



Community Pharmacists' contribution to the prevention of medicine shortages

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Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union



Members: Professional Bodies & Pharmacists' Associations



2022: 32 Countries

	Austria		Luxembourg
	Belgium		Malta
	Bulgaria		Netherlands
	Croatia		Poland
	Cyprus		Portugal
	Czech Rep		Romania
	Denmark		Slovakia
	Estonia		Slovenia
	Finland		Spain
	France		Sweden
	Germany		Kosovo
	Greece		North Macedonia
	Hungary		Norway
	Ireland		Serbia
	Italy		Turkey
	Latvia		United Kingdom

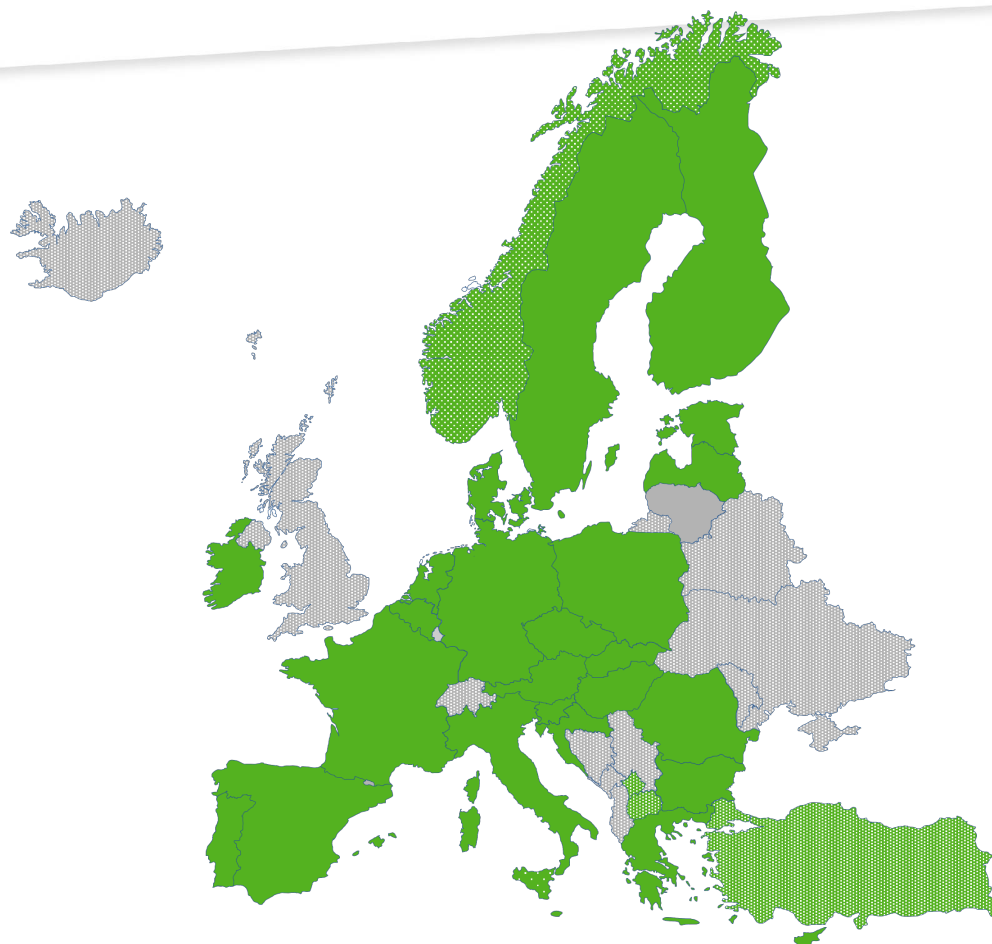
At the heart of European communities

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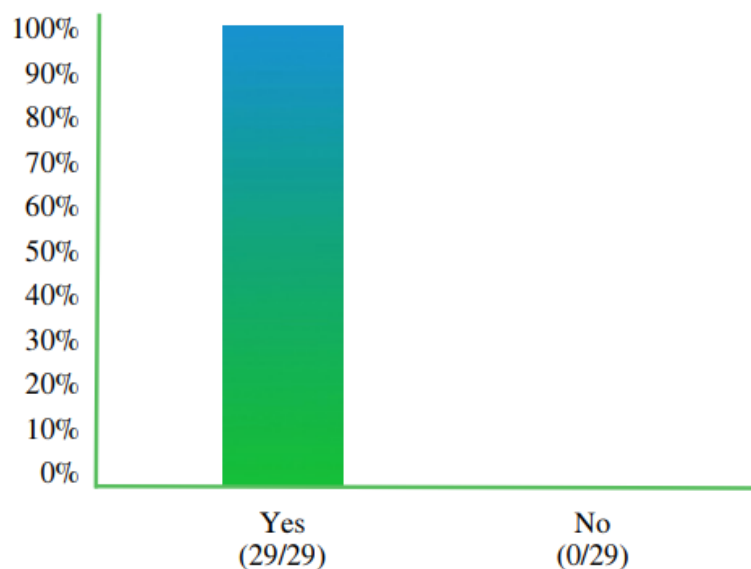
PGEU Shortages Survey 2022

