Hungary
International Pharmaceutical EPR Program Fact Sheet

Organizing Body: Recyclomed (http://www.recyclomed.hu/index.php) is a non-profit organization, organized by pharmaceutical manufacturers.¹

Program Description: Recyclomed was founded by the pharmaceutical industry in 2003 to manage packaging waste. In 2005, Hungarian legislation mandated a national system for household pharmaceutical waste collection and disposal.¹ Recyclomed, is funded by drug manufacturers.² In 2011, Recyclomed collected pharmaceutical waste at 4,080 locations.²

Funding:
- Funded entirely by pharmaceutical manufacturers², as a percentage of their sales proportion in the previous year¹
- In 2005, Recyclomed received communication and financial support from the Hungarian Government for communication activities, but later on the resources for these activities were reduced¹

Program Costs: In 2012, USD $692,170 (EUR €580,000)³,⁴, or $1.41 per lb/year. Assuming the 2011 data for number of collection locations, ~$170 per pharmacy/year

Program Chronology:
- 2003: Recyclomed founded to deal with industry’s packaging waste¹
- 2005: National system coordinated by Recyclomed, whose initial goal was to recycle 330-550 tons (660,000-1,100,000 lbs.) of waste per year¹

Collection Locations:
- Participation of pharmacies is mandatory and sites selling non-prescribed medicines are also mandated to participate⁵
- 2011: 4,080 collection locations.⁵ Population of Hungary year 2011: 9,971,727 inhabitants⁶

⁵ “Unused Pharmaceuticals Where Do they End Up?”, 14, 15.

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Results: From 2007-12 the following amount of pharmaceutical waste was collected per year.7*

- 2007: **195 tons** (390,000 lbs) collected
- 2008: **191 tons** (382,000 lbs) collected
- 2009: **192 tons** (384,000 lbs) collected
- 2010: **216 tons** (432,000 lbs) collected
- 2011: **227 tons** (454,000 lbs) collected
- 2012: **246 tons** (492,000 lbs) collected

- The amount has steadily been increasing by 6-7% each year7
- Awareness: More than half (63) of the 100 individuals interviewed in Budapest were aware of the collection scheme’s existence7
- Practical experience has shown that citizens only dispose of pharmaceutical waste in containers7

*CPSC gathered data from Health Care Without Harm, but does not know how it was obtained.

Recyclomed disposal container ([http://www.szelektiv.hu](http://www.szelektiv.hu))

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7 "Unused Pharmaceuticals Where Do they End Up?", 14, 15.