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CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PHARMACISTS

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Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union

- *On 10 Feb 2007, in Sofia, it took place the Founding Congress of professional organization of masters of pharmacy in Republic of Bulgaria, where the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union (BPhU) was established;*
- *BPhU is established in accordance with The Act for the professional organization of masters of pharmacy;*
- *This is the only legal professional organization which unites all masters of pharmacy (MScPharm) in Bulgaria;*
- *The membership of MScPharms in BPhU is mandatory.*



Organizational structure

BPhU governing bodies on national level:





Pharmacists

- *The number of pharmacists registered in 2016 is about 6300, of which more than 80 % are female;*
- *Nearly 91% of the registered pharmacists are working in community pharmacies;*
- *About one third of all pharmacists practice in Sofia. More than 55 % of all pharmacists work in the four main districts – Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas.*

COLLABORATION OF BPhU WITH OTHER STRUCTURES ON NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL

- *BPhU maintains active collaboration with all institutions and nationally represented professional and branch organizations, society structures and NGOs in Bulgaria;*
- *From 2007, BPhU is a full and equal member of **Pharmaceutical Group of European Union (PGEU)**. As a PGEU member BPhU is collaborating with all European pharmaceutical professional organizations of the European member states;*
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- *BPhU is one of the founders of **EURHeCA**, where BPhU has representative in the governing body.*

COLLABORATION OF BPHU WITH OTHER STRUCTURES ON NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL

- *BPhU has its representatives in the Supreme Medical Council and the Supreme Council of Pharmacy of the Minister of Health;*
- *BPhU elaborates and gives opinions on draft legislation acts in the field of pharmacy, as it actively participates in the meetings of the Health Commission of the National Assembly and the working groups of the Ministry of Health;*
- *In the Bulgarian Organization for Medicines Verification BPhU fruitfully cooperates with other professional and trade union organizations.*



CONTINUED EDUCATION OF BULGARIAN PHARMACISTS

- *Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union is responsible for organization and administration of the continuing education of pharmacists;*
- *The Quality Commission of BPhU created rules that formed the system for continuing education of pharmacists in June 2007. These rules were last changed and approved by the Executive Committee of BPhU in December 2014.*

RULES OF CONTINUED EDUCATION OF BULGARIAN PHARMACISTS

- *Uniform credit system for assessment of the short-term and long-term forms of continuing education:*
- *Category A: Participation in seminars and qualification courses, Participation in congresses and symposia, Participation in the BPhU educational programs, Participation in international congresses and symposia;*
- *Category B: Publication in pharmaceutical scientific journals, Long term educational programs held at universities, Long term specializations, PhD degree, Master degree;*
- *Category C: Tutoring of pharmacy students in pharmacy;*
- *Category D: Self learning*



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CONTINUED EDUCATION OF BULGARIAN PHARMACISTS

- *A minimum of 90 continuing education credits is required per each 3 years period;*
- *Each participant is receiving a certificate for completion for every educational event and their participation is recorded in the e-register of pharmacists.*



CONTINUED EDUCATION OF BULGARIAN PHARMACISTS

During the last 3 years:

- *were established clear methodical guidelines for the organizer, lecturers, participants and partners;*
- *was organized regular program for continuing education in cooperation with the Faculties of Pharmacy in Sofia, Plovdiv and Varna;*
- *were developed and implemented educational programs for all regions;*
- *was provided financing of the system*
- *was achieved independence of the continuing education*
- *was organized promotion of the continuing education*



CONTINUED EDUCATION OF BULGARIAN PHARMACISTS

During the last 3 years:

- *The accredited educational events were mainly seminars and qualification courses, congresses and symposia, programs organized by BPhU and BPhU and the Faculties of Pharmacy;*
- *The subjects covered during the educational events vary from drug therapy (homeopathy, OTC, Rx) to marketing and management skills;*
- *The events were designed to cover the educational needs of all pharmacists - employed in community pharmacies, hospitals, industry and academia/regulatory agencies.*

We have to answer the following several question

- *How to **deal** with the different educational needs in the regions with less than 100 pharmacists;*
- *How to **find** balance between the needs and costs, and also balance between the requirements of the pharmacists and the academia;*
- *How to **collaborate** with partners and industry;*
- *How to **ensure** the future independence of the continuous professional education;*
- *How to **enforce** the e-learning;*
- *How to **stimulate** all pharmacists to participate.*



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*Thank you for your
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