# Analysis of Naturopathic Care from a Sustainable Perspective

## Summary (en anglais)

From a restrictive approach, naturopathic care is described as a health care system within the world of Conventional and Alternative Medicine. However, from a larger perspective, naturopathic care is seen as an alternative health care system that embraces and promotes sustainable lifestyles. Accordingly, the main objective of this research is to explore the latter definition of naturopathic care using a sustainable perspective.

This work is organized in four chapters. The first chapter provides a historical and descriptive resume of naturopathic care. The second chapter describes the relevance of naturopathic care in Switzerland and discusses major health care reforms. The third chapter is a review of the literature about the social, economic, and environmental benefits of naturopathic care. Finally, the fourth chapter is an empirical case study which evaluates the impact naturopathic care has on people’s lifestyles.
This study concluded that naturopathic therapies seem to provide important social, economic, and environmental benefits. However, more and higher quality research and new methodologies are needed before any generalizations could be made. Similarly, the empirical case study demonstrated that adepts to naturopathic care had healthier lifestyles, spent less money in health care, and had a lower ecological footprint. However, due to the low sample size no generalizations can be made from this study either.

Even though no conclusive results were obtained from this study, this work contributes to the current debate about naturopathic care in Switzerland, and highlights the importance of integrating the environmental dimension in the evaluation of naturopathic care.