



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Photo: NVZA

# Table of contents

Foreword from the President	page	2
EAHP in numbers	page	4
EAHP Member Countries	page	6
Key achievements & activities in 2023	page	10
Policy & Project milestones	page	14
Outlook to 2024	page	21

# Foreword from the President



*For the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) and our members, 2023 was a busy year! EAHP was able to further develop some projects and initiatives that were put on hold due to the pandemic.*

*We held the 27th EAHP Congress in Lisbon that was an absolute success, with over 3000 participants. In addition, EAHP had its 53rd EAHP General Assembly in Krakow (June 2023) where 3 position papers were adopted on Digital Health, Antimicrobial Resistance, and Hospital Pharmacy Workforce. In addition, Nenad Miljković was elected as my successor as EAHP President (with him starting on this role in June 2024).*

*2023 was also the year of new projects and initiatives. For instance, we published the results of two very important surveys. The 2023 EAHP Survey on Shortages and the EAHP Investigation of the hospital pharmacy profession.*

*For over a decade, hospital pharmacists have been increasingly experiencing difficulties with medicine and medical device shortages. In 2023, EAHP conducted its 5th Shortages Survey, comprehensively examining these shortages. The results of the 2023 Survey show that, like in 2019, 95% of hospital pharmacists reported that medicine shortages are a major problem. More details can be found throughout this report.*

*To investigate the progress in Europe towards the European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy and to identify common barriers and drivers of success, EAHP conducted the 2023 EAHP Investigation survey that gathered 653 responses from 35 countries.*

EAHP also organised and held an event (in collaboration with the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy) and hosted by MEP István UJHELYI at the European Parliament in March 2023 to discuss about the Oath to Society and the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration and patient engagement. EAHP met with a large number of European stakeholders and various MEPs to discuss and provide feedback on the review of the pharmaceutical legislation, so the voice of the Hospital Pharmacy profession was included in the discussions.

Also, EAHP's SILCC training programme is back on track with two SILCC Fellows joining different hospitals to receive training in procedures linked with the Statements in 2023.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continuous support and especially for their participation in the EAHP surveys that were launched in 2023. Thanks to the data and feedback collected in these surveys EAHP is able to advocate and fight for the future of the profession in Europe and improve patient outcomes, which is the ultimate goal of our profession. I would like to thank all EAHP delegates, the EAHP Scientific Committee, my fellow Board members and the EAHP staff for all the support. In addition, I want to thank all members of the different EAHP Special Interest Groups and Working Groups. Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,  
Andras Süle, President of EAHP



# EAHP in numbers

27.000

Hospitals pharmacists

36

Full member countries

19

Consultations responses in 2023

3

Associate member countries

3

Position papers adopted in 2023

653

Hospitals completed the EAHP Investigation

5

EAHP Special Interest Groups running

410

Hospitals have completed the EAHP self-assessment tool

1.497

Responses to the 2023 Shortages Investigation

6

Issues of the European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

## Who we are?

The European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) is a working community of national associations of hospital pharmacists that represents and develops the hospital pharmacy profession within Europe in order to ensure the continuous improvement of care and outcomes for patients in the hospital setting. This is achieved through science, research, education, practice, as well as sharing best-practice and responsibility with other healthcare professionals.

