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EDQM to play key role in strengthening African medicines regulation

The [European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare](#) (EDQM), Council of Europe, is proud to announce its participation in a major European Union (EU) initiative aimed at strengthening regulatory systems for medicines across Sub-Saharan Africa. The EDQM, as part of a grant agreement just signed with the European Medicines Agency (EMA), will contribute its internationally recognised expertise in co-ordinating laboratory networks and organising programmes for official medicines control laboratories (OMCLs).

This initiative, part of the European Commission's "[Team Europe Initiatives](#)", supports the establishment of a continental regulatory model based on reliance, a transformative approach to regulatory co-operation and efficiency. The EDQM's role will focus on two strategic priorities:

1. increasing the capacity and strengthening the capability and competency of the African Medicines Quality Forum (AMQF) and its Networks of African Reliance Laboratories (NARLs);
2. enhancing the capacity, capability and competency of individual AMQF National Quality Control Laboratories (NQCLs) to establish, adapt and maintain state-of-the-art quality systems and procedures that are fit for purpose – aligned with their specific duties and supportive of their operational needs.

The EMA's decision to entrust the EDQM with key components of this project underscores the EDQM's proven track record in managing international laboratory networks, such as the [General European Network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories](#) (GEON). It also highlights the EDQM's strategic objective to expand its global outreach and impact.

Petra Doerr, EDQM Director, declared on this occasion, "This initiative reflects the EDQM's commitment to global collaboration and regulatory excellence. By sharing our expertise and supporting the development of robust quality control systems, we are proud to contribute to the operationalisation of the African Medicines Agency and the broader goal of strengthening medicines regulation across Africa."

Ms Chimwemwe Chamdimba, Head of the African Medicines Regulation Harmonization (AMRH) Programme, commented, "The EDQM's support to strengthen national quality control laboratories and the African Medicines Quality Forum is a monumental investment in building a strong and sustainable regulatory ecosystem. As AMRH, we welcome the EDQM's partnership in creating a harmonised and efficient regulatory framework across the continent. Their expertise in co-ordinating international laboratory networks will be invaluable as we work together to ensure that all Africans have access to safe, effective and high-quality medicines."

This initiative marks a significant step forward in global regulatory co-operation and reflects the EDQM's commitment to promoting access to safe and effective, high-quality medicines worldwide. By leveraging its expertise and networks, the EDQM will work with the AMA to help build a robust and sustainable regulatory framework across Africa, contributing to improved public health outcomes and regulatory resilience.

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

The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM) is a structural part of the Council of Europe. It traces its origins in the statute to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia, opened for signature in 1964. Today, 39 member states of the Council of Europe have ratified the convention and more than 30 countries from all over the world participate in the EDQM activities as observers. The EDQM promotes and protects human and animal health by developing standards and supporting their implementation. It is active in four major policy areas: medicines, pharmaceutical care, substances of human origin and consumer health. EDQM staff represent almost 30 different nationalities and its work is supported by a network of nearly 2 000 experts from all over the world.

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