



**WORKSHOP
ACCESS TO (EXPENSIVE) MEDICINES IN EUROPE**

Venue: Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date: 20 February 2026

Coordination:

André den Exter (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Joaquín Cayón (IDIVAL-University of Cantabria)

Access to expensive medicines is a significant challenge that can be addressed through strategies like government reimbursement systems, price negotiations between governments and manufacturers, and promoting biosimilars. Other key approaches include improving pharmaceutical supply systems, strengthening regulatory bodies, challenging excessive price-setting by the judiciary, and encouraging the rational use of medicines by healthcare providers.

During this one-day meeting, international experts will address access to high-cost medicines from different perspectives (law, medicine, pharmacology, economics, and ethics) and discuss the impact of the European pharmaceutical strategy on access to expensive medicines.

PROGRAMME

Welcome

11.00- 12.30. SESSION I. Oncologic Medicines, Biosimilars and Orphan Drugs.

Chair: André den Exter

Availability, affordability and timely introduction of oncologic medicines in the EU: legal challenges for equitable access.

Ane Urrutia (IDIVAL-University of Cantabria, Spain)

Rethinking Pharmaceutical Innovation: Democratizing Access through Biosimilars.

Ghada Zakout (Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL)

Orphan medicines and the right to health: between equity and sustainability
Juan-Ignacio Ochagavías (IDIVAL-University of Cantabria, Spain)

Discussion

12.30- 1.00. Lunch break

1.00- 2.00. SESSION II. International and EU standards

Chair: Martin Buijsen (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands)

Access to (expensive) medicines as a human right

Katrina Perehudoff (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Affordable access to patented medicines: International framework and EU implementation measures
Joaquin Cayón (IDIVAL-University of Cantabria, Spain)

The EU Pharmaceutical Strategy

Tomislav Sokol (EU Parliament, Croatia)

Discussion

2.00- 3.00. SESSION III. Pricing

Chair: Joaquin Cayon

Fair pricing of essential medicines

Carin Uyl-de Groot (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands)

Ethical pricing of medicines

Jilles Smids (Erasmus Medical Centre, Netherlands)

Discussion

3.00- 3.30 Coffee break

3.30-4.30 SESSION IV- Country experiences

Chair: Joaquin Cayon

Challenging excessive pricing under (European) competition law

André den Exter (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands)

Compounded medicines

Marleen Kemper (A15 Pharmacy, Netherlands)

High-Cost Medicines and State Duties to Protect Life and Health: Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the Swiss Federal Court (online)

Claudia Seitz (University of Liechtenstein, Liechtenstein)

Access to high-cost medicines in Georgia (online)

Nino Lipartia (Grigol Robakidze University, Georgia)

Discussion

4.30- 5.00 CONCLUSIONS