

Professional self-government of nurses and midwives



Anna Szafran

The President of The Lower Silesian Chamber of Nurses and Midwives
in Wrocław

Nurses and Midwives

Gala dress for nurses and midwives





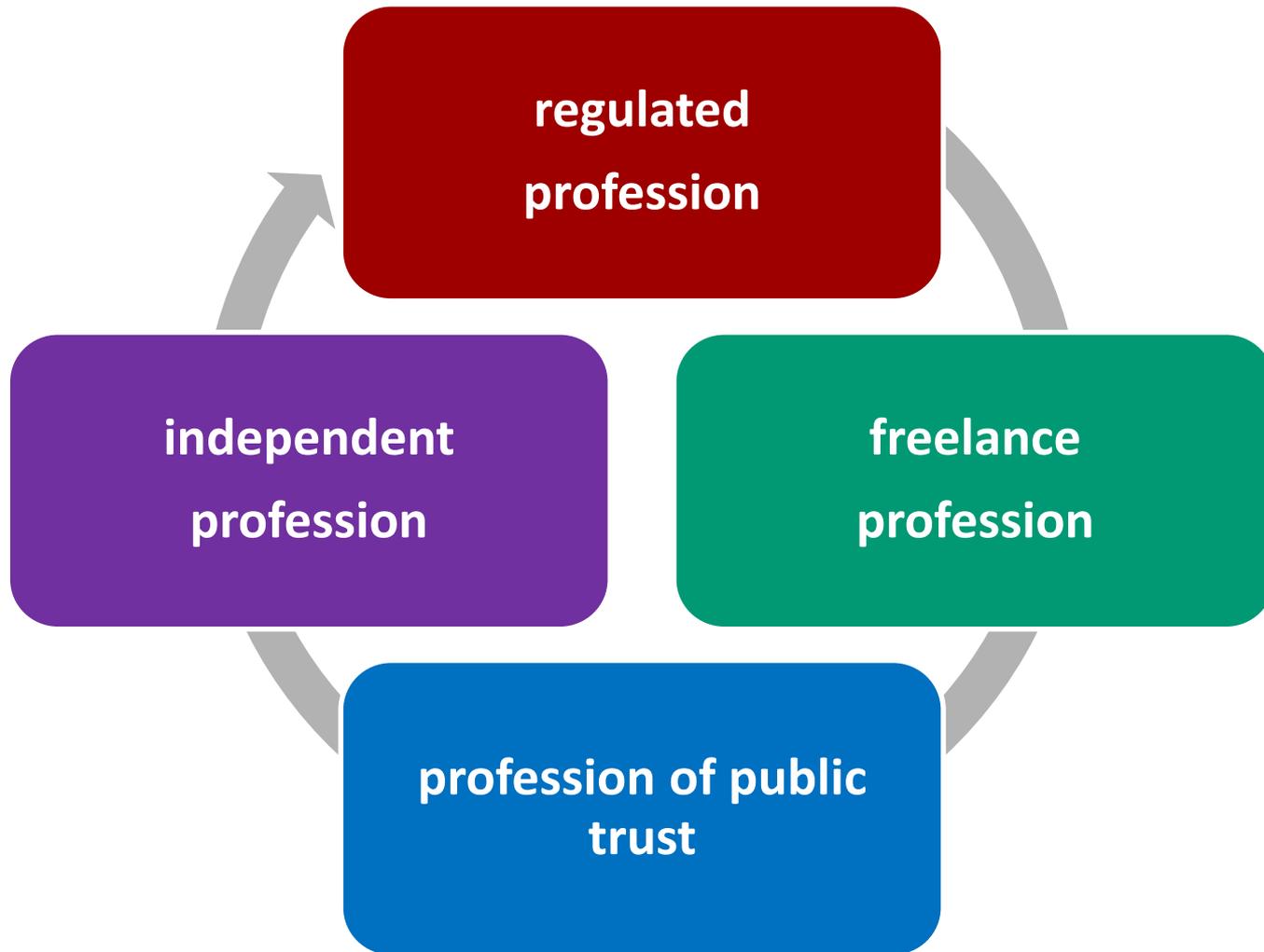
In Poland, Nurses and Midwives are concerned to be the medical professional group which has had its own regulations for ages

✓ **The Act on the Occupation of Nurse and Midwife**

✓ **The Act on Professional Self-Government of Nurses and Midwives**



Nurse profession in Poland





Profession of public trust – every profession with an established professional self-government which is laid down in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland.

