

# Building Bridges for Medicines Justice

Amsterdam, Roeterseiland De Brug — 28 / 29 October 2025

## Workshop Descriptions Booklet

For the 'Building Bridges for Medicines Justice: Law and Civil Society Engagement for Access & Innovation' Conference

Version: 27 October 2025

This booklet provides an overview of the **15 parallel workshops** taking place during the Medicines & Justice Conference. Each workshop description outlines the key themes, objectives, and formats to help participants choose the sessions most relevant to their interests and expertise.

Conference website: <https://www.aanmelder.nl/medicinesjustice/home>



This event is part of the project 'Global access to medicines through EU law and policy' (file number VI.Veni.211R.044) of the Veni research programme, and the project 'Global "side effects" of EU pharmaceutical regulation – Case study of the EU Southern Neighbourhood' (file number ILW.1154.22.010) of the Hestia Impulse for Refugees in Science programme, which are financed by the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

# Workshop 1 - Medicines Justice Requires Transparent Medicines Evidence Communication: Why, for Whom, and How?

## Stream: Medicines regulation & communication

Chair: Anita Wagner, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School & Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute

Rapporteur: Aurélie Mahalatchimy, CNRS Researcher, Aix Marseille University

Regulatory changes to incentivize innovation and early market access in the US and Europe have led to faster approvals of new medicines, with more uncertain evidence of benefits. Information about these uncertainties is not legally mandated in either jurisdiction. As a result, communication has not kept pace with regulatory evolution, and patients, prescribers, payers, and the public often overestimate benefits and underestimate harms. Starting with an audience poll, this workshop presents research on:

1. Health and economic trade-offs of new medicines in England's NHS
2. Shortcomings of regulated medicines information in Europe
3. US breast cancer patients' views on earlier access vs. stronger evidence
4. A randomized trial on how communication formats affect understanding of cancer drug benefits and harms
5. Improvement initiatives for medicines information in Europe within legal/regulatory contexts

Grounded in a vision of medicines justice, concludes with a discussion on bridging gaps between regulatory approval and evidence communication.

- Huseyin Naci, Associate Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science  
Health costs of paying for new drugs in England between 2000–2020
- Courtney Davis, Reader, King's College London  
Availability of accurate and relevant information on anticancer drugs in regulated prescription drug information in Europe
- Robin Forrest, Research Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science  
Information, uncertainty and the access-certainty trade off surrounding newly approved cancer drugs from the patients' perspective - a qualitative interview study
- Avi Cherla, Research Fellow, Harvard Medical School  
Effect of quantitative information in European patient leaflets on expectations of drug benefits and harms: a randomized controlled trial
- Juan Garcia Burgos, Head of Public and Stakeholder Engagement at European Medicines Agency  
Medicines information in Europe: Improvement initiatives to enhance accessibility and understanding in legal and regulatory contexts

## Workshop 2 – Regulatory decision making and the roles of evidence, values and patient participation

**Stream: Medicines regulation & communication**

Chair: Meri Koivusalo, Professor, Tampere University

Rapporteur: Aurélie Mahalatchimy, CNRS Researcher, Aix Marseille University

This workshop explores how regulatory decisions on medicines are connected to evidence, values, and patient organizations by drawing on empirical research from the U.S., Brazil, China, Finland, and the Netherlands. First, this workshop examines the consequences of shifting regulatory priorities from protecting public health to accelerating market access—particularly for cancer medicines often approved with uncertain evidence of clinical benefit. Then, using the example of cancer medicines, this workshop highlights tensions between transparency requirements, public policy goals, and patient advocacy limits, especially in small EU countries such as Finland. Through ethnographic insights from Dutch regulators, this workshop will then unpack how differing values influence regulatory decision making, inviting reflection on what counts as a “good decision” and how regulation can change when prioritizing different values. Finally, this workshop invites reflections on pharmaceutical policy from the public perspective.

