PRESS RELEASE
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Belgium's NIHDI takes a leadership role in assessment of novel medicines in Europe

The Belgian National Institute for Healthcare and Disability Insurance (NIHDI) will lead a new consortium of health technology assessment agencies of European Member States. This consortium will be to jointly assess new medicines coming on the market. This collaboration, financed by the European Commission, aims to share the workload, create information transparency and equal access to new medicines across the EUfollowing the example of regional collaborations such as the BeNeLuxA initiative.

Countries working together for better assessments of medicines

After a new medicine has been approved for the market in the EU, it is subjected to a health technology assessment (HTA) to give insight in the medical/therapeutic value (or lack thereof) of the medicine. The resulting report then determines the process of reimbursement or procurement. Up to now this assessment was done separately by each Member State, while using exactly the same data.

As of January 2025 a new European legal and procedural framework came into force, for member states to carry out HTAs jointly. This allows significant resource efficiency for each member state. Further allow these joint HTA reports more collaboration down the line, for example in price negotiations. The NIHDI will lead the consortium that has been tasked by the EC with the implementation of this joint work.

With this Regulation the EU has created a world's first "one-stop-shop" for medicines, that will require industry to just produce one single application, compared to 27 originally. By simplifying our processes, this legislation will enhance the attractiveness of the European market and will particularly benefit patients in smaller member states.

The NIHDI as conductor for HTA in the EU

The NIHDI will be the coordinating partner in a consortium of 34 HTA Agencies representing 19 EU member states, that will implement the HTA Regulation in collaboration with the Member State HTA Coordination Group and the European Commission. It will lead this process in this important launch phase and insure that all assessments are done correctly, the workload is shared and EU regulation is respected. The resulting reports of these assessments can be used by all 27 Member States.

> "Belgium and the NIHDI have a tradition of leadership in European and international collaboration when it comes to health policies, not to the least in the field of medicines. Just think about past initiatives like BeNeLuxA or the Critical Medicines Alliance. Once again, we are happy to play a key role within a consortium of European countries to guarantee an effective and efficient implementation of the HTA regulation."
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> **Pedro Facon, vice-president of the NIHDI**

Collaboration supported by the EU

This collaboration on joint HTA reports between several Member States is financed by the European Commission. Each individual agency will receive financial support from the Commission to be able to perform these assessments correctly. The NIHDI will work closely together with the Commission to ensure the successful implementation of the Regulation.

"This is a perfect example of European cooperation that makes the member states stronger: a joint evaluation of new medicines makes the evaluation better, cheaper and gives us more leverage during negotiations. I'm convinced that it will also contribute to an improvement of our decision-making with regard to the price and reimbursement of medicines, which is key to guarantee both the long-term accessibility of new drugs and a sustainable budget."

Frank Vandenbroucke, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs (BE)

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You can find all NIHDI press releases on www.inami.be (French language website).