- ❖ Every year PGEU surveys its members to map the impact of medicine shortages in Europe from the community pharmacists' perspective.
- ❖ The 2022 Survey has been conducted between 14 November – 31 December 2022.
- ❖ 29 PGEU member countries responded to the survey (EU + EEA + Non-EU).



All countries experienced shortages and the situation is generally worsening

Question 1. In the last 12 months, have you experienced shortages of medicines in community pharmacy in your country?
(% of responding countries)



Question 2. If you have experienced shortages, how would you compare to the situation in the previous 12 months:
(% of responding countries)



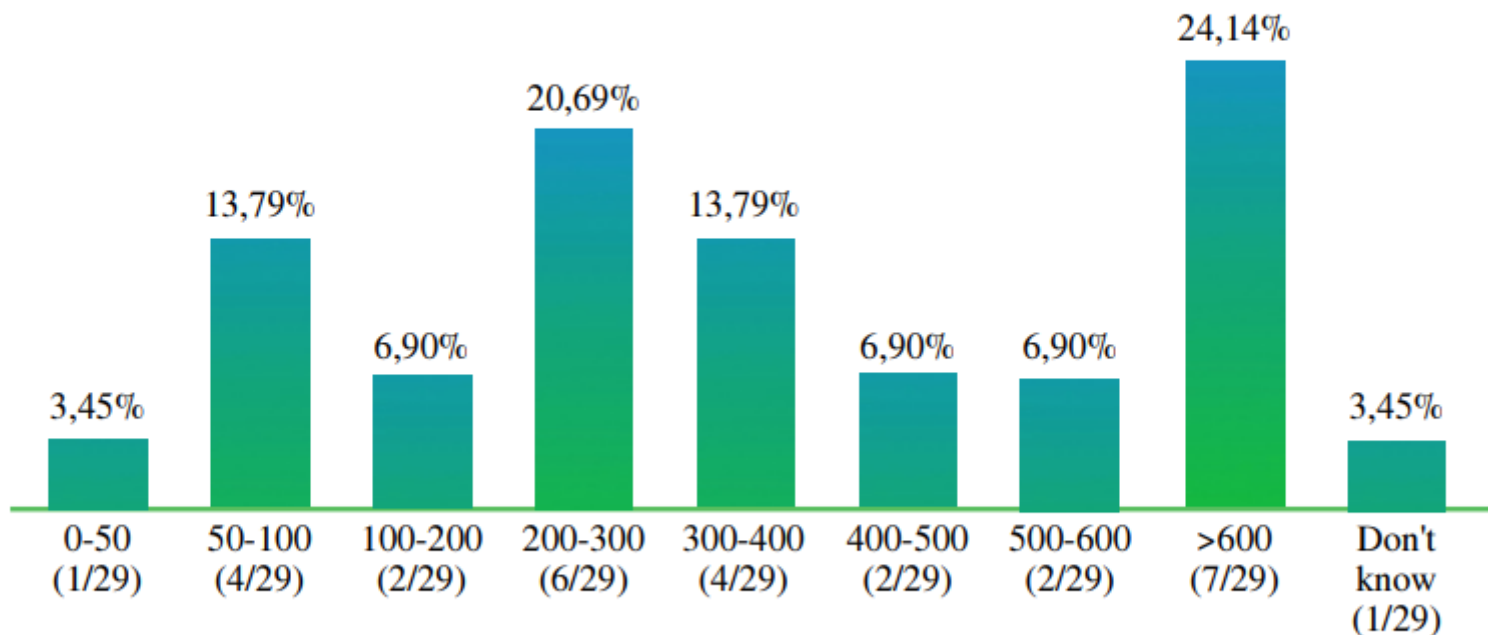
Cardiovascular, nervous system and anti-infective medicines were the most frequently in short supply

Question 3. If you have experienced shortages in the last 12 months in your country, which medicines have been in short supply in community pharmacy?
(ATC Level 1, multiple answers per country) (% of responding countries)