- Anita Wagner, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School & Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute  
Medicines justice – access must be contingent on evidence
- Joyce Hoek, Post Doctoral Researcher, Utrecht University  
What is a Good Decision in Medicine Regulation? Unravelling the Regulatory Thought Process at the Dutch Medicines Evaluation Board
- Eeva Ollila, Chief Medical Officer, Cancer Society of Finland  
Understanding the role and premises of decision-making at national level: Case study of Finland
- Jaume Vidal, Senior Policy Advisor, Health Action International  
Stakeholder participation in regulatory and policy discussions: balancing transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability

## Workshop 3 - Pharmaceutical pollution: Dilemmas and trade-offs when two rights conflict for OneHealth

**Stream: Medicines regulation & communication**

Chair: Jakob Wested, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen

Rapporteur: Emily Dowdalls, Climate Pharmacist & Rosalind Turkie, Pharmaceutical Accountability Foundation

This workshop explores tensions between the right to health and the right to a healthy environment, focusing on how access to medicines can conflict with environmental protection when their manufacture and use impact the environment. It first examines how human rights law addresses these tensions and gives examples from pharmaceutical and environmental regulation. A second talk looks at pharmaceutical residues that impact aquatic ecosystems, noting that simply upgrading wastewater treatment plants is not a complete solution. The workshop discusses dilemmas and trade-offs in reducing pharmaceuticals' environmental impact. In a third presentation we consider the use of PFAS in cancer drug production, along with the implications of proposed EU-wide PFAS restrictions. It ultimately asks what regulatory strategies could balance environmental protection with ensuring access to essential medicines and the right to health.

- Kaat Van Delm, PhD Candidate, KU Leuven  
Balancing the right to healthcare and to a healthy environment in questions of pharmaceutical pollution
- Caroline Moermond, Senior Advisor on Pharmaceuticals and the Environment, National Institute for Public Health & the Environment  
Navigating Dilemmas in Reducing Pharmaceutical Pollution in Aquatic Environments
- Tom Buis, Strategic Policy Advisor at the Dutch Cancer Society, representing the Association of European Cancer Leagues  
The case of regulating PFAS in cancer medicines
- Annelies de Lange, Senior Advisor Sustainability, Dutch Association of Innovative Medicines (Vereniging Innovatieve Geneesmiddelen)

## Workshop 4 - Towards a Just Pharmaceutical Innovation System

**Stream: Innovation & manufacturing**

Chair: Tineke Kleinhout-Vliek, Researcher, University College Dublin

Rapporteur: Melissa Barber, Global Health Advocacy and Policy Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières

This workshop explores alternative models of pharmaceutical innovation, such as public pharma, social innovation, pharma commons, and mixed economies, and examines how these approaches can be more effectively supported through regulation, policy, and public engagement. It considers how the labels attached to these models influence their perception and uptake, and to what extent they reflect different visions of who pharmaceutical systems should serve. The session critically assesses recent legal and policy efforts to create space for more publicly oriented medicine production, highlighting challenges including rigid regulatory practices and limited community participation. It also asks what roles public actors do and should play in transforming pharmaceutical innovation. In this workshop, five lightning talks will be followed by an interactive discussion.

- Susi Geiger, Full Professor, University College Dublin  
What's in a Name? Different Models of Social Pharmaceutical Innovation
- Matthew Herder, Professor, Dalhousie University  
The Role of Law and Policy in Local Production
- Adrián Alonso Ruiz, PhD Candidate, Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas / Research & Advocacy Manager, Salud por Derecho  
Re-framing Medicines Justice in Spain: Applying a Theory of Justice to strategic economic and industrial policies
- Alan Rossi Silva, Project Coordinator, People's Health Movement  
Public Pharma Done Right? Neoliberalism and Its Problems
- Tineke Kleinhout-Vliek, Researcher, University College Dublin  
Spotting Public Pharma in the Wild: Examples and Opportunities

## Workshop 5 - Implementing Sustainable, Needs-Driven R&D and Equitable Access to Health Technologies in LMICs

Stream: Innovation & manufacturing

Chair: Els Torreele, Independent Researcher and Advisor, Founding Director æqua, a Think Space on Equity and Economic Justice for Health

Rapporteur: Melissa Barber, Global Health Advocacy and Policy Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières

This workshop explores how law and policy can support a transition away from current market-driven innovation and access models—such as push/pull mechanisms, voluntary tech transfer, and donor-funded production—toward sustainable local health innovation and production models to supply public health systems. Existing models have focused on high-volume low-cost production and market competition in donor-funded LMIC markets. They often fail to deliver equitable access to technologies needed only in relatively small volumes, or biologicals that are inherently more expensive. The workshop highlights promising legal and policy frameworks that, together with technological and political economy innovations, are enabling the local development and manufacturing of novel health technologies including biologics for equitable access in different regional contexts.

