



**Education and Training Programmes
of Pharmacy Technicians**

European Survey

September 2017

Introduction

This report is based on a survey conducted in March 2017. Countries that are members of EAPT were included in the survey and other countries where the profession of Pharmacy Technician exists were also invited to participate in the survey.

The purpose of the survey was to characterize Pharmacy Technicians training programmes and give a detailed and easily accessible overview of the differences and similarities between the education and training throughout Europe.

The definition of a “Pharmacy Technician” for the purpose of this survey was the professional pharmacy support workforce cadres that work with pharmacists.

Country codes

EAPT members:

HR	Croatia
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
FI	Finland
FR	France
DE	Germany
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
NO	Norway
PT	Portugal
RS	Serbia
SI	Slovenia
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom

Non EAPT members

IS	Iceland
LT	Lithuania
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
PL	Poland
ES	Spain

Respondents

EAPT Members

Country Code	Country	Name of respondent organisation	Name of the Pharmacy Technician course, in the national language	Name of the Pharmacy Technician course, in English
HR	Croatia	Croatian Association of Pharmacy Technicians	Srednja medicinska škola (ili Zdravstveno učilište) za obrazovanje u zvanju iz područja medicine, farmaceutske tehnika	Secondary medical (or health) School, for educating students vocations in the field of medicine, Pharmacy Technician
CZ	Czech Republic	Czech Association of Nurses – Section of Pharmacy Technicians	Diplomovaný farmaceutický asistent	Pharmacy assistant / Technician
DK	Denmark	Farmakonomforeningen	Farmakonomuddannelsen	--
FI	Finland	PAM-Apteekkialan Osasto Ry	Lääkealan perustutkinto	Vocational Qualification in Pharmaceutics
FR	France	ANPPH -Association Nationale des Préparateurs en Pharmacie Hospitalière	Diplome de Préparateur en Pharmacie et Diplome de Préparateur en Pharmacie Hospitalière	Vocational diploma of Pharmacy Technicians
DE	Germany	ADEXA Die Apothekengewerkschaft	Fachschulbildung / PTA Fachschule	Specialized Vocational Training / Technical College for PT
HU	Hungary			
IE	Ireland	NAHPT - National Association of Hospital Pharmacy Technicians	Higher Certificate in Science - Pharmacy Technician Studies – Level 6	NA
NO	Norway	Farmasiforbundet	Apotektekniker	Pharmacy Technicians
PT	Portugal	Associação Portuguesa de Licenciados em Farmácia	Licenciatura em Farmácia	Bachelor(Hons) in Pharmacy
RS	Serbia	Association of the Pharmacy Technicians of Serbia “Sveti Sava” (UFTS)	Medicinska škola – Farmaceutski Tehničar	School of Medicine- direction for Pharmacy Technicians
SI	Slovenia	Slovenian Pharmaceutical Society	Farmaceutski Teknik	Pharmacy Technician
SE	Sweden	Unionen Pharmacy & Health	Apotekstekniker Yrkeshögskoleut-bildning	Pharmacy Technician Higher Vocational Education
UK	United Kingdom	Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK)	Two qualifications are required- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Pharmacy Service Skills (QCF) & Level 3 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science (QCF)	NA

Non EAPT Members

Country Code	Country	Name of respondent organisation	Name of the Pharmacy Technician course, in the national language	Name of the Pharmacy Technician course, in English
S	Iceland	Junior College in Armuli, Pharmacy Technicians Department	Lyfjatæknabraut	Study programme for pharmacological technicians
LT	Lithuania	Kaunas University of Applied Sciences	Farmakotechnika	Pharmacy Technician
MT	Malta	Malta College and Arts , Science and Technology / Ministry for Health	Higher Diploma For Pharmacy Technicians	--
NL	Netherlands	--	MBO –apothekersassistente	--
PL	Poland	ZZTF RP	Szkoła medyczna policealna	Medical school post liceum
ES	Spain	Colegio Tres Olivos	Formación Profesional de Grado Medio	Vocational Training and Education of Pharmacy Technician

