



# BENEFITS OF COUNTRY COLLABORATION

## Research study on impact and benefits of cross border collaboration in WHO European region

**Sabine Vogler**

*WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies  
GÖG - Austrian Public Health Institute  
Austria*

**Fatima Suleman**

*WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and Regulation  
Utrecht University  
The Netherlands*

### ABSTRACT

Affordable access to medicines is a central pillar of universal health coverage and the sustainable development goals, in particular Goals 3.8 and 3.b. Increasingly, high-income country governments are also challenged to provide sustainable access, in particular to high-priced medicines for diseases such as cancer, hepatitis C and rare conditions. To improve access to medicines, public authorities for pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement have collaborated or have started collaborating across countries in a variety of areas using different mechanisms such as horizon scanning, health technology assessment, joint price negotiations and procurement.

Overall, there is a lack of a systematic overview and assessment of country collaborations in the field of access to medicines, their results, opportunities and challenges. Learning from successful country collaborations as well as failures can promote increased effectiveness and efficiencies in arranging these collaborations and improve their impact. For the purpose of this project a country collaboration on access to medicines is defined as two or more country governments working jointly on an issue that promote the access to medicines (e.g. health technology assessment, procurement, pricing policies).

This project sought to understand existing country collaborations in WHO European Region including their intent and objectives, as well as the facilitating and challenging factors for country collaborations in Europe. Five existing collaborations were chosen for review purposes. Interviews were conducted with key staff of authorities involved in the collaborations. The interview topics ranged from the scope of the collaboration, the principles of engagement and operating procedures, the result of the collaboration, perception of facilitating factors and barriers for collaboration, recommendations for other collaborations. Document and interview data were analyzed using a matrix with predefined domains. The presentation will outline the preliminary findings of this research.