



WHO Collaboration Centre held first online Summer School

Between Monday, 5 July and Friday, 9 July 2021 **38 participants** of public and non-for-profit institutions working in the field of pricing and reimbursement of medicines from 19 countries worldwide attended the **First Online Summer School on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies**. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pricing and Reimbursement Policies offered the 2021 Summer School as a virtual event. Latest evidence and policy experience were presented and practical examples were intensively discussed by the participants and invited experts, with the overall aim to promote Universal Health Coverage and access to medicines in the home countries.

With the use of different technical tools like live streams, online platforms, virtual meeting rooms, pre-recorded videos, online polling tools and quizzes, the WHO Collaborating

Centre for Pricing and Reimbursement Policies organised an exciting and unforgettable course training with valuable content and a lot of opportunities to interact between the participants and experts. One of the main challenges for the organisers was to set a convenient time-table due to the different time zones of the participants. A special highlight of the summer school was a panel discussion with procurement experts.

More information: <https://ppri.goeg.at/summerschool2021>



EURIPID public website and relaunch of the EURIPID Collaboration website

The European Integrated Price Information Database (EURIPID) was established in 2010. It is a voluntary non-profit collaboration of national pricing and reimbursement authorities for pharmaceuticals in Europe. The aim of the project is to secure access to affordable medicines for all patients and to improve price transparency. EURIPID provides a platform where information on pharmaceuticals and their prices of currently 28 countries are presented in a uniform and comparable manner.

We are pleased to announce that the EURIPID collaboration now offers information to the public under <https://euripid.eu>. In parallel to the launch of the public website in May 2021 we also relaunched the database with some new features.

While the price database per se is not publicly accessible, the website offers a wealth of information and informs about results of the project. In addition, researchers can apply for access to data via a standardised procedure, see <https://euripid.eu/researchers/>.

Besides the regular activities EURIPID is also involved in the discussion of the new Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe.



European collaboration on medicines and vaccine procurement

Experts of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies in Vienna, of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and

Regulation in Utrecht and of the WHO Regional Office for Europe published a paper on collaborations of European countries to jointly purchase medicines and vaccines or jointly negotiate their prices and reimbursement status.

The article reports experiences and lessons learned of the first Nordic tender of the Nordic Pharmaceutical Forum, of vaccines procurements of the Baltic Procurement Initiative and of joint negotiations of the Beneluxa Initiative. Challenges and prerequisites for successful conclusion of procurement and negotiation of the European cross-country collaborations were analysed and compared to the global procurement mechanism of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative.

Article: Vogler S, Haasis MA, van den Ham R, Humbert T, Garner S. European collaborations on medicine and vaccine procurement. Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Link to “Published online first”: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/bulletin/online-first/blt.21.285761.pdf?sfvrsn=5f5b4c98_5

From October 2021, see the Issue at: <https://www.who.int/publications/journals/bulletin>



CONFERENCES / TRAININGS

Panellist in WHO webinar on external price referencing

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a series of webinars on countries' pharmaceutical pricing policies.

The second WHO webinar of this series on 11 August 2021 addressed the external price referencing (EPR) policy. Sabine Vogler of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies was one of the panelists to report on the history of EPR in Austria and commented on dos and don'ts of this policy.

Webinar “Is the grass always greener on the other side? History, rationale, and the dos and don'ts of external reference pricing”

Recording: Link https://who.zoom.us/rec/share/-JcUVMvJaJL9PDv9NZFs4NV16ev2J_Ld6wZ7liDGEUjg5tD_D1to_g3lQ3Wm2nvn.VxBpTx50DRCZpQ9u and Passcode: 0+jq.vr%

Slides: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1wo34x57wrakdx/Webinar%20%20-%20ERP%20Final.pdf?dl=0>

Webinars for economic operators on the EUDAMED Actors Module

Since 1 December 2020, registration in the EUDAMED Actors Module has been possible for all economic actors on a voluntary basis. The Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich / GÖG) has been commissioned by the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection to validate the entries in the Actor registration module.

To support economic operators in the registration process, webinars will be offered on 5 October 2021 and 24 November 2021. In addition to background information on EUDAMED and guidance on registration, the webinars will also offer the opportunity for discussion and clarification of open questions. The webinars will be held in German.

Who should attend?

Economic operators in the field of medical devices and in vitro diagnostics (manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers) located in Austria and interested parties.

More information and registration: <https://medizinproduktregister.at/node/168>



THE TEAM

Research assistant: Valentin Kandler

Valentin Kandler joined the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich) in early 2017. Since then, he has been participating in numerous projects of the Pharmacoeconomics Department, including the activities of Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) network and of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies, in medicine prices surveys and analysis and in the EURIPID Collaboration.

Having started his professional life in private insurance he has worked in several fields. In addition, he has been contributing as a volunteer to numerous non-governmental organizations and was awarded for the “meritorious services rendered to the community” by his hometown.