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Overview of education and training programmes of Pharmacy Technicians

This section intends to give an overview of type of education and training, the level of pharmacy technician's education and the duration of the courses:

Country Code	Type of education/training	Level of Pharmacy Technician Education	Duration of Pht Course/Training (in years)	National name of Pharmacy Technician
HR	Medical High School	Secondary level	4	Farmaceutski Tehničar
CZ	Polytechnic	Post-secondary diploma	3	Lääketeknikko
DK	Vocational training school	Secondary level, Post-secondary diploma	3	Farmakonom
FI	Vocational training school	Secondary level	3	Lääketeknikko
FR	Vocational training school*	Post-secondary diploma	2 / 3	Préparateur en Pharmacie and Préparateur en Pharmacie Hospitalière
DE	Vocational training school	Secondary level	2,5	Pharmazeutisch-technische Assistenten
HU				
IE	Third Level	Post-secondary diploma*	2	Pharmacy Technician
NO	University college	Post-secondary diploma	3	Apotektekniķer
PT	Polytechnic	Professional Bachelor's degree (first level in the Bologna cycle 180 -240 ECTS)	4	Técnico de Farmácia
RS	Polytechnic	Secondary level	4	Farmaceutski Tehničar
SI	Polytechnic	Secondary level	4	Farmaceutski Tehnik
SE	Vocational training school	Post-secondary diploma	< 2	Apotekstekniķer
UK	Further Education / Vocational training ⁽¹⁾	Secondary level	2	Pharmacy Technician
IS	Vocational training school	Secondary level	4	Lyfjtaekniķir
LT	University of applied science	Professional Bachelor's degree (first level in the Bologna cycle 180 -240 ECTS)	3	Vaistininko Padėjėjas (Farmakoteknikas) ⁽²⁾
MT	Vocational training school	Post-secondary diploma	2	Pharmacy Technician
NL	HBO, highschool (bachelor)	Secondary level	4	Apothekersassitente
PL	Medical school post lyceum	Post-secondary diploma	2	Teknik Farmaceutyczny
ES	Vocational training school	Secondary level ⁽³⁾	2	Técnico en Farmacia y Parafarmacia

FR: *adapted from*: "centre de formation (CFA et CFPPH)"

IE: *Higher Certificate (NFQ level 6)

UK: ⁽¹⁾ - There are different types of education providers in the UK- Further of Education College- similar to Polytechnic and also vocational training providers through distance learning or on-line

LT: ⁽²⁾ - From 1946 title "Farmacininkas" (en. Pharmacist) was used, from 1970 "Provizoriaus padėjėdas" (en. The assistant of Provisor) from 1982 "Farmakoteknikas" (Pharmacists assistant) from 2006 "Vaistininko padėjėjas" (Pharmacist's assistant).

ES: ⁽³⁾ - Level 3 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED3)

Entry requirements

This section compares the entry requirements in the courses for Pharmacy Technicians, the number of education needed to enter in the course the need of a secondary diploma or previous specific studies and the admission test requirements

Country Code	Years of education needed to access to the PhT education/training course	Diploma of secondary education required (if NO other competencies or/and theoretical backgrounds required)	In-depth study requirements / Previous studies	Admission tests required
HR	8	Yes	--	National Examinations
CZ	13	Yes	--	--
DK	12	Yes ⁽¹⁾	--	Interview
FI	9	No – Elementary School Diploma	--	National Examinations, Final Grades from previous education
FR	12	No	--	--
DE	10	Yes	--	Motivational test, Interview
HU				
IE	14 or more	Yes	--	National Examinations
NO	10	No	--	--
PT	12	Yes	Biology, Chemistry	National Examinations, Final Grades from previous education, Medical test
RS	7 or less	Yes	--	--
SI	9	No	--	Final Grades from previous education
SE	12	No	English, National language	--
UK	8	Yes	Biology, Chemistry, National language, Mathematics	National Examinations, Final Grades from previous education, Interview, National language
IS	10	No – Elementary School Diploma	--	--
LT	12	Yes	Biology, Chemistry, National language, Mathematics	--
MT	11	No, minimum of four 'O' level standard	Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics	National Examinations, Final Grades from previous education
NL	7 or less	Yes	Chemistry	--
PL	12	Yes	Biology, Chemistry	Medical test, Interview
ES	10	Yes	--	--