- Beatriz Fialho, Head of Competitive Intelligence, BioManguinhos/Fiocruz  
Mobilizing Brazil's health industry and technology ecosystem towards local innovation and production of biologicals for public health
- Carolina Gomez, Director of the Think Tank on Medicines, Information and Power, National University, Colombia  
Policy innovation in Colombia: (Therapeutic) Value-Based Manufacturing, Authorization, and Pricing (VBMAP)
- Joe Fitchett, Senior Adviser for Biotechnology, Institut Pasteur Dakar  
Leveraging lessons from vaccines and diagnostics to enable monoclonal antibody innovation and production in West Africa
- Huub Schellekens, Professor, University of Utrecht  
Challenges and opportunities of bedside manufacturing of biological therapies to increase access
- Fatima Hassan, Founder/Director, Health Justice Initiative

## Workshop 6 - Experiments In and Of the Local: Public Interest Pharma Innovation Models Across Sites and Scales

Stream: Innovation & manufacturing

Chair: Anne Pollock, Professor, King's College London

Rapporteur: Melissa Barber, Global Health Advocacy and Policy Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières

This workshop explores how local pharmaceutical manufacturing models, drawing on cases from France, Cuba, South Africa, and other African contexts, challenge dominant pharmaceutical paradigms by asserting sovereignty and prioritising public interest innovation. Focusing on initiatives such as phage therapy, cancer immunotherapy, and vaccine R&D, including mRNA platforms, we examine how these efforts resist dependency on global pharmaceutical powers and reclaim control over health technologies. We explore tensions between intellectual property and local know-how and how law and policy can enable sovereign strategies for equitable access. The workshop asks: How do North-South and South-South partnerships advance pharmaceutical solidarity? And how can legal frameworks support collaboration while respecting autonomy? These case studies reflect a growing movement to strengthen health sovereignty and foster solidarities that reshape traditional hierarchies in global pharmaceutical development.

- Lauren Paremoer, Associate Professor, University of Cape Town  
African Vaccine R&D and Manufacturing Capacity and/as Sovereignty
- Koichi Kameda, Post Doctoral Researcher, University of Bordeaux  
Producing Phage Therapy at a Public Hospital in France: Legal and Regulatory Tensions in the Shadow of Pharmaceutical Orthodoxy
- Nils Graber, Post Doctoral Fellow, Humboldt University of Berlin  
Biopharmaceutical Internationalism: Unpacking the 'Closed-Loop' Innovation in the Case of Cuban Cancer Immunotherapies

## Workshop 7 - Bridging the Gap: Advancing Medicines Justice for Children through Access, Innovation, and Equity

Stream: Innovation & manufacturing

Chair: Sheila Varadan, Assistant Professor, Leiden University

Rapporteur: Melissa Barber, Global Health Advocacy and Policy Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières

This workshop addresses the persistent global neglect of children in pharmaceutical innovation and access, despite their comprising over a quarter of the population. Framed by human rights law, this workshop explores how legal, economic, and institutional systems contribute to – or could help dismantle – these disparities. Speakers will examine the potential of international children’s rights law to refocus innovation and access efforts, the ethical challenges of personalised medicine and opioid pain management for paediatric patients, how 'child lens' investing could transform research and development, and the pivotal role of reimbursement law in bringing innovative medicines to children. The workshop aims to spark actionable dialogue on advancing equitable paediatric medicine development and access across global systems.

- Ruhama Yilma Abebe, PhD Candidate, Leiden University  
Children’s Rights to Access Medicine under International Human Rights and Children’s Rights Law
- Emmanuella Amoako, Paediatric Haematologist and Oncologist, Director of Clinical Affairs, Yemaachi Biotech Global / Co-Founder and Co-host of Global Health unfiltered  
Justice for Every Child: Rethinking Access, Development and Personalised Medicine in Global Paediatric Care
- Rhian Thomas-Turner, Head of Paediatric Research, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board / Medicines Expert, UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
Children’s Rights and Access to Medicines – Exploring ‘Child-Lens’ Investing as an Opportunity to Redress the Balance
- Raffaella Ravinetto, Professor & Belen Tarrafeta, Researcher, Institute of Tropical Medicine  
Using opioids for pain management in children in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Can we address the individual and collective pain?
- Zora Čechová, PhD Candidate and regulatory specialist, Masaryk University  
Left Behind the Law: Reimbursement of Paediatric Oncology Medicines in Czechia

## Workshop 8 - Crisis-driven global health law for access to medicines

### Stream: International law & accountability

Chair: Priti Patnaik, Founding Editor, Geneva Health Files

Rapporteur: Sheila Varadan, Assistant Professor, Leiden University

This workshop explores the evolving global health law landscape, shaped by acute crises such as pandemics. These challenges have exposed deep structural weaknesses in international law, prompting calls for reform across various legal regimes. Speakers will examine key frameworks — including the WHO Pandemic Treaty and the 2024 amendments to the International Health Regulations of 2005, international human rights instruments, and WTO trade norms to examine how these legal regimes can be leveraged, or reformed, to embed medicines justice in global governance and ensure equitable access. Drawing on developments at regional and international levels, the workshop will reflect upon both the promise and the limits of international law in delivering medicines justice in times of crisis and beyond, identifying pathways for accountability and more equitable global health governance.

