



NEWSLETTER No.8

JANUARY 2024

Hello!

This Latvian Medicines Verification Organisation (LZVO) Newsletter is our celebration edition – we reflect both on the past year as well as also on the previous five years, as it is precisely this long that the verification system has been protecting all European residents from counterfeit medicines. This pan-European system, uniting 29 countries and hundreds of thousands of participants, has proven several things. Firstly, if there is a genuine desire to act and collaborate, it is possible on the broadest scale. Secondly, in Latvia, the Latvian Medicines Verification System (LZVS) serves as an example that a large, health-related system with the highest level of security works steadily and without interruptions. And thirdly, the system also demonstrates its effectiveness in operation.



Therefore, I express my heartfelt thanks to all LZVO members, employees, and cooperation partners both in Latvia and beyond our country's borders! Securely together for 5 years – and let's keep going!

In the Newsletter, we continue to share the experiences of other countries, and this time our neighbors in Estonia are sharing their stories.

Inese Erdmane, Chairwoman of the Board at the LZVO



Medicines verification system: Estonian experience

Mari Asser, REKS Processes and Quality Manager



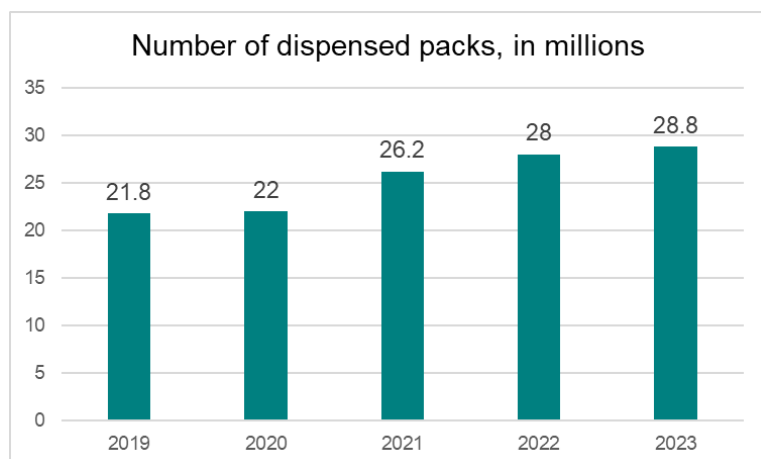
In Estonia, the organisation for the verification of the authenticity of medicinal products is called REKS and the verification of packaging is therefore called "reksimine". Estonia's NMVO (REKS) is a small-scale organisation, with 2 people and a so-called "robot worker", or REK-IS, to manage alerts. The local robot allows certain alerts to be solved 24/7 and so the REKS employee does not have to intervene at all.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/how-estonia-has-managed-packaging-authenticity-checks-and-handling-alerts>

Performance indicators of the LZVS

Since the launch of the verification system in Latvia, the number of checked and decommissioned medicine packages has been gradually increasing each year. This is primarily due to two reasons – firstly, the first few years of the system's operation saw a gradual increase in the number of end users and an improved system use experience and quality. The second reason is the growth of the market and an increase in medicine consumption.

In 2023, a total of 107.8 million transactions were carried out in the LZVS, of which 28.8 million correspond to the decommissioning of medicine packages in Latvia as packages were supplied to citizens. This represents a 3% increase compared to 2022. In 2023, the proportion of alerts affecting end users in Latvia was only 0.01% on average – significantly less than in the early stages of the system's operation.



At the start of 2024, the total number of LZVS end users was 1193, comprising 820 pharmacies, 58 wholesalers, and 315 medical institutions.

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

European Medicines Verification System Operation

The European Medicines Verification System, operating since 2019 in accordance with the EU Directive and Delegated Regulation, is a comprehensive, pan-European system covering all EU and EEA countries, connecting 2,800 pharmaceutical companies, 4,000 wholesalers, 110,000 pharmacies and 6,000 hospital pharmacies online, including all Latvian end users.

In the first half of 2023, the number of transactions increased by 21% compared to 2022, reaching an average of 3.4 billion transactions per quarter. The number of uploaded packages has typically remained stable: 5.8 billion in the first half of 2023.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/european-medicines-verification-system-operation>

Customers can use also Smart ID for accessing data on the LZVO Customer Portal

Considering user recommendations, the Latvian Medicines Verification Organization (LZVO) has introduced an alternative option to access the data and information stored in the Customer Portal. Registered users can use both their email and password for authorization, as well as the Smart ID solution.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/lv/aktualitates/turpmak-ari-ar-smart-id-var-pieklut-datiem-lzvo-klientu-portala>

The General Assembly of LZVO approved the budget for 2024

On November 27, 2023, a General Assembly meeting of stakeholders of the Latvian Medicines Verification Organisation (LZVO) was held, where the strategy and budget for 2024 were approved. The General Assembly also approved the fixed annual flat fee for the year 2024 for the marketing authorisation holders (MAHs), including parallel importers and parallel distributors of medicines in the territory of Latvia.

More: <https://lzvo.lv/en/aktualitates/general-assembly-lzvo-approved-budget-2024>

Where can you follow LZVO news?

We invite you to follow the news of LZVO and be informed about current events in the world of medicines verification:

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

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

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