DK: ⁽¹⁾ - Applicants with no secondary education but who have completed training as a nurses assistant can be admitted til the program

Curriculum structure

Country Code	Duration of Pht Course/Training (in years)	Number of teaching weeks per year	Number of hours in contact time per week (average)	ECTS system
HR	4	35-39	>30	--
CZ	3	30-34	>30	--
DK	3	<25	>30	Yes – 180; 1 ECTS = 25-29 contact hours; >50% practice and 95 ECTS training
FI	3	35-39	>30	Yes – 180; 1 ECTS = >40 contact hours; 20-29 % practice
FR	2 / 3	<25	>30	--
DE	2,5	>40	>30	No – 75 ⁽¹⁾
HU				
IE	2	30-34	25-27	Yes – 120; 1 ECTS = 25-29 contact hours; 20-29 % practice and 25 -35 ECTS training
NO	3	35-39	28-30	--
PT	4	30-34	22-24	Yes – 240; 1 ECTS = 25-29 contact hours; 20-29 % practice and 60 ECTS training
RS	4	25-29	16-18	--
SI	4	35-39	28-30	--
SE	< 2	35-39	<10	--
UK	2	35-39	10-12	--
IS	4	35-39	22-24	No ⁽²⁾
LT	3	35-39	>30 ⁽³⁾	Yes -180; 1 ECTS = 25-29 contact hours; 30-39 % practice and 30 ECTS training
MT	2	35-39	22-24 ⁽⁴⁾	Yes – 120; 1 ECTS = 25-29 contact hours; 20-29 % practice
NL	4	>40	25-27	--
PL	2 ⁽⁵⁾	35-39	22-24	--
ES	2 ⁽⁶⁾	30-34	25-27	--

DE: ⁽¹⁾ - some schools will give the PT 75 ECTS points after the examination

IS: ⁽²⁾ – A similar system were used, named fein: students must complete 60 fein in one year

LT: ⁽³⁾ - 32 academical hours (one academica hour is equal to 45 min). So 32 acad. hours is 24 astronomical hours (60 min)

MT: ⁽⁴⁾ - Work placement will be carried out on a one-day work placement per week for both academic years in a pharmacy environment, as well as an annual block placement.

PL: ⁽⁵⁾ - minimum 1600 hours in 2 years of education

ES: ⁽⁶⁾ - 2000 hours (2 years)

Education and Training Programmes of Pharmacy Technicians

In this section study structure was compared. Information on type of classes and teaching method and clinical training was collected:

Study Structure	HR	CZ	DK	FI	FR	DE	HU	IE	NO	PT	RS	SI	SE	UK	IS	LT	MT	NL	PL	ES
Lectures	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Laboratory training	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Problem Based Learning (PBL)	X		X			X		X	X	X				X	X	X		X	X	X
Seminars	X	X				X					X		X	X	X	X				X
E-learning	X		X	X				X	X		X			X	X	X		X		X
Virtual Training	X	X			X	X			X					X	X					
Project work	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Self-study		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Interdisciplinary courses or projects			X		X	X		X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mandatory Clinical Training	X	X	X			X		X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Clinical Training	HR ⁽¹⁾	CZ	DK	FI	FR ⁽²⁾	DE ⁽³⁾	HU	IE	NO	PT	RS	SI	SE	UK ⁽⁴⁾	IS	LT	MT ⁽⁵⁾	NL	PL	ES ⁽⁶⁾
At the teaching institution	--	--	M	--	--	--		M	M	--	O	--	--	M	--	M	--	M	O	--
In Hospital Pharmacies Services	O	M	O	--	--	M		M	O	M	M	O	--	M	O	O	M	O	M	M
In Community Pharmacies	M	M	M	--	--	M		M	O	M	M	M	--	M	M	M	M	O	M	M
Radiopharmaceuticals	--	O	--	--	M	--		--	--	O	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	--	--	--
Pharmaceutical Industry/Companies	--	O	--	--	--	--		--	--	O	M	O	--	O	O	--	O	--	O	--
Primary Healthcare Units	--	--	M	--	M	--		--	--	--	M	O	--	--	--	--	O	--	--	--

M – Mandatory / O - Optional

HR: ⁽¹⁾ -Upon completion of the program and the execution and presentation of the final paper and completed traineeship, students can be employed in a pharmacy, specialist store selling OTC (over-the-counter) medicines and medical preparations, wholesalers, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries, and the analytical and pharmaceutical laboratories

FR: ⁽²⁾ – The clinical training depends on the diploma: for hospital pharmacy technicians the radiopharmaceuticals and primary healthcare units are mandatory in the curriculum.

DE: ⁽³⁾ - nearly all PT train in the community pharmacies, some do half / half in the community and hospital pharmacy

UK: ⁽⁴⁾ - The NVQ is the mandatory training for the sector that the trainee is working in

MT: ⁽⁵⁾ - Also in “procurement and stores”

ES: ⁽⁶⁾ - 370 hours of job placement in Hospital Pharmacies Services or Community Pharmacies at the end of the 2nd year.

Contents of the Course

Core sciences	HR	CZ	DK	FI	FR	DE	HU	IS	NO	PT	RS	SI	SE	UK	IE	LT	MT	NL	PL	ES
Chemistry (General and Analytic)	X	X	--	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Organic Chemistry	X	X	--	--	X	X		--	--	X	X	X	--	--	X	--	X	--	X	--
Biochemistry	X	--	X	--	X	X		--	--	X	X	X	--	--	X	--	X	--	X	--
Physics/Biophysics	X	--	--	X	X	X		--	--	X	--	X	--	--	--	--	X	X	--	--
Mathematics	X	--	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	--
Statistics	--	--	--	--	--	X		--	X	X	--	--	--	--	X	--	X	X	--	--
Anatomy and Physiology	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Biology (Cell and Molecular)	X	--	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	--	--
Microbiology and Parasitology	X	X	X	--	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	X	--
Genetics	--	--	--	--	X	X		--	--	X	--	X	--	--	X	X	X	--	--	--

Pharmacy subjects	HR	CZ	DK	FI	FR	DE	HU	IE	NO	PT	RS	SI	SE	UK	IS	LT	MT	NL	PL	ES
Pharmacology (Actions of Drugs)	--	X	X	--	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Galenic Pharmacy (Pharmaceutics)	X	X	X	--	X	X		X	X	X	--	--	--	X	X	X	X	--	X	X
Toxicology	--	--	--	--	X	X		X	--	X	--	--	--	--		X	--	--	--	--
Pharmacotherapy (Uses of Drugs)	--	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	--	--	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pharmacognosy (Knowledge of Natural Drugs)	X	X	--	--	--	X		--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	X	X	--	X	--
Pharmacochemistry (Chemistry of Medicines)	X	X	X	--	--	X		--	X	X	--	X	--	X		X	X	X	X	--
Dermopharmacy and cosmetics (Actions and Uses)	X	--	X	--	--	X		--	X	X	--	X	--	--		X	X	--	--	X
Pharmacotecnology (Quality Control of Medicines)	X	X	X	X	--	X		--	X	X	--	X	--	X		X	X	X	X	--
Phitotherapy (Use of Herbal Medicines)	X	--	--	--	--	X		--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	X	--	--	X	--
Aseptic methodologies and technologies	X	--	X	--	--	X		X	--	X	--	--	--	X		X	X	X	X	X
Sterile and non Sterile Production	X	--	X	--	X	X		--	X	X	--	--	--	X		X	X	X	X	X
Medicines Information	--	--	X	--	--	X		--	X	X	--	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pharmacoeconomy	--	--	X	X	--	X		X	X	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	X	--
Pharmacy Law and Ethics	--	X	X	X	--	X		X	X	X	--	--	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nutrition and Dietetics	X	X	X	--	X	X		X	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X
Costumer Services	--	--	X	--	--	X		X	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X
Biotechnology	--	--	--	--	--	X		X	--	X	--	--	--	--		X	X	--	--	--