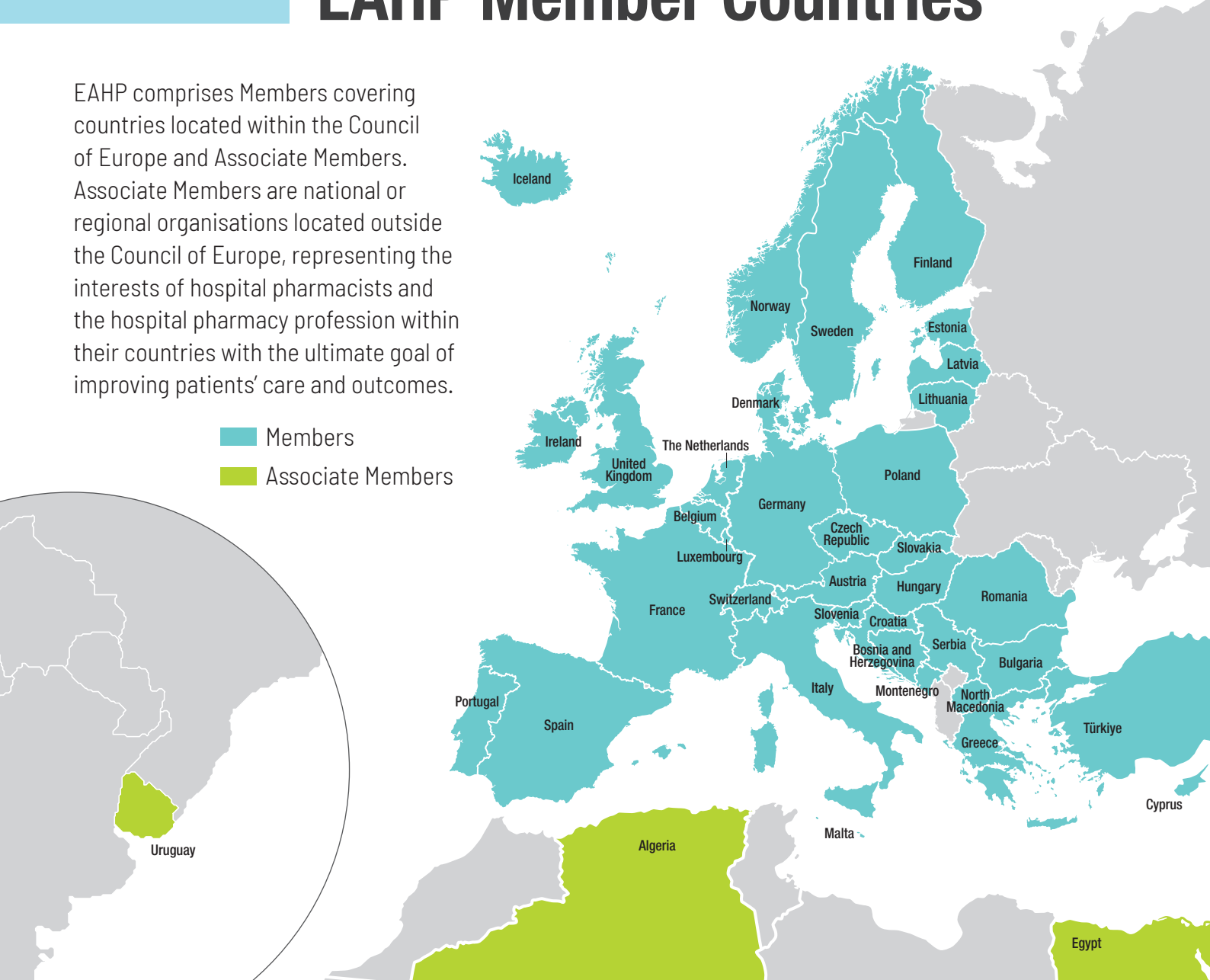
## EAHP's goals

- In the interest of patients and public health, to promote and further develop hospital pharmacy and to obtain and maintain general joint pharmaceutical principles and a joint pharmaceutical policy
- To foster research and education activities on behalf of hospital pharmacy, in order to allow hospital pharmacists in all countries which are members of the Council of Europe from time to time (hereinafter "Countries in the European Region") to contribute optimally to public health and furthermore anything directly or indirectly related or beneficial thereto, all in the broadest sense of the word
- To promote co-operation with other organisations in the domain of public health
- To promote the position and function of hospital pharmacists
- To support and uphold the interests of hospital pharmacists at the European Union authorities; to support and uphold the interests of hospital pharmacists at the Council of Europe authorities
- To support and undergo everything related to the above that may be conducive to carrying out the Association's purpose.

