



CROSSBORDER COLLABORATION INITIATIVES PANEL WITH REGIONAL INITIATIVES

BeNeLuxA

Aldo Golja

*Senior Policy Advisor on Drug Pricing and Reimbursement | Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports
Coordinator BeNeLuxA
The Netherlands*

ABSTRACT

Innovative therapies that are currently introduced to the market are of a different order than many new drugs over the past few decades. The emergence of these medications threatens the affordability of care, and will detract from the care for other patients. Also, timely access of patients to medicines is hampered due to the current pharmaceutical system, in which the position of national governments is under pressure. This is partly caused by the variety in national policies on pricing, reimbursement and on the use of pharmaceuticals. At the same time, increasing pressure is put on the capabilities of individual authorities.

In order to change these developments cooperation is essential. Beneluxa is a first collaborative step towards more balance in the pharmaceutical market. Our goal is to ensure timely access and affordability of medicines for our patients by collaborating on pharmaceutical policy.

The Beneluxa initiative aims for sustainable access to, and appropriate use of, medicines in the participating countries. We strive to increase patients' access to high quality and affordable treatments.

The approach of Beneluxa is a hands-on, learning by doing one. By piloting in the different areas of collaboration, we were able to define the most effective ways of working together and pinpointing areas where collaboration isn't fruitful.

The Beneluxa Initiative consists of Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria and Ireland.

Members participate in four areas of cooperation:

- Horizon Scanning through the International Horizon Scanning Initiative (open to all interested countries outside of Beneluxa)
- Information sharing and policy exchange
- Health Technology Assessment
- Pricing and Reimbursement