Education and Training Programmes of Pharmacy Technicians

Complementary subjects	HR	CZ	DK	FI	FR	DE	HU	IE	NO	PT	RS	SI	SE	UK	IS	LT	MT	NL	PL	ES
Human and Social Science (Health Sociology and Psychology)		X	X	--	--	--		X	--	X	X	--	--	--	X	X	--	X	X	X
Information Communication		--	X	--	--	X		X	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	--
Technology (ICT) (Computer Science)	X	X	X	--	--	X		X	X	X	--	X	--	--	--	--	X		X	--
Economy & Management		--	X	X	--	X		X	--	X	--	--	X	--	--	X		X	X	--
Public health (Epidemiology/Health Promotion/Health Safety)		--	X	--	--	X		X	X	X	--	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ethics	X	--	X	--	--	X		X	X	X	--	--	--	X	X	X	X	X	--	X
Communication		X	X	--	X	X		X	X	X	--	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	--	X
National language	X	--	--	--	--	X		--	X	--	--	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	--
Foreign language	X	X	--	--	--	X		--	X	--	--	X	--	--	X	--	X	X	X	--
Optional/elective subjects		--	X	--	--	X		--	--	X	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--
Others		X	--	--	X	X		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--

CZ: Pharmaceutical botany / Medical devices

DK: Clinical pharmacy in community pharmacy, clinical pharmacy at hospital, drug manufacture in the hospital, health promotion and disease prevention, quality management, sales and marketing, organisation, management and collaboration, presentation skills

FR: Botanique, Reconnaissances, Radiopharmacy, Sterilization, Quality

DE: Medical devices and medicinal products

PT: Veterinary Pharmacy, Radiopharmacy, Phytotherapy

SE: Mathematics, more focus on customer treatment, self-care, logistics, goods handling, lifestyle impact on health, prescription assistance, prescription registration and economics

UK: Professional practice & Procurement and distribution of medicines

IS: Pathology, Nutrition, First aid, Nursing supplies, Medical Latin, Production of drugs

LT: Clinical Pharmacy

Professional regulation

Country Code	Mandatory license/authorisation to work as a PhT	Mandatory testing on completion of the PhT programme in order to get licensing to practice as a PhT	Requirements for renewal of licence/authorisation
HR	No	Yes	No
CZ	Yes	Yes	No
DK	No	No	No
FI	No	Yes	No
FR	Yes	Yes	No
DE	Yes	Yes	No
HU			
IE	Yes	Yes	No
NO	Yes	No	No
PT	Yes	Yes	No
RS	Yes	Yes	Yes, 7 Years
SI	No	No	No
SE	No	No	No
UK	Yes	Yes	Yes, 1 Year*
IS	No	Yes	No
LT	Yes	Yes	Yes, 5 Years
MT	Yes	Yes	Yes, 1 Year
NL	Yes	Yes	No
PL	Yes	No	No
ES	No	Yes	No

UK: *- Every year through declaration that CPD has been undertaken