

A disease that affects no more than **1 in 2,000** people is considered a rare or orphan disease in the EU

Orphan Diseases

In Germany, about

4 million

people suffer from an orphan disease.

There are over

6,000

known orphan diseases.

More than

230

medicinal products for orphan diseases have been authorised in the EU to date.

- Orphan diseases include diseases such as haemophilia A and B, spinal muscular atrophy, all types of leukaemia.
- Finding an effective treatment for a rare disease can be very difficult.
- The EU provides incentives (e.g. post-authorisation market exclusivity) for pharmaceutical companies to research and develop medicines that would not otherwise be developed for orphan disease patients.
- The Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) at the EMA examines applications for designation as an orphan medicinal product received from pharmaceutical companies. The Paul-Ehrlich-Institut is an active advisor in the process of examining applications for biomedicines.

