International Fact Sheet

Pharmaceutical EPR Program: Hungary

Rev: 8/2/18

Hungary has provided consumers with collection and disposal of unused medicines through the public benefit organization Recyclomed since 2005.¹ Decree 20/2005 (VI.10.), later revised by Decree No. 11/2017 (VI. 12.), ensures that ALL pharmacies are required to collect unused medicines.²,³ The Hungarian pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in Hungary has the responsibility to fund all program costs associated with the collection and disposal of pharmaceutical waste under Decree No. 11/2017 (VI. 12.).²,⁴

Organizing Body: Pharmaceutical companies (MAGYOSZ, IGY, VÉFE, and GE), pharmaceutical wholesalers, and the Hungarian Chamber of Pharmacists created the non-profit organization, Recyclomed, to reduce the environmental impacts of unused pharmaceutical waste.⁶

Costs & Funding: Pharmaceutical manufactures finance costs of collecting unused medicines. Recyclomed is under the authority of The National Public Health and Office Service (ÁNTSZ).⁵ Each pharmaceutical company’s contribution is based on pharmaceutical sales per carton from the previous year.

Direct costs of collection totaled $174.5 million, $45.3 million for Recyclomed’s general costs, and $4.4 million for residential outreach.⁸

Program Facts: From 2008-2017, Recyclomed collected over 2,277,397 kg (approximately 2510 tons) of unused medicines.

There was a 2.5% increase in waste collected from 2016-2017.⁸

Recyclomed includes from more than 120 manufacturers as members.

Authorized collection companies include Hungaropharma Zrt., Phoenix Zrt., and FeReGo Kft.⁸

All Pharmacies must participate in pharmaceutical waste collection under Section 26 in Act XCV of 2005.⁷
Collection Locations & Accessibility:

- There are currently 4,166 collection locations across the country,\(^6\) approximately 2,300 are pharmacies.\(^8\)

Timeline:

**December 2003:** Recyclomed was established as a public benefit organization.\(^1\)

**October 2005:** The [Act of XCV of 2005](#) defined the fundamental regulations pertaining to the handling of medicinal products and waste.\(^7\)

**January 2007:** The [Medicines Act of January 2007](#) increased the number of participating pharmacies throughout Hungary, increasing convenience and volume of medicine disposal.\(^5\)

**November 2017:** Decree No. 11/2017 (VI.12.) revised [Act of XCV of 2005](#) adding mandatory collection and disposal for home generated pharmaceutical waste.\(^2\)

Reference List

6. “We are collecting pharmacy waste” Recyclomed, accessed July 2018, [Web](#).