PUBLICATIONS

PPRI Pharma Brief on Cyprus

The Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) Secretariat produced an up-to-date concise report of the pharmaceutical system in Cyprus, which describes on a few pages the current institutional policy framework related to pricing, procurement and reimbursement of medicines following the implementation of a major reform.

The PPRI Pharma Brief (available in English) also includes a summary in Greek. In addition to the textual description, graphic visualization of the pharmaceutical system is provided.

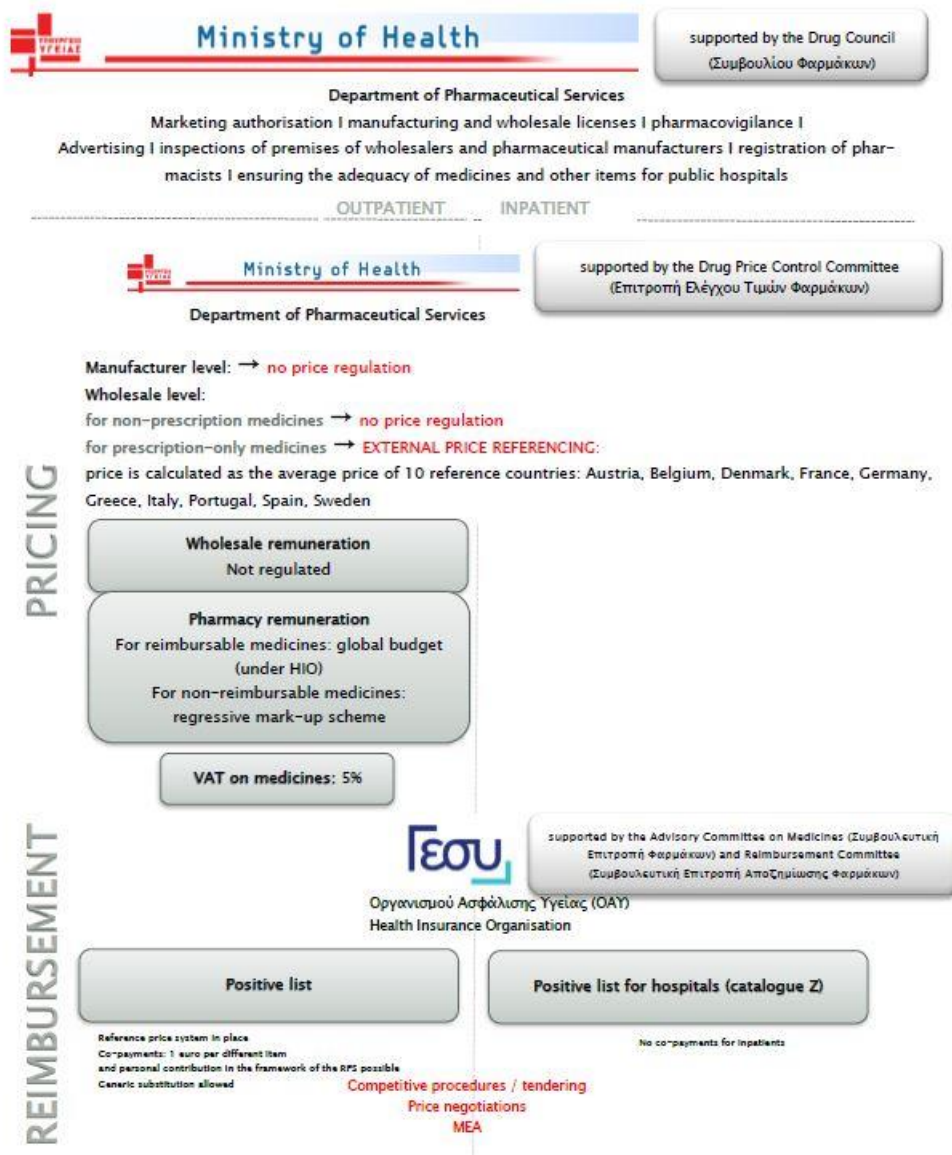
This PPRI Pharma Brief on Cyprus is part of a series of PPRI Pharma Briefs that the PPRI Secretariat launched in 2019. Further published PPRI Pharma Briefs are on Austria (2019), France (2020) and Spain.

Read more: PPRI Pharma Brief: Cyprus 2021

https://ppri.goeg.at/sites/ppri.goeg.at/files/inline-files/PPRI_Pharma_Brief_Cyprus_2021_final_bf.pdf

Further PPRI Pharma Briefs:

https://ppri.goeg.at/ppri_pharma_profiles



Savings gained through use of biosimilar medicines

Based on survey data of the Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) network of competent authorities, an overview on policies undertaken in European countries to enhance the uptake of biosimilar medicines was provided in an article written by the experts of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies and the Technical University Berlin. The country survey was supplemented by cost-saving estimates for German public payers if some of these policies had been implemented in Germany.

