



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

The work of the European Medicines Agency

Vital for EU public and animal health and the pharmaceutical industry



- The EU pharmaceutical market is worth around €260 billion and employs 700,000 people in Europe. Every job in the pharmaceutical industry creates 3-4 more jobs through indirect employment¹.
- It is a major source of growth and economic performance in Europe and is expected to grow at a sustained rate of 3.2% annually through 2022². The pharmaceutical sector is a major contributor to the EU's trading power.
- The average value of medicines approved centrally through the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Commission at 7 years post launch is €413 million².
- The cost for development of a new medicine is about €1 billion. It takes on average 12-13 years for a new active substance to reach the EU market.

The European Medicines Agency evaluates, supervises and monitors the safety of medicines developed by pharmaceutical companies for use in the EU Member States. Since its establishment in 1995 EMA has recommended approx. 1000 medicines to the European Commission for a marketing authorisation for all EU Member States. Many of these medicines are complex biological molecules, including biotechnology products and cell- and gene therapy products. EMA's annual budget exceeds €300 million. The Agency is funded by the European Commission and fees charged to the pharmaceutical industry.

Today, almost all new or innovative medicines are submitted to EMA for assessment. According to EU law, most of these medicines cannot be assessed at national level. These medicines benefit patients suffering from cancer, diabetes, neurological disorders, infectious diseases or autoimmune disorders.

EMA assesses medicines through a network of over 3,700 scientific experts from across the EU. Experts meet on a daily basis at EMA.

In 2015, EMA hosted 36,000 visits from scientific experts, patients and healthcare professionals and representatives from the pharmaceutical industry from across the globe (a total of 65,000 days). Easy access to the Agency's premises is key to ensuring the smooth running of its operations.

Expertise within EMA and the regulatory network has been built up over the past 20 years, and a new site should be amenable to relocation of 890 highly-skilled staff members and their families to maximise retention of the existing workforce.



Over 3,700 experts

¹ European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations. (2015). The Pharmaceutical Industry in figures - Edition 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.efpia.eu/mediaroom/271/21/The-Pharmaceutical-Industry-in-figures-Edition-2015>

² Iervolino, A. (2016). Pharmaceutical innovation in Europe.

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