The Beneluxa Initiative

Facing the challenges: Equity, Sustainability and Access

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Introduction
Members

- **2014** Rome, IT Presidency: NCAPR debate on collaboration and open invitation to form a ‘coalition’ on pharmaceutical pricing
- **2015** Be-NL sign letter of intent
- **2015** Lux joins as partner
- **2016** AT joins as partner
- **2018** IE joins as partner
- Representing 43 million citizens
The Initiative

Main goal

• To ensure access to innovative drugs at affordable cost by leveling the playing field.
• To face the challenges that drive pharmaceutical prices and spending

Focus

➢ Political mandate for collaboration
➢ Case driven; lean organisational structure
➢ Voluntary
➢ Transparency is key
➢ Consensus based cooperation; ‘Can Do’ approach
➢ Price/Reimbursement decisions are national competence
Thematic approach and organization

- Horizon Scanning
- HTA
- Information sharing
- Pricing & Reimbursement
- Joint negotiations

Steering Committee
- Political mandate
- Overall decision making

Domain Task Forces
- Technical work

Coordination team
- Overall coordinator
- Country Coordinator per country

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Latest developments
Achievements

• Ireland as new partner!
• Foundations of the collaboration:
  ➢ Procedures in place
  ➢ Play book for joint HTA and negotiation process
  ➢ International Horizon Scanning Initiative (IHSI) as spin-off

• Information sharing: meetings; webinars on policy issues
• Joint HTA: joint work on 6 assessments so far
• Pricing & Reimbursement: Several pilots ongoing, 2 full processes finalized
International Horizon Scanning Initiative (IHSI)

• Broad support for Horizon Scanning at Informal Council in Vienna, Sept. 10, 2018

• Aim:
  ➢ To inform decision-makers on emerging and new pharmaceuticals
  ➢ Input for national policies and P&R decisions
  ➢ *Identifying relevant issues for collaboration*

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Pricing and reimbursement

Recent developments

• Positive joint negotiation outcome on Spinraza (Biogen) by Be+NE
• Regular strategic information exchange
• New products

• Procedures finalized and published on website
• Intention to increase transparency within Initiative
Critical Issues
• Political mandate (even for a ‘No’)
• Legal frameworks (e.g. language issues)
• Synchronization of national P&R procedures
  ➢ Time lines
  ➢ HTA outcomes must be identical
  ➢ Decision makers
  ➢ Mandate
• Ensuring timeliness
• Business case for Industry
• Resource planning
• *Are joint negotiations always the most effective solutions?*
Long-term goals & challenges
Goals

- International Horizon Scanning Initiative
- Improve & expand HTA collaboration + P&R collaboration
- Open dialogue with other collaboration initiatives

Challenges

- European developments affect our pharmaceutical markets
  - SPC debate, EC HTA Initiative
  - Alternative approaches to development of pharmaceuticals

- New therapies and market behaviour require a fundamental debate
  - Gene therapies (i.a. Car-T)
  - Price-Hiking at the bottom end of the market
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For more information go to:

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