



PPRI^{EECA}

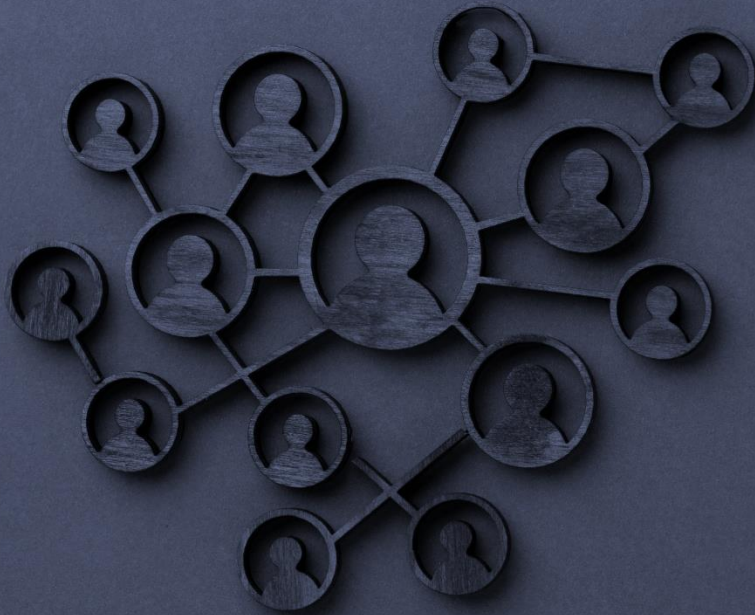
Pharmaceutical Pricing and
Reimbursement Information

PPRI EECA

A networking initiative supported by authorities in
Eastern European and Central Asian countries



Main activities and achievements since 2017



"Universal health coverage rests on two pillars: access to healthcare and financial protection. Neither of these is possible without public coverage of the cost of outpatient medicines made possible by pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement systems. There is **no one-size-fits-all** when implementing pricing and reimbursement at national level as many parameters need to be factored in. In this context, **exchange of technical information helps shape context-specific policies** in line with international experience and adapted to a country's priorities.

The **Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Network's chapter for Eastern European and Central Asian countries was established five years ago** with the support of the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Austrian National Public Health Institute. Over time, it has been **transformed into a resource hub for EECA countries** and contributes noticeably to the WHO's work on strengthening access to medicines and medical devices.

I **celebrate these five years** of success with you and am looking forward to new forms of collaboration, taking it up to another level of excellence!"



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Natasha
Azzopardi
Muscat

Director, Country Policies
and Systems,
WHO Regional Office
for Europe



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Sabine Vogler

Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies at the Pharmacoeconomics Department at the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich) in Vienna

"Ensuring access to safe and affordable medicines remains challenging for the countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia supported by the WHO European Region. **Strong policies and processes** are needed to improve the introduction and utilization of cost-effective medicines in order to ensure optimal use of the limited public funds dedicated to health in these countries. Through the **PPRI EECA network we support public authorities** in making progress towards universal health coverage and increased access to medicines."

About the PPRI EECA Network

The Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) EECA network is a **collaboration between public authorities for pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement in the countries in the Eastern European and Central Asian (EECA) region.**

Rationale and history

Due to similarities in their health care and pharmaceutical systems, countries in the Eastern European and Central Asian (EECA) region **share common challenges with regard to access to medicines** – e.g. high out-of-pocket payments for patients, unaffordable medicines or a lack of comprehensive funding programmes. Given the need to **support public authorities** to develop or optimize pharmaceutical policies and to increase their knowledge and capacity, a dedicated **PPRI EECA network was initiated** by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Austrian National Public Health Institute **in 2017.**

The PPRI EECA network is a **regional subgroup of a larger PPRI network** with 50 – mainly European – member countries. The PPRI was originally a research project (2005-2007) funded by the European Commission and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth which was jointly coordinated by the Austrian National Public Health Institute and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. After the project, **PPRI network members expressed their strong interest in continuing the collaboration** and the network still exists today.

Main aim

The **exchange of information and best practices** on pricing and reimbursing medicines between public officials is facilitated to contribute to affordable, equitable and sustainable access to safe, effective and high-quality essential medicines through the efforts of the network's members in their home countries.

Members

- ✓ Membership in the PPRI EECA network is only possible for public institutions responsible for pharmaceutical pricing and/or reimbursement, e.g. medicines agencies, ministries of health or economy, social health insurance institutions or national health services.
- ✓ Status in 2022: the PPRI EECA network has active members from 16 different institutions in nine EECA countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- ✓ The working language in the PPRI EECA network is Russian.

PPRI EECA networking tools

to exchange information and knowledge

Meet and connect with the right people

Face-to-face and online PPRI EECA network meetings

Usually there is one face-to-face PPRI EECA network meeting a year – hosted each time by a different member country. In addition, online meetings are organized at regular intervals. Only members of the PPRI EECA network are invited to the meetings.



Access to structured country information

Templates and reports for describing, surveying and analysing national pharmaceutical policies have been developed – e.g., PPRI EECA Pharmaceutical Profiles or country posters provide a concise overview of the pharmaceutical system of a country.



Coordinated exchange of information PPRI EECA network queries

If there is interest in the price of a medicine in member countries or whether it is funded as well as other relevant pharmaceutical policy information, a member of the network can launch a network query in accordance with a pre-defined procedure. PPRI EECA network members from the other countries will provide information on their country – within a short period of time.



Capacity building and training

Experts from the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies or the WHO Regional Office for Europe as well as other renowned experts disseminate the latest findings and evidence in pharmaceutical policies and provide customized training for PPRI EECA members.



Understanding each other

Russian glossary

A [glossary](#) containing definitions of the most important terms related to pharmaceutical policies is available in Russian.



