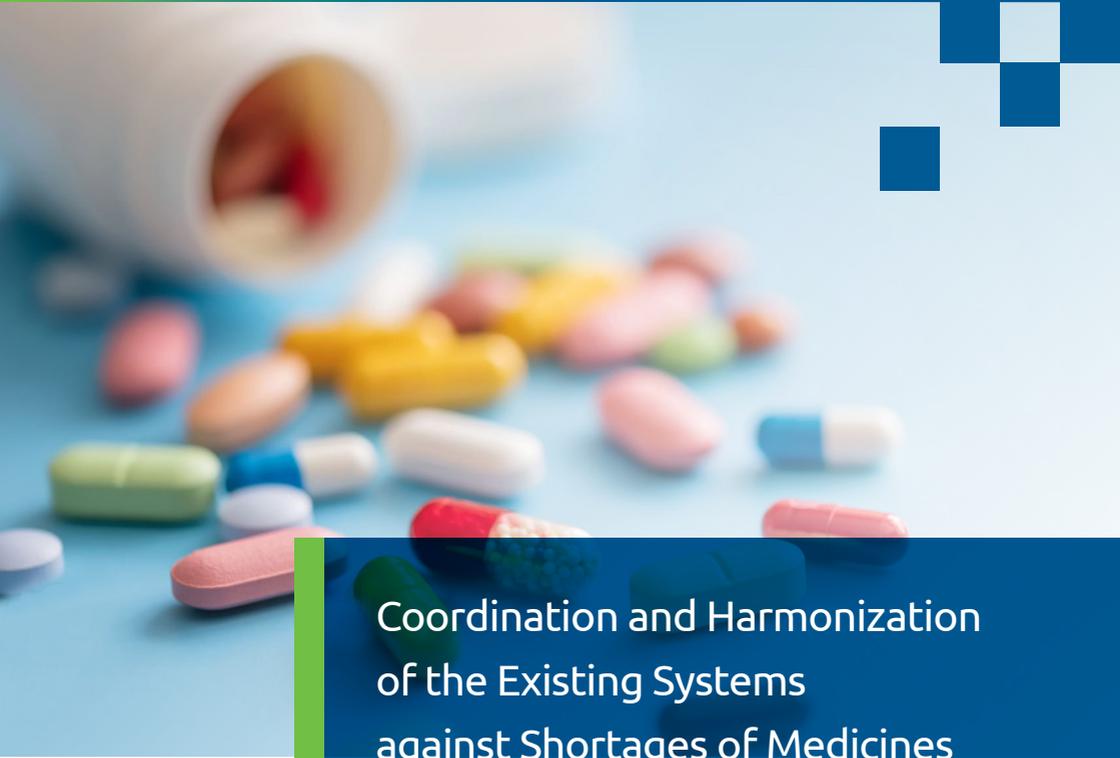




CHESSMEN

Coordination and Harmonisation of the Existing Systems
against Shortages of Medicines – European Network



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ABOUT

The EU co-funded Joint Action CHESSMEN (Coordination and Harmonisation of the Existing Systems against Shortages of Medicines – European Network) envisages to support European Member States to provide a harmonized response and to promote the use of best preventive practices to reduce shortages of medicinal products.

The Action has officially started on 16 January 2023 and will be running for 3 years, bringing together 22 countries. The Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA, Agenzia Italiana del Farmaco), supported by the Italian National Blood and Transplant Centers (ISS-CNS/CNT), is responsible for the coordination of the Joint Action.



CHESSMEN IN NUMBERS



7,85 million € co-funding by EC



21 EU Member States
and **1** EEA country



22 Beneficiaries



5 Affiliated Entities



3 years

INTRODUCTION

Shortages of medicines are a longstanding and growing concern in the EU which may lead to the delay or cancelation of treatments, use of less effective or safe therapeutic alternatives or an increase in the economic cost for citizens and healthcare systems.

The need for stronger EU coordination of activities and the harmonisation of approaches within Member States related to the management of shortages was highlighted by different studies and reports.

OBJECTIVES

The Joint Action CHESSMEN envisages to strengthen the **coordinating structure**, as well as **optimizing** the use of the available resources of all Member States, by **supporting the existing networks and initiatives already active in the field** (such as the Medicines Shortages Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Working Party and the Heads of Medicines Agencies /European Medicines Agency Task Force on Availability of authorised medicines for human and veterinary use), enhancing Member States cooperation in the:

- Identification of the root causes of medicines shortages.
- Identification and promotion of best practices in monitoring, reporting and managing medicines shortages.
- Definition of a common dataset proposal for the notification and management of medicines shortages.
- Reduction of shortages via preventive strategies.



AIMS OF THE PROJECT

- Strengthening the coordination between National and European Competent Authorities and optimizing existing initiatives.
- Collection and consolidation of country specific data, statistics, definitions, concepts and procedures to support the bottom-up harmonisation strategy.
- Agreement on common definitions, concepts and procedures towards the harmonisation of the *modus operandi*.
- Identification and categorisation of the root causes of shortages.
- Identification of best practices to address medicine shortages.
- Provision of common grounds for a harmonised IT concept model at national level, facilitating the management of medicines shortages, monitoring supply and implementing mitigation measures.
- Definition of preventive and mitigation strategies to reduce medicine shortages considering the respective root causes.

WORK PACKAGES (WP)

The Joint Action consists of 4 horizontal work packages (WP) and 4 technical work packages that support the implementation of the Joint Action objectives.

Horizontal work packages

WP 1

Coordination, management and evaluation

Leader AIFA, Italy

WP 2

Communication, dissemination and exploitation

Leader INFARMED, I.P., Portugal

WP 3

Evaluation

Leader FAMHP, Belgium

WP 4

Sustainability

Leader HPRa, Ireland

Technical work packages

WP 5

Identifying the root causes of observed shortages of medicines

Leader AEMPS, Spain

WP 6

Identification of best practices to address medicines shortages

Leader JAZMP, Slovenia

WP 7

Digital information exchange for monitoring and reporting medicine shortages

Leader BfArM, Germany

WP 8

Reducing the likelihood of medicines shortage via preventive and mitigation strategies

Leader FIMEA, Finland

TARGET GROUPS

- EU Regulators and National policymakers.
- Key stakeholders: industry associations, wholesalers, academic institutes, professional associations, patients' associations.
- General public.



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