- Pedro A. Villarreal, Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs  
Setting the Scene: Distributive Medicines Justice in Pandemics and the Future of Global Health Law
- Lisa Forman, Professor, University of Toronto  
Tracing the evolution of the pandemic treaty's provisions on equitable access to health products
- Pramiti Parwani, PhD Candidate, University of Amsterdam / Consultant, Pharmaceutical Accountability Foundation  
Medicines Justice at the WTO: How Far Does Systematic Integration Support a Human-Rights Approach?
- Judit Rius Sanjuan, senior consultant

## Workshop 9 - Strategic legal & benchmarking action for the access to medicines

### Stream: International law & accountability

Chair: Pedro A. Villarreal, Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

Rapporteur: Sheila Varadan, Assistant Professor, Leiden University

Advancing global medicines justice from a human rights perspective requires engaging multiple legal regimes, particularly where formal accountability mechanisms are lacking. This workshop explores how human rights, tort and competition law can be engaged to address structural inequalities in access to medicines, drawing on both legal analysis and real-world strategic litigation. Speakers will examine the potential and limits of these regimes in supporting or hindering access. The workshop also considers benchmarking as an alternative accountability tool to assess pharmaceutical companies' human rights responsibilities. While benchmarking can raise transparency and awareness, its impact is constrained by its voluntary, non-binding nature, reliance on self-reporting, and subjectivity in evaluation. The discussion will critically assess how benchmarking may complement legal strategies, especially where state enforcement is weak or absent, and explore its potential to shape corporate behavior and promote medicines justice. This workshop is organised by the Pharmaceutical Accountability Foundation.

- Fatima Hassan, Founder/Director, Health Justice Initiative  
Using strategic litigation for health justice in South Africa
- Rosalind Turkie, Consultant, Pharmaceutical Accountability Foundation  
The Interaction of Tort Law with International Human Rights Law to Support Medicines Justice
- Tais Ruiz Palacios, alumni, Utrecht University  
What role do human rights play in competition law assessments?
- Yara de Koning, Researcher, Pharmaceutical Accountability Foundation  
Fair Pharma Cancer Scorecard: Benchmarking access to cancer medicines based on human rights law

## Workshop 10 - Past and future of IP protection and TRIPS Flexibilities for access to medicines

**Stream: International law & accountability**

Chair: Ellen 't Hoen, Director, Medicines Law & Policy

Rapporteur: Sheila Varadan, Assistant Professor, Leiden University

Global shifts in disease burden, political pressures, and financing challenges threaten access to innovative medicines. This workshop examines how law and policy shape innovation and access through patent disclosures, voluntary licensing, and TRIPS flexibilities. First, it explores compliance with the U.S. Bayh-Dole Act by analysing why National Institute of Health grantees sometimes disclose government funding in patents late, raising concerns for accountability and public safeguards. Next, it considers whether the WHO Pandemic Agreement's reliance on voluntary technology transfer is realistic by assessing how publicly funded UK universities engaged with voluntary access mechanisms during COVID-19. The workshop then reviews global trends in the use of TRIPS flexibilities—compulsory licensing and the Least Developed Countries pharmaceutical transition measure—to expand access to lower-cost generics between 2001 and 2024. Finally, the Malaysian case on developing a fixed-dose sofosbuvir combination to combat hepatitis C highlights how strategic use of IP flexibilities can align pharmaceutical innovation with public health.

