care-management abilities
- decreasing number of health professionals

Nursing Education Today

Basic Education

- State recognized schools, affiliated to a hospital
- Admission requirement: Completion of Intermediate (secondary) school, 10 years general education
- Three year vocational training, 2100 hours theory, 2500 hours supervised practical work
- State examination: oral, written and practical exam
- “Gesundheits- und Krankenpflegerin” (Nurse)
- Subordination to medical authority

Nursing Education Today

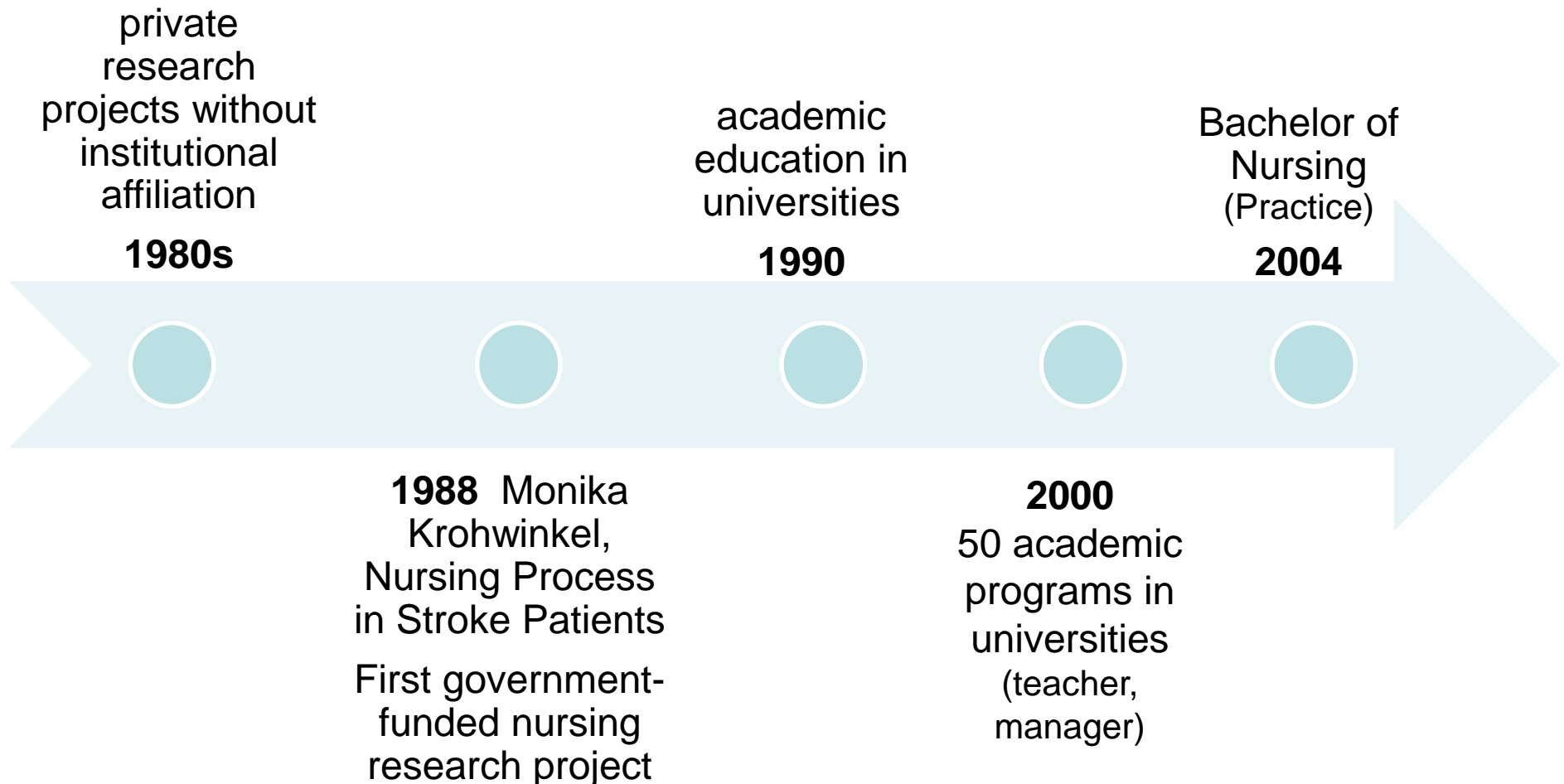
Advanced Education

- Training courses
- e.g. Mentor for Trainees, ICU–Nurse, Anaesthesia–Nurse, Surgery/Theatre-Nurse
- two year additional training in theory and practical work in the chosen area
- State examination under federal law: oral, written and practical exam

