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Newsletter Transplant 2023 – Informing the future of transplantation

A new edition of *Newsletter Transplant* has just been published, presenting data on donation and transplantation activities worldwide in 2022.

This year's report covers a record 86 countries. It is produced annually thanks to the invaluable support of the Spanish Organización Nacional de Trasplantes (ONT), which co-ordinates the collection, compilation and analysis of international data annually through a vast network of health authorities and officially designated individuals involved in donation and transplantation activities. *Newsletter Transplant* is prepared under the aegis of the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO) of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & Healthcare (EDQM)/Council of Europe. It is part of the CD-P-TO's efforts to benchmark donation and transplantation programmes, which will contribute to increasing organ availability and improving the effectiveness of transplantation systems, and thus to securing the fundamental human right of access to good quality healthcare.

In 2022, almost 40 000 organ transplants were performed in over 1 000 transplantation centres in Council of Europe member states, an increase of 6% over 2021. These transplantations were made possible by over 20 000 deceased or living organ, tissue and/or cell donors. The most frequent types of transplantations were kidney (64%), liver (25%) and heart (6%) transplants.

On the flip side, almost 48 000 new patients were registered on waiting lists for transplantation in 2022, or nearly six new patients added every hour. Almost 7 300 people died while on a waiting list last year, or an average of 19 patients every day.

As the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be receding overall, the data still indicates a rebound effect in global transplant activities, with an increase of 9% over 2022, compared to 13% in the previous report.

Petra Doerr, EDQM Director, commended the dedication of healthcare professionals, and donors and their families alike. She further commented, "If the full benefits of modern transplantation techniques – which have already saved and improved so many thousands of lives over the years – are ever to be achieved, the worrying situation of growing waiting lists must be addressed. The data sends a clear message: the future of too many patients depends on obtaining a transplantable organ. Too many patients are suffering for too long. Viable solutions exist to alleviate the issue and awareness is crucial to putting them into practice." She then recalled that a single donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and save or improve up to 100 lives through tissue donation. Solidarity with those in critical need of a transplant is crucial to improving the situation, and it is our shared responsibility to make our wishes on organ, tissue and cell donation known to our close contacts, posthumously or during our lifetime.

Beatriz Domínguez-Gil, ONT director, added: "Without doubt, monitoring of practices in donation and transplantation of substances of human origin in member states is essential for the sake of transparency and international benchmarking. This is the main aim of the *Newsletter Transplant* and the reason it has become an international reference".

In addition to extensive data, the *Newsletter Transplant 2023* also reproduces significant legal instruments adopted during the year:

- Committee of Ministers [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)7](#) on establishing national harmonised organ transplant registries with a view to facilitating international data sharing.
- United Nations [Resolution A/RES/77/236](#) – Strengthening and promoting effective measures and international cooperation on organ donation and transplantation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs

Further information

Data collected is hosted by the Global Observatory on Organ Donation and Transplantation (www.transplant-observatory.org/), developed and maintained by the ONT.

Find out more about European Donation Day (EDD) – the European day for organ, tissue and cell donation and transplantation at www.edqm.eu/en/edd.

Learn more about the work of the EDQM and the CD-P-TO in the field of organ donation and transplantation at <https://go.edqm.eu/CDPTO>.

The *Newsletter Transplant* can be downloaded for free at <https://go.edqm.eu/NLTransplant>. Paper copies can be ordered through the EDQM WebStore: <https://store.edqm.eu/index.html>.

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Note for the Editor: Further information is available on the internet site www.edqm.eu.

The EDQM is a leading organisation that protects public health by enabling the development, supporting the implementation and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. Its standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark worldwide. The European Pharmacopoeia is legally binding in member states.¹ The EDQM also develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.

1. The [European Pharmacopoeia Commission](#) comprises 40 members: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union.