- Ayolola Eni-Olotu, Physician, University Hospitals of Liverpool Group / Researcher, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines Europe

Limits to Voluntary Technology Transfer: Lessons from UK Universities during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Luis Gil Abinader, Law and Policy Researcher, Georgetown University Law Centre

Late Disclosures of Federal Funding in U.S. Patents

- Montgomery Dunn, Researcher, Medicines Law & Policy

TRIPS Flexibilities: A comprehensive overview of their use in the procurement and supply of medicines 2001-2024

- Pascale Boulet, Intellectual Property and Access Leader, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative

## Workshop 11- Is the EU Regulation on HTA Enhancing Equitable Access to Innovative Medicines in Europe? A EuroGCT workshop

Stream: Selecting, pricing and reimbursing medicines

Chair: Aurélie Mahalatchimy, CNRS Researcher, Aix Marseille University

Rapporteur: Christine Leopold, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University

This workshop addresses the challenges of ensuring patient access to Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs) in the EU, where high costs and national-level reimbursement decisions create inequalities despite centralised marketing authorisation. Product withdrawals have occurred due to commercial reasons. Key obstacles include diverse Health Technology Assessment (HTA) methods and varying tolerance for uncertainty. The 2021 EU HTA regulation, effective January 2025 for ATMPs and cancer medicines, aims to support Member States in taking timely and evidenced-based decisions for patients' access to health technologies. The workshop explores opportunities and challenges of implementing HTA at both European and National levels. This workshop is part of the Regulatory Engagement Strategy of the European project [EuroGCT](#) (European Consortium for Communicating Gene and Cell Therapy Information), which aims to promote exchanges between stakeholders and regulators.

- Niklas Hedberg, co-chair of the HTA Coordination Group, and Swedish HTA body (Tandvårds- Och Läkemedelsförmånsverket)  
European regulation on HTA: where do we stand?
- Lisette Vernooij, Senior Advisor on European clinical trial assessments, Dutch National Health Care Institute (Zorginstituut Nederland)  
Equitable access to ATMPs in the Netherlands: Impact of the EU regulation on HTA and the BENELUXA initiative
- Jakob Wested, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen  
Spin-off, Spin-in, or Spin-around: three potential HTA scenarios for patients' access to ATMPs developed in academia

## Workshop 12 - Negotiating just pharmaceutical prices & reimbursement in Europe

**Stream: Selecting, pricing and reimbursing medicines**

Chair: Sabrina Wimmer, PhD Candidate in Health Policy & Health Economics, London School of Economics

Rapporteur: Kaitlin Mara, independent journalist

This workshop examines how countries can achieve fair and sustainable pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement. Speakers will explore strategies to address rising medicine costs, define fair price components, and strengthen transparency. A legal-economic framework based on Germany's AMNOG (Pharmaceuticals Market Reorganisation Act) reforms illustrates how regulation can proactively shape equitable access. Other talks highlight WHO/Europe's Access to Novel Medicines Platform, which fosters collaboration between Member States and stakeholders to improve affordability of novel and high-cost medicines, and the Dutch campaign for transparency in R&D subsidies and pricing. The final talk illustrates how the Netherlands takes steps to balance solidarity-based healthcare with sustainable spending and calls for coordinated European action to ensure socially acceptable and equitable access. Together, these contributions explore how law, policy, and transparency can build fair, effective pricing systems that maximize health gains and maintain public trust in a globalized medicines market.

- Michael Thiede, Head of Research, Scientific Institute of the AOK  
Pharmaceutical Pricing and the Economics of the Common Good: Legal and Policy Pathways to Equitable Access
- Joost Enzing, Coordinator of the research network HTA, Zorginstituut Nederland & Margot Overgaag-van Hemert, Policy Maker, Dutch Healthcare Authority (NZa)  
Towards societally acceptable prices for expensive medicines in the Netherlands
- Ella Weggen, Senior Global Health Expert, Wemos  
Advancing Transparency in Medicine Pricing: The Dutch experience
- Christine Leopold, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University & WHO Collaborating Centre  
Bridging Innovation and Access: The WHO/Europe Novel Medicines Platform

## Workshop 13 - WHO's essential medicines policies and their global impact

**Stream: Selecting, pricing and reimbursing medicines**

Chair: Thiru Balasubramaniam, Geneva Representative, Knowledge Ecology International

Rapporteur: Christine Leopold, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University

This workshop examines how essential medicines policies can better advance equitable access as a human right. It asks: how can essential medicines frameworks—such as lists and national pharmaceutical policies—be leveraged nationally and globally in line with international human rights law? The discussion considers the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and its need to adapt to increasingly complex therapies, including high-cost treatments, biologics, and rare disease medicines. The workshop will compare national essential medicines lists and selection processes with WHO guidance. Then, using Armenia as an example, this workshop illustrates how shortages and high costs highlight the need for stronger national and global frameworks. The workshop further explores the WHO's evolving role amid shifting global health dynamics, including new treaties and public–private partnerships that pose both challenges and opportunities for leadership on equitable access and rational use. Speakers and participants will discuss how essential medicines frameworks can remain effective and responsive to future policy shifts.