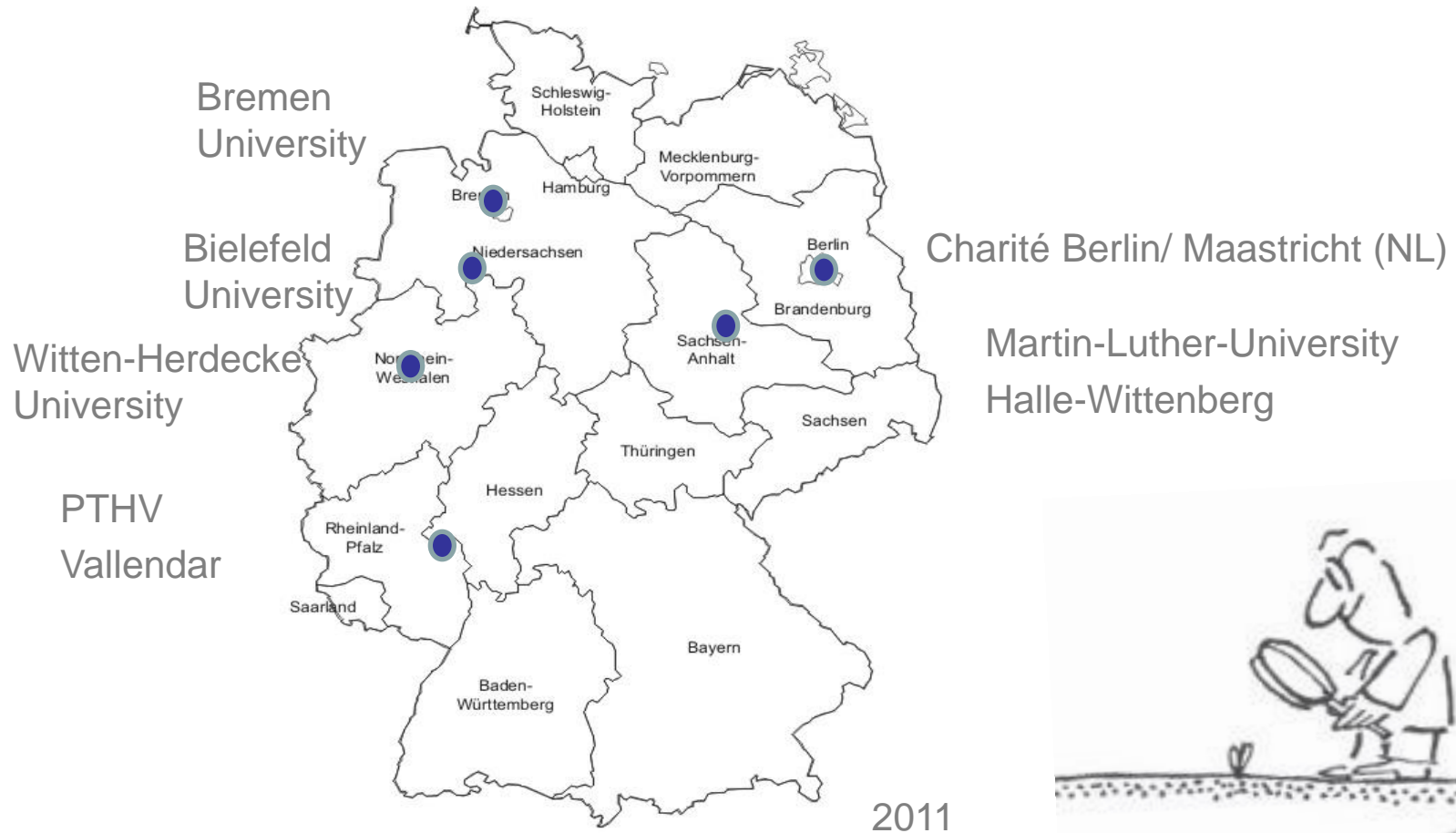
Challenges

- no academic background
- stuck in intermediate education system
- hard to achieve appreciation from other professions
- extent of research based nursing depends on teachers' commitment
- influence on nurses' professional self-concept:
 - lack of access to literature and research, little knowledge in English language, lack of knowledge in how to find research findings
 - nurses believe they are not allowed to change anything in practice
(Schubert& Wrobel, Printernet 06/09, 343ff.)

Research and Academia in Nursing Science in Germany



PhD - Program in Nursing Science



Basic Academic Education

Vocational Training AND Bachelor of Nursing

- provides ward nurses with scientifically based academic education
- vocational training in accordance with German law entitles graduates to work as a nurse
- academic education opens the way to academic career and research

