

THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES BRING NEW BENEFITS FOR PATIENTS

Last week the 2nd edition of the European Academy of Chain Pharmacists took place in Bucharest. The event was organised for the first time in Romania by the European Federation of Chain Pharmacies (EFPC), with the local support of the Romanian Association of Pharmaceutical Distributors and Retailers (ADRFR).

For two days, more than 60 pharmacists working in pharmacies in 6 European countries - Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia - discussed how innovation and digitisation have a beneficial impact on patients by supporting the introduction of new pharmaceutical services.

"Beyond anything else, the pandemic period proved 100% the importance of pharmacists on the front line of healthcare. In a number of states, their role was naturally strengthened. From the EFPC's perspective, we see this in particular in Member States such as Poland and Romania," underlined Daniel Horak, Chairman of the EFPC Board.

In recent years, the development of new pharmaceutical services has really made itself felt in Romania. "Romanian patients benefited for the first time in the last flu season from the pilot flu vaccination programme run in pharmacies. More than 1,000 pharmacists and over 100 pharmacies nationwide have registered for this programme. A diabetes risk assessment pilot project is currently running in Romanian pharmacies. This is a welcome trend, which meets the expectations of Romanian patients to have access to new pharmaceutical services. We are pleased to host this event in Bucharest" said Nikolay Kolev, EFPC Board member and Romanian representative in the organisation.

However, the provision of new pharmaceutical services is taking place in a context where the European market, and Romania in particular, is facing an acute shortage of pharmacists. "Through the development of new skills that come with the implementation of advanced pharmaceutical services, the role and prestige of the profession of pharmacist will be strengthened and the interest of young people to pursue a career in the field will certainly increase as well," said Doina Drăgănescu, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest.

Participants concluded that, at European level, the digitisation of the pharmaceutical sector supports the provision of new pharmaceutical services. Technological advances in pharmacies contribute to increasing the level of pharmaceutical care delivery and improving the quality of life and health care in general.



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About the European Federation of Pharmacy Chains (EFPC)

EFPC is a regional alliance of national pharmacy associations from 6 European countries: Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia. EFPC members have a total network of over 6,500 pharmacies and employ over 35,000 pharmacists and pharmacy assistants.

About the Romanian Association of Farmaceutical Distributors and Retailers (ADRFR)

Founded in 2003, the Association of Pharmaceutical Distributors and Retailers in Romania (ADRFR) represents more than 50% of the Romanian pharmaceutical distribution and retail market. Through its actions and those of its members, ADRFR monitors and contributes to the development of the local pharmaceutical environment. Since July 2012, ADRFR is a member of GIRP - Groupement International de la Repartition Pharmaceutique (European Association of Pharmaceutical Distributors), and since 2019 is a member of the European Federation of Pharmacy Chains (EFPC). ADRFR member companies are: Alliance Healthcare Romania S.R.L, Alloga Logistics Romania S.R.L, DR. MAX S.R.L, Farmaceutica Remedia Distribution & Logistics S.R.L, Farmexim S.A, Help Net Farma S.A, Mediplus Exim S.R.L, ROPHARMA S.A.