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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

25 APRIL – 29 APRIL 2022

EU PROVIDED €3.5 BILLION FOR MEMBER STATES TO HELP THEM HOSTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

European Commission has already paid more than €3.5 billion in advance payments to help the EU countries manage the arrival of Ukrainians fleeing the war on their motherland. The payments were made under the EU's Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE).

Following the Russian invasion, the Commission has introduced the possibility of flexibly mobilising the available resources from cohesion funds envisaged in the 2014-2020 financial framework. Additionally, it has proposed to increase by 3,5 billion the pre-financing under the CARE initiative.

The EU contribution to the humanitarian crisis aims to alleviate the additional on public budgets of EU countries as the expenditure that can be reimbursed is retroactively eligible from the date of the invasion of Ukraine.

Out of 27 countries of the Union, Poland received the biggest amount of additional funds, amounting to EUR 562 million. This money can be used to provide refugees with, accommodation, healthcare, education, jobs or food.

Source: <https://euroweeklynews.com/2022/04/29/u-pays-out-3-5-billion-euros-in-support-of-ukrainian-refugees/>

PHARMACEUTICAL REPUTATION SURVEY 2021: PUBLIC IMAGE OF PHARMA COMPANIES HAS IMPROVED SINCE THE PANDEMIC

According to a survey of 2,150 patient groups worldwide conducted by UK-based PatientView, the public perception of big pharma companies has drastically changed due to the health crisis that spread across the globe.

The patients, who come from disability, cancer, cardiovascular and rare disease groups, were asked about their opinion of the reputation of 47 companies in the pharmaceutical industry. 59% of patient groups responding to the survey this year said that the image of the pharmaceutical sector was “excellent” or “good”, compared to only 50% in 2020.

As a result, the pharmaceutical industry was placed ahead of all other ‘players’ in the healthcare sector in terms of reputation, for the first time in 11 years.

As regards the methodology, the patient groups firstly assessed the industry’s performance as a whole compared with the other health sectors. Subsequently, patients measured the individual performance of pharmaceutical firms based on 9 indicators: safety, patient access, transparency, product quality, research & development, integrity, support and services.

Source: <https://app.box.com/s/1v2flotcyg9qt0aln9xzrdkavggr7wz1>

EU ASSESSMENT: 60% TO 80% OF THE ENTIRE EU POPULATION HAS ALREADY HAD COVID-19

During the press conference on Wednesday (27 April), EU health commissioner Stella Kyriakides estimated that up to 80% of the EU population has been infected with COVID-19, as the Union enters a post-emergency phase in which mass reporting of cases is no longer necessary.

In an attempt to return to the new normal, the newly released EU Commission guidance calls on the national authorities to fold their existing Sars-COV-2 testing programs into broader surveillance of respiratory diseases. It suggests that testing should not aim simply to capture all cases horizontally but to obtain reliable estimates. Moreover, with EU help, monitoring of new variants of the virus will be stepped up, as the health services must be prepared if the virus re-emerges.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) recently announced that the reported cases had covered around 30% of the EU population so far. However, if unreported infections were added, cases could be as high as 350 million, about 77% of the European population.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-looks-ramping-up-covid-vaccinations-kids-developing-antivirals-2022-04-27/>

Thank you for your attention!

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