

# An insightful day at the EURIPID stakeholder meeting in Budapest

Research Assistant, Janneke van Oirschot, recently attended a [EURIPID](#) Stakeholder meeting in Budapest. Have a go at seeing if you can make sense of this “non-transparent” version of Janneke’s blog about the meeting. You can read the full, non-redacted blog [here](#).

In September, stakeholders representing [REDACTED], Patients’ Organisations, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Associations of Distributors and Doctor’s Associations came together in Budapest to discuss the way forward for [REDACTED] – a database in [REDACTED] can voluntarily upload [REDACTED]. The meeting was joined by a representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) who presented their work to implement the [REDACTED], which includes facilitating discussions on the [REDACTED] hosting of the Fair Pricing Forum (the latest edition of which was [REDACTED]) and establishing working groups on issues affecting access to medicines. Stakeholders together explored how the EURIPID database could [REDACTED] when moving towards improved [REDACTED]. At the moment, the EURIPID database contains [REDACTED], which differ from the [REDACTED], since many countries negotiate with companies to get rebates and discounts. The EURIPID team wants to take a [REDACTED] approach towards [REDACTED]. From some corners of the room, voices questioned the effectiveness of transparency, warning of the [REDACTED] for access to medicines. [REDACTED] transparency and the inclusion of real price data in the database. As things currently stand, authorities are not aware of the prices paid by other countries, putting them at risk of [REDACTED]. Knowing the real prices could strengthen [REDACTED] of countries, which will lead to fairer prices benefitting the sustainability of health systems and, therefore, patients. Governments hold increasingly favourable attitudes towards price transparency, not least as seen through [REDACTED] at this year’s [REDACTED], mentioned above. In the current system, however, they are bound by [REDACTED] as a lure to get the ‘best price’, effectively disabling the inclusion of ‘real prices’ in the database.

We believe strongly that transparency isn’t an end in itself, but an effective means to improve access to life-saving medicines that risk remaining out of reach of far too many.

This redacted version of the blog probably wasn't very helpful to you. But this is what European countries locked in negotiations with the pharma industry over the price of medicines face every day. They are, in effect, negotiating with a blind-fold. Click here to see a non-redacted and transparent version of our take on the meeting.

Read the full, non-redacted blog [here](#).