

Press Release

Lisbon, Portugal

2 June 2026



CHESSMEN Meeting – Dialogue with Stakeholders

The Joint Action CHESSMEN (Coordination and Harmonisation of the Existing Systems against Shortages of Medicines - European Network) met today in Lisbon gathering representatives from national stakeholders, healthcare professionals, patient organisations and other entities for the CHESSMEN meeting, hosted by INFARMED, I.P.

The meeting provided an opportunity to present and discuss the main findings of the Joint Action, while collecting feedback from stakeholders on the outcomes published and on future actions to strengthen the prevention, monitoring and mitigation of medicines shortages across Europe.

CHESSMEN has worked over the last three years to strengthening the coordinating structure in the identification, management and prevention of medicine shortages, as well as to optimize the use of the available resources of all Member States. Specifically, the technical Work Packages aimed at the identification of the root causes of medicines shortages, the identification and promotion of best practices, the definition of a common dataset proposal for the notification and management of medicines shortages, and the reduction of shortages via preventive and mitigation strategies.

The event opened with remarks from Domenico Di Giorgio, CHESSMEN Coordinator, and Nuno Simões, INFARMED I.P., acknowledging the relevant achievements of the Joint Action and highlighting the importance of CHESSMEN on the harmonization activities and coordinated strategies to ensure patients' access to medicines.

Work Package 5 presented the results of the study on the root causes of shortages, to better understand the factors that drive shortages in Europe. Work Package 6 presented the best practices implemented by Member States to manage medicine shortages. Work Package 7 presented the findings on the common minimum dataset for an IT solution for the notification and management of medicine shortages. Work Package 8 shared recommendations on preventive and mitigation measures to be taken.

Industry representatives highlighted the need to better understand root causes and avoid measures that may unintentionally increase pressure on supply chains. Measures should be taken to avoid duplication of efforts and resources when dealing with medicines shortages. Wholesalers reminded us that effective distribution is an essential part of the solution. Community and hospital pharmacists shared the operational challenges they face daily, including administrative burden, procurement difficulties and the need for timely information. Patient representatives emphasised that patients need not only information about shortages, but also clear guidance on available alternatives.

A dedicated panel discussion on the Better Management of Medicines Shortages brought together representatives from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), community and hospital pharmacists, patient organizations, professional associations and pharmaceutical society. The discussion focused on daily challenges observed, lessons learned and opportunities to improve cooperation and information exchange among all actors involved in medicines availability.

The meeting concluded with reflections on the future sustainability of the CHESSMEN outcomes and their potential contribution to ongoing European initiatives addressing medicines shortages.

For more information about the project, visit: www.ja-chessmen.eu

Grant Agreement 101082419 – EU4H-2021-JA2-IBA

January 2023 – January 2026

This leaflet is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or HaDEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

