



PATIENT-CENTRED ADVOCACY

HAI'S WORK IN EUROPE 2020

HAI'S EUROPEAN PROJECTS

2020 is set to be a crucial year in the fight for access to safe, effective, affordable and quality assured medicines in Europe and beyond. Key moments to watch for in the coming year include the evaluation of Paediatric and Orphan medicine designations, progress on reform of Health Technology Assessments (HTA) and the European Union's (EU) review of intellectual property (IP) as an incentive for innovation. There will be ample opportunity to scale-up our work on transparency, pharmaceutical promotion and the use of TRIPS flexibilities to stimulate competition and reduce prices. It all adds up to another busy year for Health Action International's (HAI) European Projects Team.

This guide will take you through our projects for 2020, and some of our highlights from 2019.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

Here is a taster of some of the work HAI will be doing to achieve our goals of advancing access to medicines and their rational use, while ensuring transparency, inclusiveness and accountability.

European Parliament Working Group on Innovation, Access to Medicines and Poverty-related Diseases

HAI and Médecins Sans Frontières provide the secretariat for a group of European Parliamentarians (MEPs) interested in access to medicines issues, formed in 2010. Over 2020 we will work to secure new members of the group, set and pursue agreed priorities and influence relevant legislative dossiers for the good of public health.

TRIPS flexibilities

Our aim over 2020 is to change the narrative around TRIPS flexibilities to encourage more regular use of these legitimate tools. We will be hosting a "Diplohack" to bring together academics, IP experts, civil society, tech specialists and policymakers to explore creative solutions that we hope to implement quickly. We will also be developing a heat map to show the extent to which TRIPS flexibilities have been used in Europe, and elsewhere, over the last three decades.

**Our work
in Europe**

Improving access to medicines in Europe through evidence-based advocacy, sharing expertise and engaging for change.

To do this we campaign for greater transparency, and rationally used, affordable, safe and effective medicines.

Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

With 2020 expected to be the year the HTA regulation is freed from its current deadlock, we will be keeping a careful eye on progress at the Council of the European Union, and on how the European Commission proposal and amendments from MEPs are merged. A HAI paper will summarise discussions around the issue and showcase new research on Member States' HTA needs and expectations. Our insights come from the vantage point of our work at the European Medicines Agency (EMA) Patients and Consumers Working Party (PCWP).

Campaigning for transparency across Europe

Following the closure of the “Our Medicines, Our Right” campaign in the Netherlands, we will continue to share our recommendations for how EU Member States can achieve greater transparency in medicines prices, research and development (R&D) costs and reimbursement decisions.

Pharma promotion—webinars and workshops

We will build on our toolkit of materials and training to help medical students and healthcare professionals detect, counter and avoid exposure to pharmaceutical promotion. This includes running a series of webinars and workshops in collaboration with grassroots organisations and experts around the world.



Following other developments in access to medicines

As always, there will be many other upcoming issues and opportunities in access to medicines this year, both regionally and globally. We will be watching how other dossiers and events unfold in the fight against medicine shortages and the progress of cross-country cooperation to lower prices. As part of our work with the World Health Organization (WHO), we are particularly interested in the debate around how to enforce and protect transparency of clinical trial and other critical data.

Contributing to policy fora

We pride ourselves on being active members of European civil society and part of the global access to medicines movement. We are pleased to renew our memberships of groups like the European Alliance for Responsible R&D and Affordable Medicines, Medicijnen Netwerk Nederland and the HTA Network Stakeholder Pool, among others to which we contribute our expertise and insights.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

In Europe

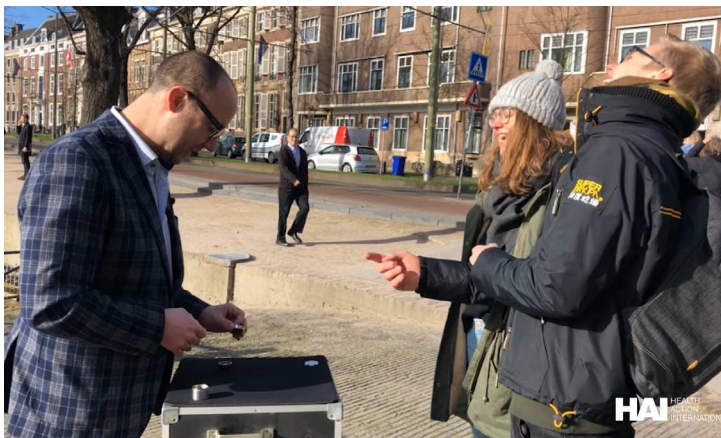
On the hot topic of the Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC) manufacturing waiver, which was approved in April 2019, we advocated successfully for the inclusion of clauses to evaluate the impact of SPC on innovation and access to medicines.

The final version of the EU-Mercosur trade deal did not include any of the TRIPS+ clauses we had opposed, while the use of flexibilities was explicitly acknowledged.

We partnered with the London School of Economics to fund research into the risk of bias in cancer drug trials, published in this BMJ. The research was turned into a living online database giving the public, academia and policymakers alike free and open access to information about identified biases in clinical drug trials.

We held an event in Brussels to discuss the Clinical Trial Regulation and the obstacles to its implementation following our publication on the subject, 'A Roadmap to Greater Transparency'. The event contributed to commitments from the EMA to tackle some of the obstacles to sharing essential data.

The 'Our Medicines, Our Right' campaign in the Netherlands drew to close this year. Launched in 2017, it aimed to draw more attention from Dutch and EU policymakers to the issue of transparency of medicines prices and the true costs of R&D. We handed final recommendations from the campaign to Members of the Dutch Parliament in December and took the message to the public through an op-ed in newspaper Het Parool and a stunt on the streets of The Hague with the help of a magician!



Working with Wemos and Utrecht University, we also co-hosted an event on sustainable licensing and how Dutch universities can maximise their contribution to innovation while promoting access to medicines.

Global

As part of our work at the WHO, we joined other civil society groups in the successful drive for the approval of a milestone transparency resolution at the World Health Assembly. HAI also participated in the WHO's 2nd Fair Pricing Forum, held in South Africa.

HAI hosted the latest of our successful pharmaceutical promotion webinars, 'Big Pharma: The New Digital Influencers?', which looked at the ways in which pharmaceutical companies are increasingly using digital platforms to reach healthcare professionals and consumers. Another webinar earlier in the year focused on how student action can change campus policies for the better.

For more information:

Jaume Vidal
Senior Policy Advisor
jaume@haiweb.org

Ellie White
Policy Advisor
ellie@haiweb.org

Health Action International
Overtoom 60-2
1054HK Amsterdam

+31 (0) 20 412 4523



This publication received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020). Content of this event is the sole responsibility of HAI and represents its views only.