Professions of public trust include professions that serve and protect public interest.

**profession of public
trust**





Scope of tasks

Exercising the profession of a nurse entails the provision of healthcare services, including especially:

- diagnosing patients' condition and their health-related needs,
 - identifying patients' needs related to nursing,
 - planning and providing nursing care of patients,
 - independently providing and preventive, diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitation as well as medical emergency services, in the specified scope,
 - performing medical orders in the diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation proces,
 - conducting health education and health promotion activities.
- 



The most important

However, independently providing and preventive, diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitation as well as medical emergency services, in the specified scope, is considered to be the most important.





Professional self-government of nurses and midwives

- Since the 70's of the 19th century till the World War I every fundamental form of social self-government has been established. It was a territorial and economic autonomy.
- Professional self-governance appeared at the latest. Consequently, in order to prevent the professional business there appeared chambers of physicians or pharmacists.



- After World War II the self government in Poland has been abolished.
- Only in 1989 r., when the socialist system collapsed and the democracy was born there appeared legal conditions for the territorial, economic and professional associations to rise.

Round Table Talks agreements included:

„...in order to prevent professional interests of nurses and midwives who are the biggest group among medical professions it is necessary to institute the Council of nurse and midwives.”





According to the Constitution, the professional self-government has two major tasks:

- to represent people who exercise the profession of public trust,
- to oversee the due practise of the profession within the boundaries of public interest and for its protection.

The self-government dedicated to both nurses and midwives was established for the first time on 19th April 1991 with The Act on Professional Self-Government of Nurses and Midwives amended in 2011.



- 
- Nowadays the self-government of nurses and midwives brings together the biggest medical professional group in Republic of Poland. It has almost **300.000 members**.
 - Nurses' and midwives' membership to the self-government is obligatory.
 - The members of the self-government include those nurses who hold a licence to practice the profession and are registered as members of a regional chamber of nurses and midwives.
- 



The self-government tasks include:

- custody and supervision over the proper and conscientious practise of the profession,
- establishing principles of professional ethics,
- establishing professional standards and the standards of professional qualifications,
- protecting the professional dignity,
- establishing the directions of development of nursing,
- representing and protecting the profession,
- taking a stance in all matters concerning public health, state health policy and organisation of healthcare e.g. by expressing opinions about draft legislations.





The self-government performs its tasks by:

- delivering professional licences,
 - conducting proceedings concerning long breaks from practising profession,
 - keeping registers of nurses and midwives,
 - expressing opinions in matters of work and salary conditions,
 - delivering opinions and requests concerning professional education and its program,
 - conducting postgraduate education,
 - adjudicating matters concerning professional liability,
- 



The self-government performs its tasks by:

- conducting and participation of the representatives in the contest's board for senior positions in nursing,
- delivering opinions about the normative acts concerning healthcare and rules which the healthcare are organised,
- cooperating with other public institutions,
- organising and conducting self-help organisations,
- recognising qualifications of nurses and midwives who are citizens of the Member States of the EU who intend to practise their profession in the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- providing information concerning recognising foreigners' professional qualifications; legal conditions of the healthcare system, ethics, social insurance.





From the practical perspective, matters concerning the professional licences and conducting proceedings which restrict the practices of the profession are the most important tasks which the self government performs.



For nurses who are going to practice the profession the most important thing is being registered and getting the licence from the regional self-government.





Nurses and midwives self-government's members are liable for violating professional ethic rules or other regulations concerning practicing the profession – it is a professional misconduct.

The proceeding include:

- examinations,
- investigation procedure,
- proceedings before the Court of nurses and midwives,
- enforcement proceeding.



Conclusion

Characteristic for a self-government are the following facts:

- membership is obligatory,
- self-governments are independent and its functioning rules are established in the Act,
- self-governments play a significant role in granting the right to practise the profession.



Definitely, having by the polish nurses and midwives their self-government for 28 years is a huge good.

Current generation of nurses and midwives' undoubtedly significant role is to strengthen the self-government.

Thank you for your attention!

