



NEWSLETTER No.13

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Greetings!

In February we celebrated the sixth anniversary of the Medicines Verification System in Europe and Latvia. Being part of the European medicines verification community inspires the Latvian Medicines Verification Organisation (LZVO) to continuously learn, develop and improve to guarantee the protection of patients against counterfeit medicines. We have completed the quality management and information security certification process and obtained the ISO 9001 and 27001 certificates. This helps assure our clients that our processes comply with the highest international quality and safety standards.

A clear-cut example of the importance of the verification of prescription medicines was the report published by Europol which revealed that criminals use digital platforms to sell counterfeit medicines in Europe. In recent years, the demand for certain prescription medicines has surged, particularly for Ozempic, a type 2 diabetes treatment that has gained widespread popularity as a so-called “miracle” weight-loss solution. Criminals have seized this opportunity, using Ozempic as bait to lure individuals seeking rapid weight loss. The promise of obtaining this medication without a prescription, at an unusually low price, and with fast delivery makes these offers which are widely circulated on social media highly lucrative. On behalf of the LZVO, I appealed to the public through various mass media appearances not to fall for fake on-line offers and urged people to purchase medicines only from legal pharmacies.

Continuing to draw inspiration from the work of other European organisations, on 11 March I was honoured to participate in a conference on patient safety, hosted by the Romanian Medicines Serialisation Organisation. At the event, a national study on public attitudes towards falsified medicines was presented, with some surprising and alarming conclusions.

I am thankful to the members, board, staff and partners of the LZVO in Latvia and around the world for working together to strengthen the healthcare system!

Inese Erdmane, Chairwoman of the Board at the LZVO

Attitudes of Romanian population towards falsified medicines

Chairwoman of the LZVO Inese Erdmane participated on the 11th of March in the conference “Patient Safety through Safe Medicines” in Bucharest, Romania. A study conducted by the host – the Romanian Medicines Serialisation Organization (OSMR), in collaboration with the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices of Romania (ANMDDMR), published in 2025 (author: Bogdan Voicu) on the issue of falsified medicines and the exposure of the Romanian population to these products revealed some surprising and alarming results.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/attitudes-of-the>

Europol report reveals that criminals are actively using digital platforms to trade counterfeit medicines across Europe

A recent Europol report reveals that criminals are actively using digital platforms to trade counterfeit medicines across Europe. The Latvian Medicines Verification Organisation (LZVO) urges the public to purchase medicines only from registered pharmacies and medical institutions and to remain vigilant when shopping online.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/europol-social-media-fuelling-the-spread-of-counterfeit-medicines>

LZVO obtains ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 certificates

In April of this year, association Latvian Medicines Verification Organisation (LZVO) received two internationally recognized ISO certificates in the areas of quality (ISO 9001) and information security (ISO 27001) management.

Since the beginning of 2024, LZVO has been purposefully preparing for the certification process: the existing quality and information security management system was reviewed and adapted to meet the requirements of the standards. At this time, LZVO's processes, documentation and monitoring measures were improved, as well as new documentation specifically compliant with the requirements of the standards were developed.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/LZVO-obtains-ISO>

LZVO IT Manager participated in Requirement team meeting in Vienna

Rihards Plivčs, LZVO IT Manager



Representatives of Arvato Customer Group countries met with system developer Arvato Systems GmbH in Vienna, Austria, on 25 and 26 March to plan further improvements in the National Medicines Verification System. 16 representatives from 7 member countries participated in the meeting.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/lzvo-IT-manager-participates>

Development and qualification of the new LZVS version 6.0 has been completed

LZVO are pleased to inform you about the upcoming delivery of version 6.0 for the Latvian Medicines Verification System (LZVS). The development of the new version 6.0 of the LZVS was started in April last year. In accordance with the project plan, the IT supplier Arvato systems GmbH started the qualification of the system in September 2024, and the LZVS qualification was successfully completed in March 2025. The updated release 6.0, which was already installed in the test environment on April 8, will be installed in the production environment on May 5 this year.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/development-and-qualification>

Verification system performance indicators for the 1st quarter of 2025 in Latvia

In the first quarter of 2025, 29.7 million transactions were made in the Latvian Medicines Verification System (LZVS), which is slightly more than in the corresponding period of 2024. Two types of transactions are possible in the system – verification or decommissioning of medicine packaging from the system when the medicines reach the patient. Slightly more than 7.6 million packaging of medicines reached the Latvian population in the first quarter of 2025, which is similar to the first quarter of 2024.

In Latvia, 1,184 users – public and hospital pharmacies, wholesalers and medical institutions authorized or entitled to supply medicinal products (hospitals, polyclinics, doctor's practices, dental clinics and practices) have connected to the verification system and checked the safety of medicines.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/verification-system-performance>

Where can you follow LZVO news?

We invite you to keep up with LZVO news and stay informed about current events in the world of medicines verification through:

- LZVO website <https://lzvo.lv/en>
- LZVO LinkedIn account <https://www.linkedin.com/company/latvian-medicines-verification-organisation-lzvo>

If you are not yet a recipient of the LZVO Newsletter but would like to receive it in your e-mail, please sign up on our website <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates>.

Send feedback or suggestions about the LZVO Newsletter to info@lzvo.lv.



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