# EAHP Member Countries

EAHP comprises Members covering countries located within the Council of Europe and Associate Members. Associate Members are national or regional organisations located outside the Council of Europe, representing the interests of hospital pharmacists and the hospital pharmacy profession within their countries with the ultimate goal of improving patients' care and outcomes.

- Members
- Associate Members



## Full members

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**AUSTRIA** – Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreichischer Krankenhausapotheker

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**BELGIUM** – Belgian Association of Hospital Pharmacists (Association Francophone des Pharmaciens Hospitaliers de Belgique & Belgische Vereniging van Ziekenhuisapothekers)

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**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** – Farmaceutsko Društvo Republike Srpske

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**BULGARIA** – Bulgarian Association of Hospital Pharmacists

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**CYPRUS** – Σωματείο Νοσοκομείο Φαρμακοποιών Κύπρου ΝΟ.ΦΑ.ΚΥ

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**CROATIA** – Hrvatsko Farmaceutsko Društvo

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**CZECH REPUBLIC** – Sekce Nemocničních Lékárníků

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**DENMARK** – Pharmadanmark

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**ESTONIA** – Eesti Haiglaapteekrite Selts

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**FINLAND** – Suomen Farmasialiitto

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**FRANCE** – French Collective for Hospital Pharmacy in Europe  
(European Fellowship for Pharmacists - Syndicat national des pharmaciens des établissements publics de santé - Fédération Nationale des Syndicats d'internes en Pharmacie et en Biologie Médicale - EURO-PHARMAT: Base de données sur les Dispositifs Médicaux - Syndicat National des Pharmaciens Praticiens Hospitaliers et Praticiens Hospitaliers-Universitaires - Société Française de Pharmacie Clinique)

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**GERMANY** – Bundesverband Deutscher Krankenhausapotheker e.V.

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GREECE – Πανελλήνιας Ένωση Φαρμακοποιών Νοσηλευτικών Ιδρυμάτων

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HUNGARY – Kórházi Gyógyszerészeti Szervezete

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ICELAND – Lyfjafraeðingafélag Íslands

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IRELAND – Hospital Pharmacists Association of Ireland

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ITALY – Società Italiana di Farmacia Ospedaliera e dei Servizi Farmaceutici

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LAT VIA – Latvijas Farmaceitu Biedrības Oficiālais

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LITHUANIA – Lietuvos farmacijos sąjunga

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LUXEMBOURG – Association des Pharmaciens Hospitaliers du Luxembourg

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MALTA – Malta Association of Hospital Pharmacists

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MONTENEGRO – Farmaceutska komora Crne Gore, Sekcija bolničkih farmaceuta

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NORTH MACEDONIA – Фармацевтска Комора на Македонија

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NORWAY – Norske Sykehusfarmasøytters Forening

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POLAND – Naczelna Izba Aptekarska

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PORTUGAL – Associação Portuguesa de Farmacêuticos Hospitalares

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ROMANIA – Asociația Națională a Farmacivilor de Spital din România

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SERBIA – Savez Farmaceutskih Udruženja Srbije

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SLOVAKIA – Slovenská Lekárnická komora

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SLOVENIA – Slovensko Farmaceutsko Društvo

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SPAIN – Sociedad Española de Farmacia Hospitalaria

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SWEDEN – Apotekarsocieten

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SWITZERLAND – Schweizerischer Verein der Amts- und Spitalapotheker

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THE NETHERLANDS – Nederlandse Vereniging van Ziekenhuisapothekers

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TURKEY – Türk Eczacıları Birliği

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UNITED KINGDOM – Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists

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## **Associate members**

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ALGERIA – Algerian Society of Hospital and Oncology Pharmacy

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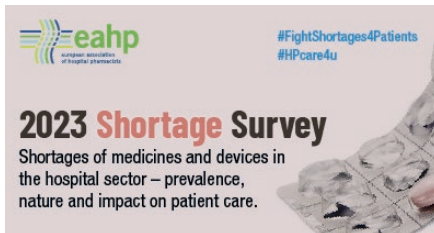
EGYPT – Egyptian Foundation of Clinical Pharmacy

