Country: Germany

Education:
1. How many physiotherapy education programs are in this country?
   In Germany we have around 260 physiotherapy schools and 40 bachelor programs.

2. Are the education programs accredited by an agency or association?
   a. Is this accreditation specific to physiotherapy?
      The education program has to be approved by the regional authorities. Yes, this accreditation is specific following professional law.

3. What is the entry-level degree needed to practice in physiotherapy?
   3 years of school-based education (vocational school)

4. Are there any post-professional degree programs?

5. Please list suggested websites regarding physical therapy education:

Practice:
1. Do patients have direct access or is physiotherapy performed under the direction of a physician?
   In Germany there is no direct access in the health insurance sector, but for the private insurance sector there is a possibility for the physiotherapist to work in direct access, if he has further education (sektoraler Heilpraktiker).

2. How many physiotherapists are licensed in your country?
   In 2017 there were 197,000 physiotherapists in Germany

3. What is the professional designation used by practicing PTs? Is this term protected by legislation?
   The title "Physiotherapeut" is protected by federal law.

4. Do you have PTAs or other support personnel? Are they certified/registered/licensed?
   No.

5. Name the professional association that advocates for physiotherapy in your country.
   Deutscher Verband für Physiotherapie (ZVK) e. V. (www.physio-deutschland.de)
   Verband Physikalische Therapie – Vereinigung für die physiotherapeutischen Berufe (VPT) e.V. (www.vpt.de)
   Bundesverband selbstständiger Physiotherapeuten - IFK e. V. (www.ifk.de)

6. Are there standards of practice in your country?

7. Is there a code of conduct in your country?
8. Is any continuing professional development required for re-registration/renewal?

9. Please list suggested websites regarding physical therapy practice

Regulation:
1. What is the regulatory model and model description in the country?

2. Is registration required to practice? (If so, what organization do a practitioner register with?)

3. Is licensure necessary to practice in your country?
   Yes, the licensure (Berufsurlkunde) is given by the regional health authorities.

4. Is there a national examination required prior to practice? (If yes, list the exam agency name and website).
   Yes, there is a state examination after 3 years of education. Responsible: regional health authorities in the federal regions in Germany.

5. Do you have a defined scope of practice and if so who defines the scope?
   Yes, we have the professional order (Berufsordnung) and the ethic code of conduct created by the professional association. The professional law (MPhG) including training and examination order (APrV) is defined through Ministry of Health. The specifications in practice are based on the catalog of remedies (Heilmittelkatalog)

6. What is the website of the organization that represents physiotherapy regulators in your country?
   In Germany the Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/) defines and regulates the Physiotherapy. The federal system in Germany gives the responsibility to the regional authorities in the 16 regions.