



FARMASIALIITTO

# Country Report Finland 2024

Salla Silén

# What is Finnish Pharmacists' Association?

- Founded in May 1917
- Association brings together approximately 6000 member Pharmacists all around Finland of which 90 % are women
- Association is the official professional advocate for Finnish Pharmacists working in different sectors offering:
  - Occupational and legal counseling for its members
  - Career services
  - Education on current topics
  - Involvement and support for Pharmacy students
  - Recreation and networking with colleagues

# Finnish Pharmacists' Association Activities 2024

- Association has actively participated in discussions regarding the industry attractiveness and retention factors.
- 3 main educational events done (visit to the blood Service, networking event, and one networking event was organized mainly for the pharmacists working in industrial pharmacy. Open events for all members ( over 70 events organized, majority were social gatherings, some included training sessions. Also national training trainings sessions held.
- Members also participated EIPG webinars.

# Current topics in pharma industry in Finland

- New legislation in healthcare approved including transfer of healthcare provision from municipalities to implemented healthcare areas
- Government is looking for opportunities:
  - to lower costs of medicines
  - for overall cost efficiency of medicines' supply
  - for equal and efficient health care services to people
- Pharmacy substitution of biological medicines implemented April 2024
- Pharmacy professionals have authority to administer vaccinations
- Debate about moving medications to be sold in stores.

# Current topics in pharma industry in Finland

## **Project on medicines and financial base of pharmacies**

Government Programme includes numerous entries related to medicines and pharmacies. These entries will be implemented in a project titled 'Medicines and the financial base of pharmacies' in 2024–2026. Separate working groups will be appointed to support the project and related development measures. The project focuses on the following:

- financial base of pharmacies and regulation governing pharmacies
- assessment of medicines
- guidance of pharmacotherapy and pharmaceutical services
- digitalisation and information management in pharmacotherapy and the distribution of medicines
- availability of medicines.

The aim of developing pharmaceutical matters is to improve the effectiveness, safety and quality of pharmacotherapies, with due regard to economy, equality and availability. Structural reforms also aim to improve the sustainability of general government finances.

# Aims

- create a single, national medication list in Finland, where information related to patients' medication treatment will be stored.
- pharmacies to become an even more integral part of the healthcare system. The reform will develop a more cost-effective retail distribution system for medicines and automated dose distribution of medicines.
- increase the conditions for price competition and reduce medicine loss and waste.
- The assessment processes and criteria related to the introduction of medicines for outpatient and institutional care will be harmonised and reformed so that they are uniform regardless of the form of administration of the medicine. The aim is for the publicly funded range of medicines to be determined in the future on medical grounds, based on evidence and an assessment of cost-effectiveness.



# What Finland expects from EIPG?

- Offered Webinars & Newsletter appreciated
- EIPG support valuable to emphasize the importance of the specialized competence of industrial pharmacists'
- EIPG actively taking stance on current developments in EU
- EIPG actively informing the members for current topics
- Information of coming updatings in EMA guidelines
- Would it be possible to receive Information about how shortages is handled in different countries.

# How Finnish Pharmacists' Association will contribute to EIPG during coming year?

- Active response on reflection papers and consultations
- Active participation on EIPG events, (e.g. webinars)
- Expertise of Finnish Industrial Pharmacists in use for the benefit of EIPG