Map: Stöcker, Reinhart (2012), www.dbfk.de



Getting Support from Outside

European Commission

plans to require German Government to raise general education time to 12 years (Draft EU Directive 2005/36/EC - Admission Requirement for Nurse Education)

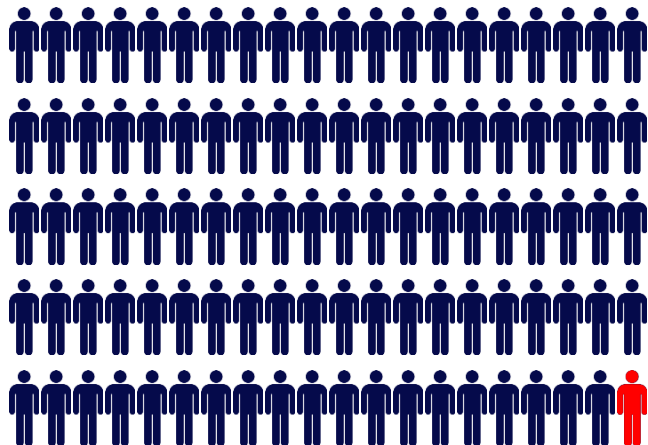
German Council of Science and Humanities (Wissenschaftsrat)

recommends providing 10 to 20% of ward nurses with academic background and higher education.

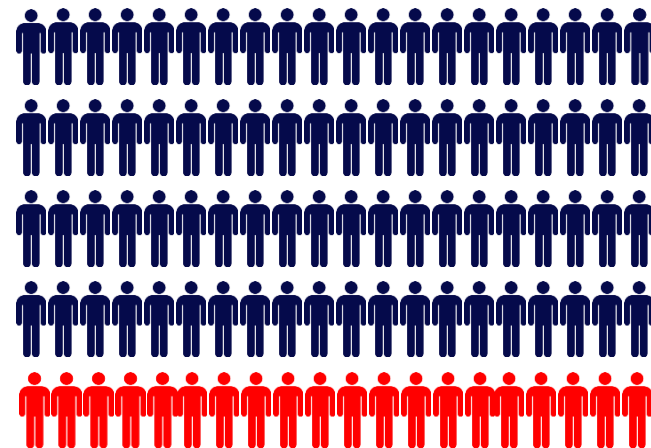
(www.wissenschaftsrat.de)

Relations (statistics) we are talking about

Current state



Goal



Nurses with vocational training



Nurses with academic education

25.000 Employers (Hospitals/ Nursing Homes...) (Statistisches Bundesamt 2010)

Goal of Nursing Education is...

- to look for the very special and unique contribution of nursing to human beings
- at a high quality level
- from a professional point of view