

A LEGAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE QIGONG PLAYS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract □

This paper analyses the role that Qigong plays within the European Union whilst assessing whether, and to what extent, it is recognized as a therapeutic method used to maintain and improve the health of individuals. In particular, the paper will examine which boundaries presently deter Qigong from playing a primary and independent role in healthcare from a European Union legal perspective. It will also be argued that civil society might play a key role – through taking responsible lines of action – in stimulating decision-making actors in Europe to gradually integrate Qigong into the national health systems of the Union’s Member States. The rationale for this paper is that Qigong is in line with the criteria provided by the Union through various pieces of legislation in the field of health and that therefore, the Union should use the appropriate means (such as a new European NCM Centre) to conduct further research on core NCM, including Qigong, the results of which could eventually help the Union’s authorities to provide Qigong with an appropriate level of legal recognition in the European Union, proportional to its therapeutic value.