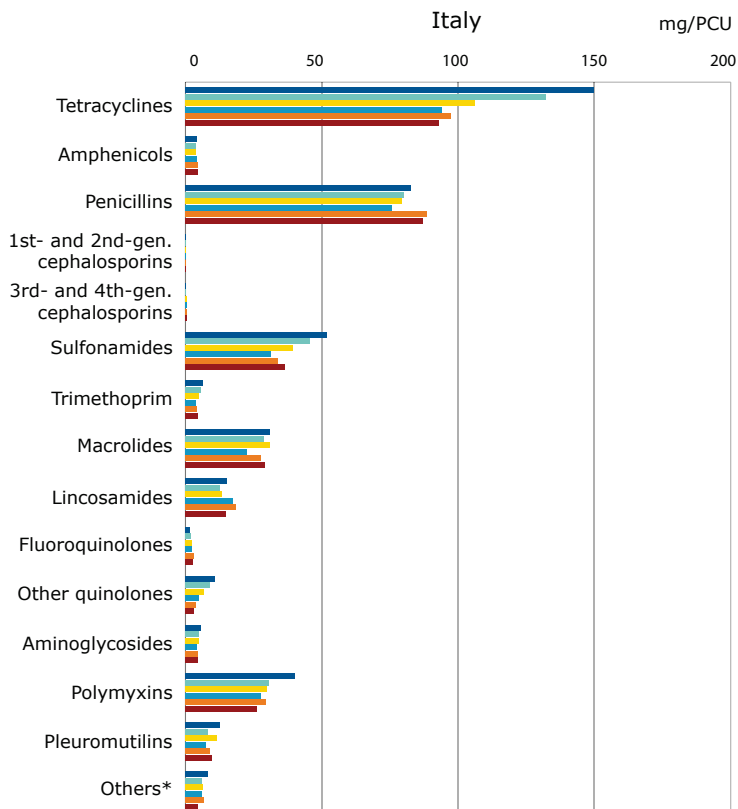


Italy

Figure 89. Sales (mg/PCU) by antimicrobial class in Italy, from 2010 to 2015



*Other antibacterials (classified as such in the ATCvet system).

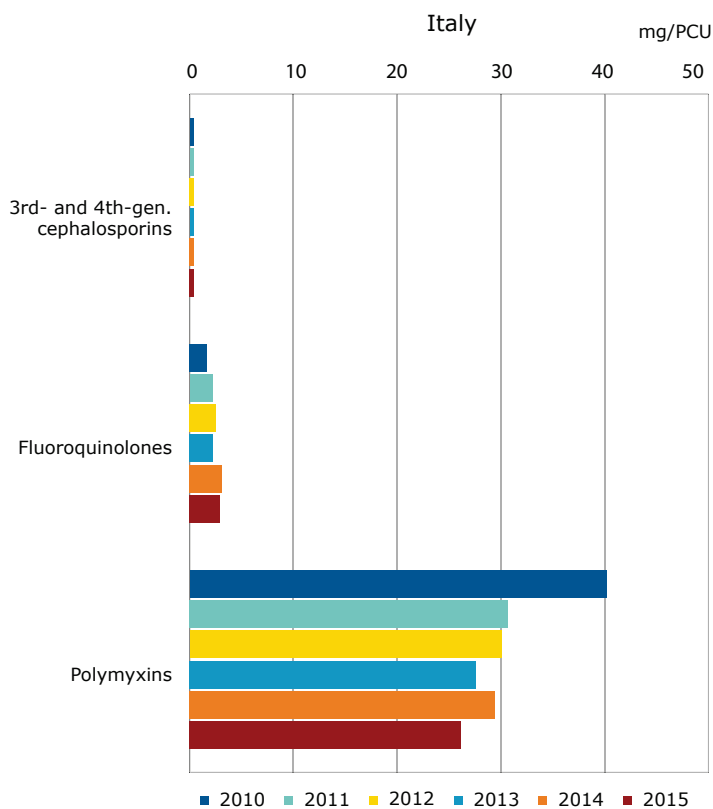
A reduction in the consumption of antimicrobials was observed in 2015, with a 24% drop in sales (mg/PCU) during the period 2010-2015. This fall appears to be mainly correlated with a reduction in sales of tetracyclines, sulphonamides and polymyxins. The most-sold antimicrobial classes were tetracyclines and penicillins, accounting for 29% and 27% of total sales in 2015.

Italy initiated a process of the complete digitalisation of data collection for veterinary medicines sales and use, including data on prescription, distribution and administration. This project was launched in 2015 as an experiment in three of 20 Italian administrative-geographical areas (regions). As part of the experiment, training was provided for veterinarians, farmers and pharmacists. Trained professionals helped to disseminate the knowledge and put the digitalisation of monitoring veterinary drugs sales and use in practice nationwide. This system is based on the direct collection of sales and use data which enables improvements in data quality.

Furthermore, the development of a separate computerised and integrated monitoring system of veterinary data collection is ongoing. This system allows various aspects of the veterinary data to be collected and analysed, such as animal health and welfare, injuries and diseases at slaughterhouses, as well as various levels of veterinary medicine consumption (per animal category, active ingredient, therapy target). The system enables the identification of those farms which may be exposed to the risk of developing and spreading resistant bacteria. Consequently, farms can be classified according to the level of risk. Such an approach represents a starting point for producing a manual with instructions on how to improve antimicrobial use and thus how to improve animal health, taking into consideration as many particularities and needs as possible.

In 2016, guidelines for the management of livestock in order to reduce the quantity of antibiotics prescriptions and prevent the risk of resistance via biosecurity, hygiene and animal welfare indicators were drafted in 2015 and submitted to the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products Surveillance.

Figure 90. Sales (mg/PCU) of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and polymyxins in Italy, from 2010 to 2015



Sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins were relatively stable during the period 2010 to 2015, accounting for approximately 0.1% of total sales each year. In 2015, the sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins were 0.40 mg/PCU, while the average figure for 25 countries was 0.24 mg/PCU in the same year (Figure 48).

In 2015, sales of fluoroquinolones were 2.90 mg/PCU which is close to the average sales for the 25 countries in that year (2.75 mg/PCU). This sub-class accounted for 0.4% of total sales in 2010, while in 2015, the corresponding figure was 0.9%.

Sales of polymyxins fell by 35% in 2015 compared to sales in 2010. In 2015, sales of polymyxins in Italy were 26.13 mg/PCU, while average sales for the 25 countries were 9.54 mg/PCU in the same year (Figure 48). This sub-class represented 8% of total sales in 2015.