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URUGUAY – Uruguay Association of Chemistry and Pharmacy

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# Key achievements & activities in 2023



## February

- Release of the 2023 Shortages Survey

## March

- Policy event at the European Parliament
- Special Interest Group on *Medication errors* releases report
- 27th EAHP Congress 2023 in Lisbon takes place

## April

- EAHP's Special Interest Group on *Controlled substances* kicks off
- Publication of the definition and framework for patient acuity from a pharmaceutical perspective in collaboration with the University of Manchester.
- ECPPhA is legally set up as an independent accreditation organisation



## May

- 4th EAHP SIFO Synergy Certification Course takes place in Rome, Italy

## June

- The EAHP Working Group on Sustainability organises the World Environment Day Campaign
- EAHP's 53rd General Assembly takes place in Krakow
- Nenad Miljković is elected as President-Elect for EAHP
- EAHP welcomes Cyprus as a new Member, as well as Algeria and Uruguay as Associate Members
- EAHP adopts three new position papers on *Digital Health*, the *Hospital Pharmacy Workforce*, and *Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance*
- Special Interest Group on *hospital Pharmacist's Preparedness for GTMP* releases report



## August

- EAHP supports a joint statement on the Hospital Exemption in ATMPs
- Registrations and call for abstracts/GPI's 28th EAHP Congress open

## September

- EAHP Celebrates World Pharmacy Day
- EAHP Celebrates Patient Safety Day
- EAHP-EHMA webinar on *Engaging Patients for Patient Safety: Educating and Reporting Medication Harm in Hospitals*

## October

- EAHP's Special Interest Group on *Automated Medication Management* publishes Survey Report
- Call for EAHP's Special Interest Group on *Investigation of medication errors and efficiency in oncology* opens
- Meeting with stakeholders and MEPs to present EAHP's feedback for the review of the Pharmaceutical Legislation

## INVESTIGATION OF THE HOSPITAL PHARMACY PROFESSION IN EUROPE

ASSESS AND ADVANCE HOSPITAL PHARMACY!

RESULTS 2022/2023



HEALTH PRIORITIES

### 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS CHANGING ROLES  
FOR BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES



### November

- Hospital pharmacists show how they keep antibiotics working during the 2023 edition of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD)
- EAHP publishes the results of the 2022/23 Investigation Report
- EAHP publishes the results of the 2023 Shortages Survey Report
- 5th EAHP Synergy Certification Course Alicante, Spain
- EAHP attends the 1st General Assembly of the European Council for Pharmacy Education Accreditation (ECPHA)
- First Early Career European Hospital Pharmacy Network Meeting

### December

- EAHP's Special Interest Group on the *Use of Prefilled Syringes in Intensive Care Units and Operating Theatres* (financially supported by BD) publishes their report
- EAHP publishes the 2024 European Parliament Elections Manifesto
- The first EAHP Catch-up Webinar takes place

# Policy & Project milestones



## 27<sup>th</sup> EAHP Congress 2023 in Lisbon

*From drug design to treatment success - what really matters to patients?* was the presentation theme at the 2023 EAHP Congress in Lisbon, Portugal. It aimed to help critically assess the whole pharmaceutical process from the patient's perspective, pinpoint what really matters to them, and how hospital pharmacists can make this happen.


The 27th EAHP Congress was centred around patients' needs concerning the continuity and quality of pharmaceutical therapy and patient safety. The three keynote presentations gave insight into personalised medicine, patient communication and patient involvement in research. Next to the keynote presentations, over 20 seminars and workshops took place with topics related to research activities, e-hospital pharmacy, drug shortages, procurement, ATMP, quality compounding, pharmacogenomics, renal transplant, medication safety and efforts for a green hospital.



