

## **Review of Activities of Estonian Pharmacies in 2004**

On 1 January 2004, there were 308 retail pharmacies (as well as 167 branch pharmacies and retail outlets), 27 hospital pharmacies (as well as five structural units) and 25 veterinary pharmacies (as well as three structural units) in Estonia. Four retail pharmacies went into liquidation and 14 new retail pharmacies were established during the year.

At the end of 2004, there were 317 retail pharmacies together with 163 branch pharmacies and retail outlets in Estonia; one-fourth of the main pharmacies were located in Tallinn. On an average, there was one retail point of sale of medicinal products per 2814 people in Estonia in 2004.

The total turnover of all the pharmacies in 2004 was EUR 180.1 million. Of that sum, the turnover of retail pharmacies constituted 82% or EUR 148.08 million, that of hospital pharmacies constituted 17% or EUR 30.23 million, and the veterinary pharmacies accounted for the smallest share – EUR 1.78 million or less than 1%.

Compared to the results of the year 2003, the total turnover of retail pharmacies increased by 19% in 2004, that of hospital pharmacies by 14% that of veterinary pharmacies by 22%.

The turnover of medicinal products was EUR 140.13 or 78% of the total turnover of the pharmacies.

The average turnover of a retail pharmacy was EUR 0.48 million in 2004. A year before, it was EUR 0.41 million. In 2004, the difference in annual turnovers of the smallest and the biggest retail pharmacies was huge (500 times).

A little more than a half of the retail pharmacies prepared some of their medicinal products themselves in 2004.

At the end of 2004, Estonian retail pharmacies employed 777 registered pharmacists, 551 assistant pharmacists and 514 people in other positions. On the average, a retail pharmacy (branch pharmacies and retail outlets included) employs 3.8 people (1.6 registered pharmacists, 1.1 pharmaceutical assistants and 1.1 people in other positions).

Most of the personnel of the hospital pharmacies are registered pharmacists. In 2004, the hospital pharmacies employed 68 registered pharmacists, 32 assistant pharmacists and 39 people in other positions. On the average, a hospital pharmacy (branch pharmacies included) employs 4.5 people and of those, 2.2 registered pharmacists, 1 assistant pharmacist and 1.3 people in other positions.