

TRAINING

2nd Summer School on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies 2017

From 28 August to 1 September 2017 the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies organised, in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the 2nd Summer School on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies in Vienna. 29 participants from public and not-for-profit institutions working in the field of pricing and reimbursement of medicines from 19 different countries attended.



More information:

<http://whocc.goeg.at/SummerSchool2017>

Applications for Summer School 2018

The third Summer School on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies will be held in Vienna from **23 July to 27 July 2018**.

The application phase will start on **29 January 2018** (till 16 April 2018).

More information:

<http://whocc.goeg.at/SummerSchool2018>

Intern from The Netherlands

The WHO Collaborating Centre hosted Leroy Lepelaars, holding a Master Degree in Pharmacy from Utrecht University (the Netherlands), from August to October 2017.

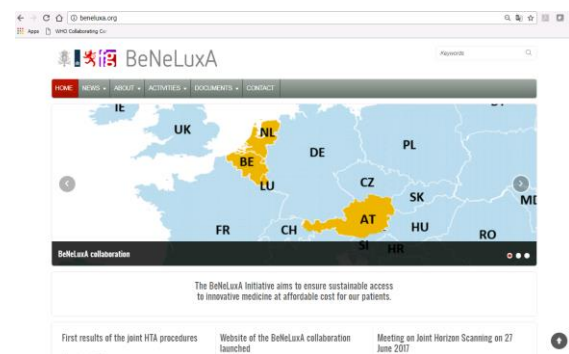
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

BeNeLuxA Website online since September 2017

In 2016, Austria became the fourth country to be included in the existing BeNeLux cooperation on pharmaceutical policy. The BeNeLuxA initiative aims to ensure sustainable access to

innovative medicine at affordable cost for patients. The BeNeLuxA cooperation launched its website in September 2017.

More information: <http://beneluxa.org>

**Advisory Board for the PPRI Network**

An Advisory Board for the network of competent authorities responsible for pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement policies (PPRI network) was set up in November 2017 to further promote structured information exchange with representatives of international and national institutions in the pharmaceutical field. The PPRI Advisory Board includes, among others, WHO (Headquarters and Regional Office for Europe), OECD, European Commission, and the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumers.

European medicine price database EURIPID

In the 8th year of existence, EURIPID, jointly managed by GÖG and the Hungarian National Institute of Health Insurance Fund Management (NEAK), continued to be successful.

EU Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis mentioned the undertaking at the EU Council on 'Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Protection' (EPSCO Council) in December 2017 as an excellent example of voluntary, coordinated cooperation between the Member States and the EU Commission. Furthermore, the project has been included in the new EU Health Programme.

On 1 February 2018, the new Euripid website will be launched. A Guidance Document, addressing countries on international price comparisons is to be finalized and adopted at a conference in Vienna this summer. Coordination on the document has started with countries and will be complemented by a consultation process with further stakeholders.

See the [EURIPID – Best Practice Report on External Reference Pricing \(ERP\)](#).

EVENTS

Panel Discussion on Initiatives to Increase Payers' Purchasing Power on 30 August 2017



On 30 August 2017 a public panel discussion titled 'Strengthening the purchasing power for medicines – possibilities and risks' was organised by the WHO Collaborating Centre, bringing together different stakeholders. High level representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs, the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions, the Association of the Austrian Pharmaceutical Industry, the Drug Commission of the German Medical Association, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), the Medicines Patent Pool and the WHO Collaborating Centre sat at the panel to discuss questions around cross-border collaborations (e.g. BeNeLuxA) in the field of medicines, and

their possible impact on access and affordability.

More information:

<http://whocc.goeg.at/SummerSchool2017>

Conference participation

Experts of the Pharmacoeconomics Department (Peter Schneider, Nina Zimmermann and Sabine Vogler) presented findings of their research at the Austrian Health Economics Association (ATHEA) Conference in Vienna on 24 November 2017. Sabine Vogler also gave presentations at the European Drug Utilisation Research Group (EuroDURG) Conference 2017 in Glasgow on 15–17 November 2017. Sabine Vogler was elected to the EuroDURG Executive Committee (<https://www.pharmacoepi.org/eurodurg>).

PUBLICATIONS

Pharma Profiles of Austria, Sweden and Turkey

PPRI network members have been regularly updating reports of their pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement system. Sweden and Turkey published 2017 PPRI Pharma Profiles, and an updated Austrian PPRI Pharma Profile was made accessible in January 2018.

More information:

<http://whocc.goeg.at/Publications/CountryReports>

High-priced oncology medicines

The Pharmaceutical Report of the German sickness fund BARMER-GEK contains a chapter on prices of oncology medicines authored by an expert of the Pharmacoeconomics Department.

<https://www.barmer.de/blob/125228/3c5d541966251406905d1b5914008b69/data/dl-5-vogler.pdf>

List of publications of the Pharmacoeconomics Department:

<http://whocc.goeg.at/Publications/>

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