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Pharmaceutical Group of European Union
Groupement Pharmaceutique de l'Union Européenne

MEDICINES SHORTAGES

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Pharmaceutical & Professional Affairs

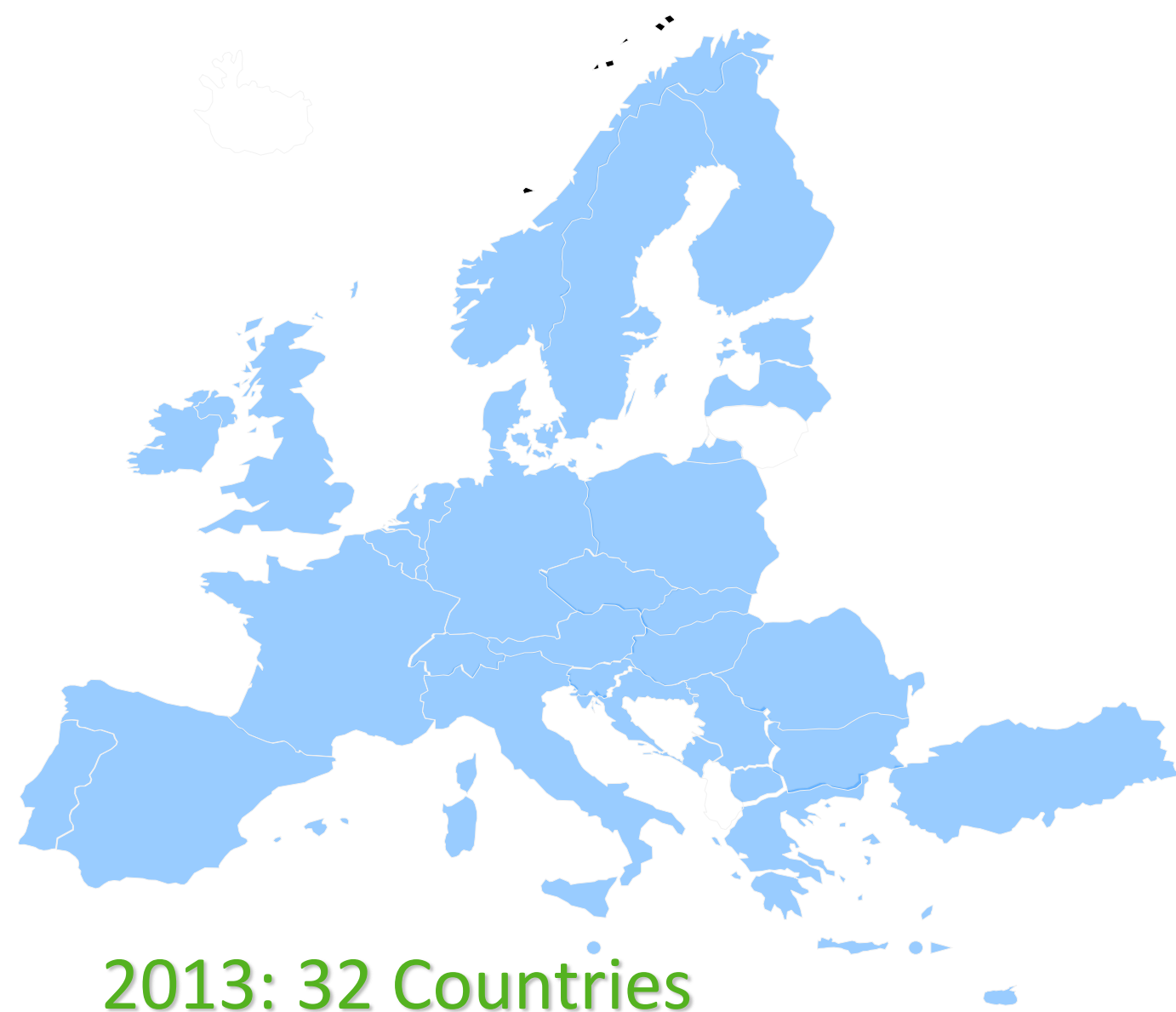


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PGEU Survey 2013

- All respondents reported medicine shortages, although severity of shortages varies. Majority said that it got worse in last 12 months. A broad range of medicines was in short supply during 12 last months.
- Pharmacists spend an average of 10-20 hours/month processing information, informing patients sourcing medicines and/or looking for an alternative treatment when available.
- Medicine shortages have a negative impact on the patients in terms of patient outcomes and convenience as well affect them indirectly when their pharmacist has to spend time sourcing medicines rather than providing services.
- Typically, the pharmacist would find out about the shortage when they try to order the medicine. 33% of respondents said that pharmacists didn't receive advanced notice of medicine shortage.

What shall we do?

- In overwhelming majority of cases pharmacists are able to ensure the provision of seamless, safe, and therapeutically equivalent medicine therapy by sourcing the product in short supply from an alternative source or offering an alternative treatment so that it doesn't directly affect patient.
- However, addressing shortages remains time consuming and frustrating diversion from patient care and can become a medication safety issue.
- There are national initiatives trying to address the supply problems of medicines, but no real progress has been made so far. Information and communication in the supply chain remains the greatest challenge.
- Governments need to factor potential supply problems into pricing/competition decisions.





THANK YOU

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