## EAHP Investigation of the hospital pharmacy profession

To investigate the progress in Europe towards implementation of the European Statements on Hospital Pharmacy and to identify common barriers and drivers of success, EAHP conducted the 2022/23 EAHP Investigation survey in collaboration with Keele University. The survey gathered 653 responses from 35 countries from





November 2022 to March 2023. The survey was similar to previous Statement surveys; however, for the first time, questions were asked on pandemic preparedness, learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, the falsified medicines directive, immunisation, vaccines, and sustainability. Implementing the statements was the most difficult for statements in section 4, *Clinical Pharmacy Services*.

Next, Statements 1.1 *The pharmacists in our hospital work routinely as part of the multidisciplinary team* and 6.4 *The pharmacists in our hospital routinely publish hospital pharmacy practice research* were among the six hardest statements to implement. Lack of capacity, other healthcare professionals doing this, and not being a priority by my managers were the top three cited reasons for this. Many hospitals employ low numbers of pharmacists in relation to the number of beds. In fact, statistical analysis of the results indicated a clear relationship between staffing numbers and responses to the delivery of clinically orientated services.

Moreover, the 'clinical pharmacist' role is well established in some countries but still a rarity in others. A considerable variation found across the different countries reflected this. It is of concern that in some countries, clinical pharmacy services are not well developed, considering the pivotal role pharmacists can play as medicine experts.



### Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

In 2020, EAHP opened a new chapter of hospital pharmacy engagement by setting up **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**. SIGs gather and evaluate the evidence in specific, innovative, and novel fields of hospital pharmacy practice with the aim to address patient needs and to advance the profession. Comprised of professionals that focus on specific topics related to pharmaceutical care, medical devices and many other



related areas, SIGs bring together experts from different fields, including but not limited to hospital pharmacists, other speciality pharmacists, doctors, nurses, patients and pharmaceutical industry leaders.


- SIG Working Towards **Eliminating Avoidable Harm** (financially supported by Baxter) published its report and its advocacy papers
- EAHP's Special Interest Group for the **Investigation of Medication Errors in Intensive Care Units** (financially supported by BD) concluded its work in January 2023; a report summarising the findings of the SIG was published in March 2023 and presented at the 27th EAHP Congress in Lisbon.
- EAHP's Special Interest Group on **Hospital Pharmacist's Preparedness for In-vivo Gene Therapy Medicinal Products (GTMP)** (financially supported by Pfizer) published their findings in a summary report in June 2023.
- EAHP's Special Interest Group on the **Use of Prefilled Syringes in Intensive Care Units and Operating Theatres** (financially supported by BD) published their findings in a summary report in December 2023.
- EAHP's Special Interest Group on **Automated Medication Management** (financially supported by Omnicell) published its Survey Report in October 2023 and is currently working on creating the European Autonomous Pharmacy framework that will be published during the 28th EAHP Congress in March 2024.
- EAHP's Special Interest Group on **controlled substances** (financially supported by BD) kicked off in April this year and is currently working on a literature review and a survey, which are expected to be released in 2024.
- Lastly, EAHP is working on a Special Interest Group to **investigate medication errors** and efficiency in oncology, which will kick off in 2024.



## Position Papers

This year, EAHP adopted three new position papers on Digital Health, the Hospital Pharmacy Workforce, and Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance to put its views forward towards these topics.

- The position paper on **Digital Health** highlights the urgent need for investments to improve the digital infrastructure in hospitals, the potential of digitalisation for improving patient safety, facilitating patient empowerment and self-management while safeguarding patient information, the provision of appropriate training opportunities to healthcare professionals; and the need to involve hospital pharmacists in hospital information and communication technology (ICT) design and specification.
- The position paper on the **Hospital Pharmacy Workforce** addresses a growing need for highly educated and specialised hospital pharmacists in medication and medication-related processes. In the eyes of EAHP, high-quality education in all European countries is of utmost importance for addressing these problems. This needs to go hand in hand with hiring enough pharmacy personnel, including support staff, and training enough students each year to grow the pharmacy profession in each country robustly. In the position paper, EAHP describes actions that should be taken at the local and national levels, including short-term measures for improving pharmacy staffing and long-term plans for securing a resilient workforce.
- The position paper on **Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance** focuses on three main areas: (i) *Stewardship* – highlighting the need to strengthen the prudent use of antimicrobials in human medicine and the need for further implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes –; (ii) the *One Health Approach* – relating to investing in prevention measures and having adequate use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine –; and (iii) *Incentives* – address-



ing the lack of antibiotic development and keeping essential antibiotics on the market –.


