

ECL A2M TF International Collaboration Paper

Concept note

Working title: 'European Cross-border Initiatives: Toward Fair Medicine Deals?'

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Reviewers: EPHA, SIOPE, France Assos Santé

Context

The increasing calls from cancer leagues and multiple stakeholders about the unacceptability of the high prices of (new) medicines require urgent action. Some concrete initiatives have been launched and are being implemented.

A process of managed entry of new medicines through horizon scanning and HTA and a life cycle approach to ensure supply security through strategic procurement are needed. In this context, increased collaboration between countries - in terms of sharing information relevant to HTA, the managed introduction of new medicines and procurement practices - is a step in the right direction.

There is a sound rationale for increased collaboration between countries in the procurement of health technologies to enhance transparency and cross-country learning through better information and experience sharing, (ii) to strengthen bargaining power to obtain fairer prices through increased transparency and joint negotiations and (iii) to ensure sustainable access to health technologies by sharing resources through cross-border exchange of products in short supply.

However, political commitment and an enabling policy environment are needed at the European/global level to strengthen existing regional and national initiatives to improve access to medicines.

Purpose & Objectives

European leaders and civil society stakeholders need to recognise that international collaboration and joint procurement initiatives are feasible and effective.

We should amplify the achievements of countries where collaboration has been launched and implemented, re-energise existing initiatives, and encourage national decision-makers and civil society to advocate for change and urgent action.

The **objectives** of this paper are to:

- Improve the general understanding of international collaboration and joint procurement initiatives in the field of medicines and the actors involved in them.
- Amplify the achievements of successful international collaboration initiatives (eg. [IHSI](#))
- Recommend short-term and long-term actions for national governments and civil society stakeholders
- Urge stakeholders to re-energize existing initiatives and start new ones.

Format

1st phase - Action paper with policy recommendations (similar to ‘What’s a fair price? Paper) to be submitted to the European Commission in September 2021

2nd phase - Toolkit for NGOs ‘how to lobby for greater international collaboration’

Research methods

- Literature review
- Semi-structured interviews with:
 - Members of existing initiatives (e.g. Beneluxa, Valletta declaration)
 - Members of the European Parliament
 - National authorities
 - Experts
- Workshop with experts and stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities of international collaboration on HTA, horizon scanning and pricing negotiations.

Structure of the Action Paper

- General overview – The need for more cross-border collaboration in the field of medicines
 - Overview of existing international collaboration initiatives to improve access to medicines in Europe
 - Benefits & challenges of international collaboration
 - Lessons learnt from COVID-19 and joint procurement of vaccines
- Contributing to cross-border collaboration
 - The role of the EU, national governments and cancer leagues/civil society
 - The need for cancer leagues/civil society to be involved in international collaboration
 - Recommendations for governments
 - Recommendations for cancer leagues & civil society stakeholders

Target audience of the paper

- EU officials
- Representatives of national governments (EU health Ministers & Health Attachés)
- Cancer leagues (both ECL and non-ECL members)
- Other cancer/health-focused NGOs (incl. health insurers, patient organisations)

Timeline & to-do list

Task	Deadline	Who?
Complete literature review	March 2021	Dimitri Kohler
Complete summary of main findings	March 2021	Dimitri Kohler
Add policy recommendations	April 2021	A2M TF Steering Committee
Review and add to recommendations based on national experience	April-July 2021	ECL members
Define what are the open questions still not addressed by the paper	April-July 2021	ECL members
Finalise text	10 September 2021	ECL Secretariat
Send the final text to the designer	13 September 2021	ECL Secretariat
Designed paper submitted to European Commission	By 30 September 2021	ECL Secretariat
Disseminate and promote the paper at EU and national level	October 2021 onwards	ECL Secretariat and Members

Endorsements (target: at least 8 Member States)

All cancer leagues members of ECL are welcome to contribute to, endorse and promote the paper.