Medicines	Responding countries (%)
Cardiovascular medications	82.76%
Nervous system	79.31%
Anti-infectives for systemic use (e.g. antibiotics)	79.31%
Respiratory system	75.86%
Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents	68.97%
Musculo-skeletal system	65.52%
Systemic hormonal preparations	65.52%
Dermatologicals	65.52%
Blood and blood forming organs	65.52%
Gastrointestinal medications	65.52%
Various	62.09%
Genito-urinary system and sex hormones	62.09%
Vaccines	55.17%
Sensory organs	55.17%
Antiparasitic products, insecticides and repellents	48.28%

Number of shortages varies widely with many countries reporting +600 shortages

» **Question 4.** How many medicines are short in supply at the time of completing this survey? (according to your national definition of a medicine shortage if applicable)?^[1]
(% of responding countries)



[1] The quantification takes into account the national definition of a medicine shortages in each responding country, which can show differences between them. The comparison of these numbers should therefore be interpreted as an indication rather than exact comparison.

Impact on patients: inconvenience, medication errors, adverse events

» **Question 7.** In your experience, how have medicine shortages adversely affected patients in your country?
(multiple answers per country, % of responding countries)

93.10%

Distress and
inconvenience
(27/29)

89.66%

Interruption of
treatments
(26/29)

72.41%

Increased
co-payments
(21/29)

58.62%

Sub-optimal
treatment
(17/29)

34.48%

Medication
errors
(10/29)

21.14%

Adverse events
(7/29)

13.79%

Death
(4/29)

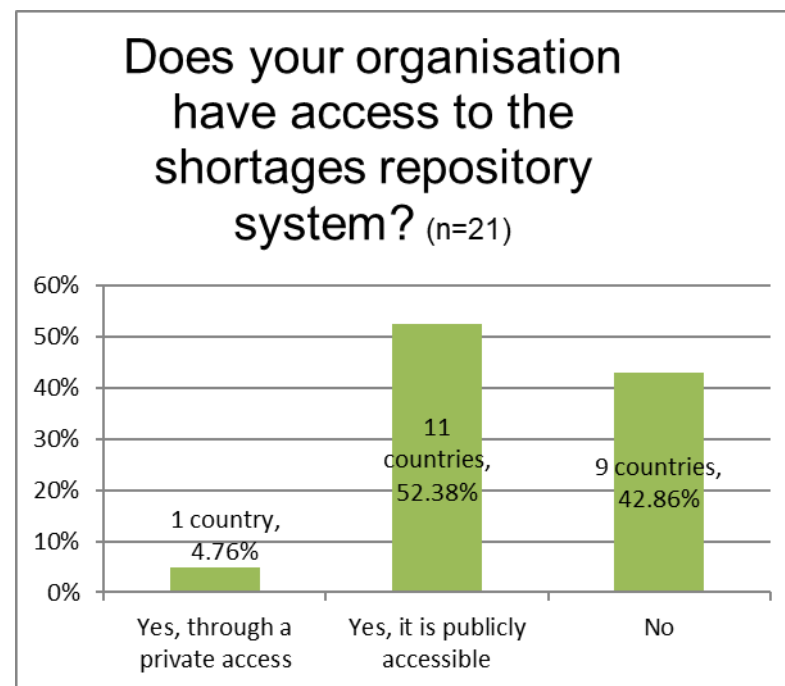
Prevention through early signalling

❖ In 15 out of the 26 countries pharmacists are able to report short supplies of medicines.

❖ However, it is only mandatory in 3 of them (IT, PL, PT).

❖ Pharmacists report shortages of Prescription-only medicines (15/15), Non-Prescription medicines (13/15), and medical devices (5/15).

❖ We can find reporting systems for shortages in place which can be accessed by community pharmacists in 19 out of the 26 countries.