- Navindra Persaud, Associate Professor, University of Toronto / Staff Physician, St. Michael's Hospital  
Should we compare national essential medicines lists?
- Arianna Schouten, Senior Researcher, Knowledge Ecology International  
Rare Disease Medicines on the WHO Essential Medicines List
- Amitabha Sarkar, Public Health Fellow, Tampere University  
WHO, global policies on medicines, and interlinkages with human rights
- Irina Kazaryan, Associate Professor / Chairperson, Yerevan State Medical University, Armenia / Drug Utilization Research Group NGO, Armenia  
Implementation of Essential Medicines Concept in Armenia: Progress and Challenge
- Lorenzo Moja, Scientist, World Health Organization  
How the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines is Evolving: Adapting to Rapid Changes in Science, Manufacturing, and Global Health Needs

## Workshop 14 - Building Bridges: EU's International Partnerships for Pandemic Preparedness

**Stream: EU in global access to medicines**

Chair: Chris Pell, Senior Researcher, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development

Rapporteur: Tammy Hervey, Professor, City St. George's University of London

This workshop brings together speakers from legal academia, biomedical research consortia and civil society organizations to critically assess various EU international partnerships and collaborations, examining whether current EU initiatives meaningfully advance medicines justice or risk entrenching global asymmetries. Covering a range from the EU-funded transnational public-private research consortiums, EU-supported pharmaceutical production, and unidirectional regulatory reliance on European regulatory bodies, this workshop aims to unpack what role the EU should play in ensuring that pandemic preparedness efforts for product development, regulation and production are truly equitable, not just efficient? Through these discussions, the workshop will reflect on how EU collaborations can be reimagined to align with the principles of medicines justice in future health crises.

- Elly van Riet, Project Coordinator, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development  
Global Medicines Justice Through Collaboration? Reflections on EU-India Partnerships for Influenza Vaccines
- Pramiti Parwani, PhD Candidate, University of Amsterdam / Consultant, Pharmaceutical Accountability Foundation  
Trust Without Borders: Outreach Activities by European Regulatory Bodies and their Impact on Medicines Justice in LMICs
- Julia Hochberger, Global Health Policy Expert, Wemos  
Impact of EU Initiatives on Strengthening Local Pharmaceutical Production Beyond its Borders
- Leónidas Leiva, Technology Transfer and IP Expert, Team Europe Support Structure MAV+  
Team Europe Support Structure on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies

## Workshop 15 - Sanctions, Aid, and Access: Navigating Global Power and Medicines Justice in Crisis Settings

### Stream: EU in global access to medicines

Chair: Raffaella Ravinetto, Professor, Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp

Rapporteur: Tammy Hervey, Professor, City St. George's University of London

This workshop explores how international policies, sanctions, and humanitarian practices shape access to medicines in crisis-affected regions and discusses what lessons can help governments and humanitarian actors build resilient capacity to ensure quality-assured essential medicines in a cost-effective and rights-based way. This workshop first critically examines the EU's role in the Southern Neighborhood, highlighting how its development aid can bolster health systems yet also undermine them when misaligned or overshadowed by foreign policy decisions such as sanctions and trade agreements with human rights-violating states. Then, this workshop explores in greater detail how sanctions, though intended to protect human rights, often disrupt pharmaceutical supply chains, with emerging evidence from Syria showing devastating impacts on access to medicines. Next, this workshop analyses the case of Cuba and how decades-long US sanctions obstruct vaccine access, revealing structural barriers across the vaccine life cycle. Finally, this workshop explores the ethical dilemmas humanitarian organisations face when forced to choose between product quality and patient care during urgent medical stock-outs.

- Majd Alshoufi, Junior Researcher, University of Amsterdam  
Between Aid and Apathy: The EU's Conflicted Role in Southern Neighbourhood Health and Medicines
- Saleh Aljadeeah, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp  
Sanctions and Access to Essential Medicines: How to Protect Without Harming?
- Josefine Petrick, Policy Fellow, Sanctions Relief Initiative, Bourse & Bazaar Foundation  
Blockades and Breakthroughs: US Sanctions and the Struggle for Vaccine Access in Cuba
- Kate Enright, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Western Ontario  
No Stock, High Stakes Problems: perspectives on the ethics of sourcing medical products of uncertain quality for humanitarian health projects during urgent stock-outs