With this position paper, EAHP advocates for the prudent use of antimicrobial drugs through antibiotic stewardship to ensure efficient therapy for patients with life-threatening infections.



### EAHP 2023 Shortages Survey

For over a decade, hospital pharmacists have been increasingly experiencing difficulties with medicine and medical device shortages. In 2023, EAHP conducted its **5th Shortages Survey**, comprehensively examining these shortages. Besides collecting **responses from 1497 hospital pharmacists**, EAHP's Survey targeted other healthcare professionals working in hospitals, including nurses, physicians, and patients and their careers.

The results of the 2023 Survey show that, like in 2019, 95% of hospital pharmacists reported that medicine shortages are a major problem. In comparison, only 86% of other healthcare professionals, 84% of physicians, and 68% of nurses considered medicine shortages a problem. All four professional groups had similar views on medical device shortages, with 61% of hospital pharmacists, 57% of physicians, 55% of other healthcare professionals and 46% of nurses indicating that shortages caused problems for their hospitals. The causes of medicine shortages mentioned by hospital pharmacists were, like in 2019, the global shortage of an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), manufacturing problems and supply chain problems. For medical devices, supply chain problems ranked first, followed by a shortage or discontinuance of a component, part, or accessory of the medical device.



As the area of medicine most frequently in shortage, over two-thirds of the hospital pharmacists (76%) selected antimicrobial agents. Analgesics (43%) followed in second place, and anesthetic agents (37%) ranked third. More than half of the hospital pharmacists (61%) mentioned that shortages affect patient care in their hospitals. Problems caused by medicine shortages thus remain serious, threaten hospital patient care, and require urgent action. EAHP, therefore, continues to speak up about the matter and urges policymakers to include legislative preventative measures in revising the EU's General Pharmaceutical Legislation.





## **ECPPhA – European Council for Pharmacy Education Accreditation**

The European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) and the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) **legally set up ECPPhA as an independent organisation in April 2023.**

ECPPhA's goal is **to establish a system for accrediting lifelong learning education in pharmacy in Europe and internationally.**

ECPPhA's goal is to help improve the quality of continuing education in pharmacy practiced in healthcare settings across Europe via accrediting live and online lifelong learning events throughout collaborating with national healthcare professional associations and accrediting bodies.

Currently EAHP and most of the pharmacy organisations in Europe depend on the accreditation done by non-European bodies, whose standards might not always meet European practice requirements. **A European body, such as ECPPhA, would ensure that accreditation of European continued education events is aligned with European practice.**



ECPHA's aim is to collaborate with national and regional accreditation providers and authorities. The goal is for ECPHA to present an additional layer to the national accreditation systems and not be a substitute of it, to facilitate the transfer of credits between European countries.

The 5th EAHP-SEFH Synergy Certification course *Addressing outpatient pharmaceutical care needs from the perspective of hospital pharmacy* was the 1st event to be accredited by ECPHA in November 2023.

# Outlook to 2024

Kick-off Special Interest Group on *Investigation of medication errors and efficiency in oncology*

Release of the Special Interest Group survey on controlled substances

6<sup>th</sup> Synergy Certification Course in Stockholm, Sweden

28<sup>th</sup> EAHP Congress 2024 in Bordeaux

1<sup>st</sup> ever Hospital Pharmacy Day

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy

European Parliament Elections

1<sup>st</sup> ever EAHP BOOST

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