Reporting of signals by healthcare professionals



Ireland

- Pharmacists/wholesalers + NCA (HPRA) = Medicine Shortages Framework
- Help avert potential shortages from occurring
- Reduce the impact of shortages on patients
- Coordinating the management of potential/actual shortages as they arise



Netherlands

- Farmanco (KNMP - the Royal Dutch Pharmacists Association) is open to reports from manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacists, other HCP and patients
- Allows public access to the information



Spain

- Spanish General Pharmaceutical Council creates the Information Centre on Supply of Medicines (CISMED)
- Information is sent directly by pharmacies to the regional councils
- 4-country pilot project successfully deployed (ES, IT, FR, PT)

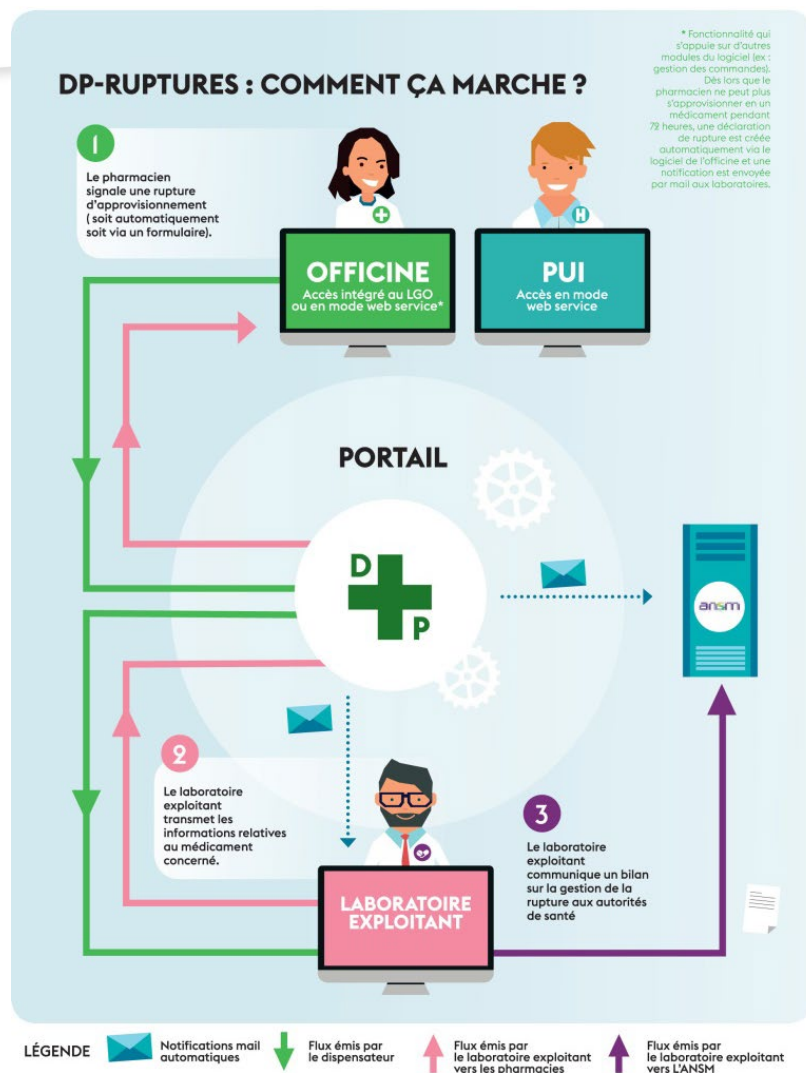


Portugal

- National Association of Pharmacies: system automatically registers data of failed supply orders
- Information feeds a report quarterly, shared with the NCA (INFARMED).
- Voluntary/complementary system to the shortages reporting system (NCA)



French DP-rupture prevention system



France, supply chain actors can notify shortages to the '*Dossier Pharmaceutique-Ruptures*' system:

- Community pharmacists automatically notify a shortage through software connected to DP-Portal (93% connected)
- Pharmaceutical companies respond with a message to shortages notifications related to their products (84% connected)
- Wholesale companies can access the system to check response notifications and information provided by companies (98% connected)
- ANSM (French Medicines Agency) can access and supervise the exchanges only for anticipated shortages pertaining to medicines of major therapeutic interest (MITM)

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PGEU Policy Recommendations

To effectively address the growing problem of medicine shortages in Europe, **PGEU calls on policy makers** to adopt urgent, bold and ambitious measures, namely:

- » **Ensure availability:** All stakeholders and governments must put patients' needs first when developing business policies, national laws and strategies that can affect the timely and adequate supply of medicines. Effective compliance with EU and national laws related to the public service obligations of supply chain actors needs to be assured.
- » **Widen professional competence:** The scope of pharmacy practice should be extended when medicines are in short supply, so pharmacists can use their skills, knowledge and experience to better manage patient care and guarantee continuity of treatment. Shared electronic communication tools offer opportunities for an effective and close collaboration with prescribers to ensure continuity of care and patient safety.
- » **Improve transparency, reporting, monitoring and communication on medicine shortages**
- » **Compensate financial impact:** The resource investment by pharmacists and pharmacies to manage shortages be recognized and valued.



THANK YOU!



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