Article:

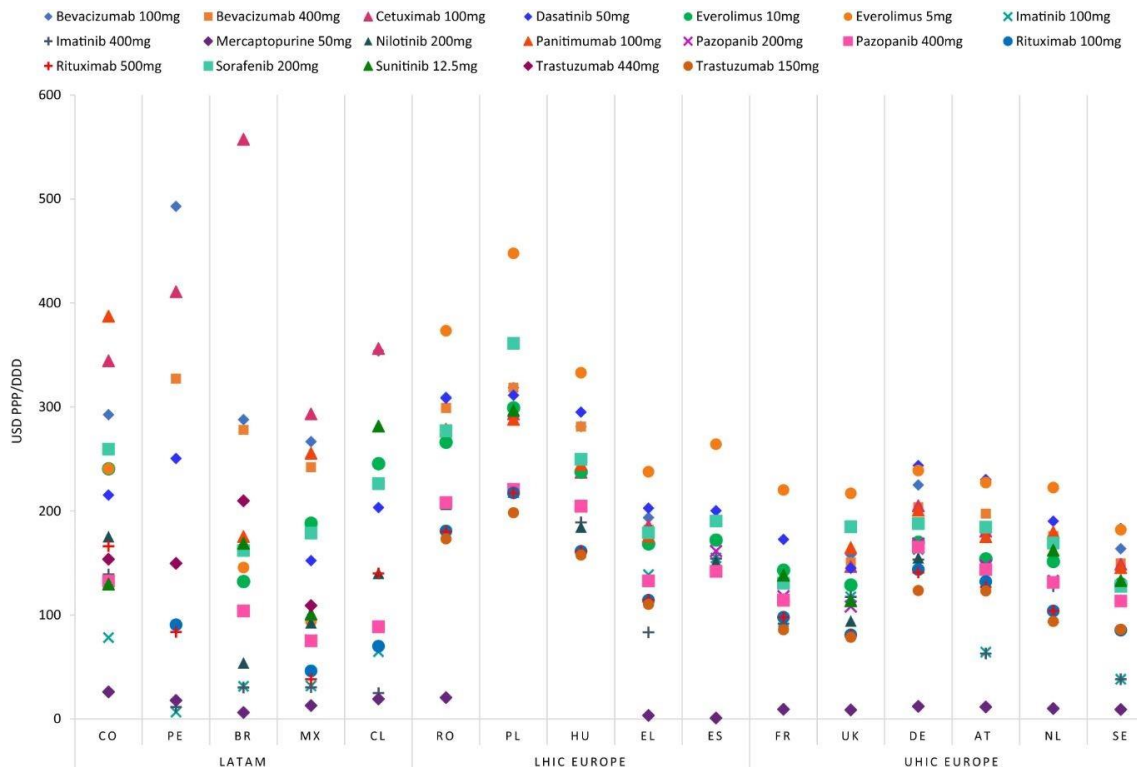
https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fphar.2021.625296/full?utm_source=Email_to_authors&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=T1_11.5e1_author&utm_campaign=Email_publication&field=&journalName=Frontiers_in_Pharmacology&id=625296

Prices of cancer medicines in European and Latin American countries

In 2019, Daniela Moye-Holz, at that time PhD researcher from the University Medical Center Groningen, visited as a fellow the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies. This scientific collaboration resulted in a recent publication of an international price comparison for cancer medicines.

The research for 19 cancer medicines showed that prices adjusted by purchasing power parities (PPP) in Latin American countries tended to be higher than in European countries; within European countries, PPP-adjusted prices were usually higher in countries of lower income compared to those in high-income countries.

Article: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40258-021-00670-4>



Further publications

Russo P, Carletto A, Németh G, Habl C. Medicine price transparency and confidential managed–entry agreements in Europe: findings from the EURIPID survey. *Health Policy* 2021. 125(9): 1140–1145

Link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0168851021001652>

Jommi C, Addis A, Martini N, Nicod E, Pani M, Scopinaro A, Vogler S. Price and reimbursement for orphan medicines and managed entry agreements: does Italy need a framework? *Global & Regional Health Technology Assessment*. 2021;8: 114–9

Link: <https://journals.aboutscience.eu/index.php/grhta/article/view/2278>

Vogler S, Haasis MA, Zimmermann N: Financial burden of medicines for patients: Co–payments and protective measures in European countries. Factsheet prepared for the European Public Health Week 2021. *Gesundheit Österreich (GÖG / Austrian National Public Health Institute)*, Vienna

Link: https://ppri.goeg.at/sites/ppri.goeg.at/files/inline-files/FactSheet_BurdenCoPayMedicines_bf.pdf