Highlights

of five years of the PPRI EECA network (2017-2022) – part I

Meetings for peer exchange with other countries



Moldova, May 2017



Azerbaijan, May 2018



Kazakhstan, February 2019

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- Three in-person meetings (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Five online meetings (2020, 2x2021, 2x2022)
- More than 30 participants on average from 9-12 countries
- Three-day Winter School on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies (18-20 February 2019 in Kazakhstan)

Capacity building and training

Topics covered include

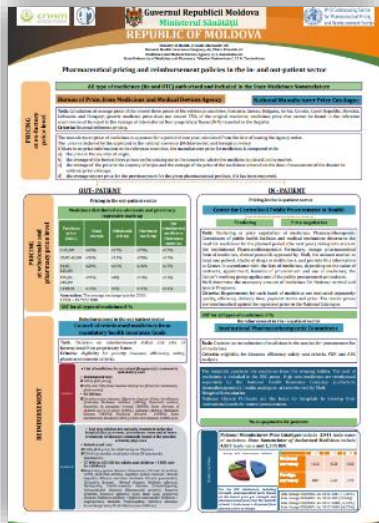
- The pricing and reimbursement of medicines in the context of national and global developments (general financing of health care systems, universal health coverage, sustainable development goals)
- Overview of pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement policy options, implementation at national level and best practices
- Medicine price surveys, analyses and comparisons
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Funding and coverage of medicines with a focus on diabetes care
- How to address challenges for pharmaceutical policy in times of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Leaving no one behind: the financial burden of medicines for patients. Co-payments and protective measures
- Inflation and the consequences for medicine prices
- Exchange of information on developments and reforms of pharmaceutical policies in EECA countries

Highlights

of five years of the PPRI EECA network (2017-2022) – **part II**

Access to structured country information

Country posters are available providing a concise overview of the pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement system of EECA countries.



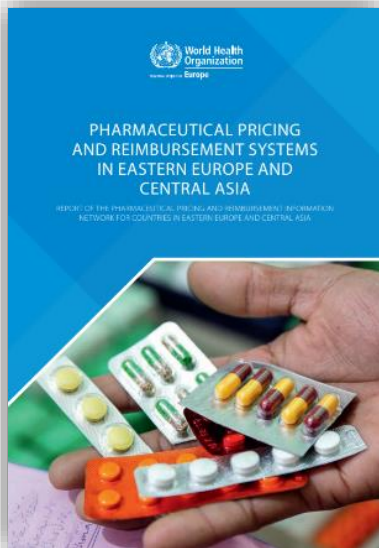
Pharmaceutical policy research

Comparative analysis of pricing and reimbursement policies in EECA countries as of 2018 ([technical report](#))

Managing the PPRI EECA network

In close collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the PPRI EECA Secretariat was established at the Austrian National Public Health Institute.

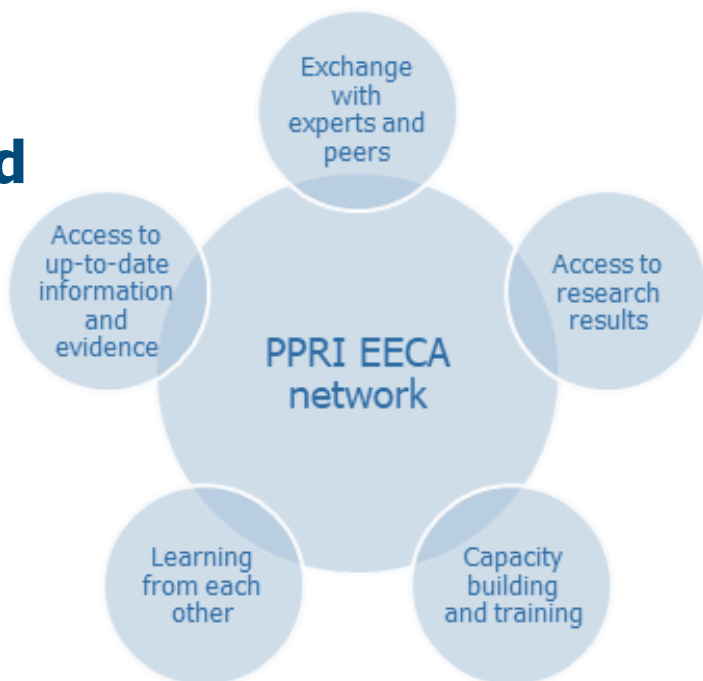
A PPRI EECA Advisory Board with members of international bodies and selected national EECA country representatives was set up in 2021 and has met regularly since then with the aim of supporting the PPRI EECA Secretariat in its performance of PPRI EECA-related activities by providing input and guidance.



Information is key for making the right decisions!

Benefits and obligations

for PPRI EECA network members



- There is **no membership fee** for network members.
- PPRI EECA network members are encouraged to **actively contribute to the network**, particularly by presenting, if invited, country information (e.g. posters to be discussed in small groups at PPRI EECA network meetings) and attending PPRI EECA network meetings.
- The PPRI EECA network is characterized by an atmosphere of mutual trust and common understanding. PPRI EECA network members are urged to respect this **culture of confidence**.
- Public officials interested in joining the PPRI EECA network need to complete the **PPRI EECA Membership Form** (including a conflict of interest declaration).

Contact

Pricing and Reimbursement,
Access to Medicines and
Health Products,
Country Policies and Systems,
WHO Regional Office for Europe



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[https://www.who.int/europe/
teams/access-to-medicines-and-health-
products](https://www.who.int/europe/teams/access-to-medicines-and-health-products)



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PPRI EECA Secretariat
at the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Vienna)



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