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Newsletter Transplant 2025 – Transparency, ethical governance and equitable access

A new edition of *Newsletter Transplant* has just been published, presenting data on organ donation and transplantation activities worldwide in 2024. This year's report covers a record 92 countries. Organ transplantation activities **increased globally by 2% in 2024**, driven primarily by a rise in donation after the circulatory determination of death. Nearly 30% of deceased donors were declared dead by circulatory criteria, marking a shift in global practices.

Newsletter Transplant 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. 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 a co-ordinated effort to benchmark donation and transplantation programmes with a view to increasing organ availability and improving the effectiveness of transplantation systems.

Main figures for Council of Europe member states

- **44 021 organ transplants** were performed in **1 023 transplantation centres**;
- **13 048 deceased and 9 736 living donors** made these organ transplants possible;
- the most frequent types of organ transplants were:
 - **kidney** (27 017, or **61%** of total transplants),
 - **liver** (11 019, or **25%** of total transplants),
 - **heart** (2 815, or **6%** of total transplants) and
 - **lung** (2 462, or **6%** of total transplants).

However:

- **94 644 patients** were awaiting an organ transplant at the end of 2024;
- in total, **8 591 people died while on a waiting list** last year, or an average of **almost 24 patients every day**.

Petra Doerr, Director of the EDQM, stated, "The steady rise in global transplantation activity is a testament to the progress we can achieve through ethical governance and international co-operation. We must continue to build systems that are not only transparent and fair, but also capable of meeting the growing needs of our communities. Organ, tissue and cell donation is not just a medical act – it is a societal commitment to equity, dignity and hope."

Beatriz Domínguez-Gil, Director of the ONT, further noted, "Monitoring donation and transplantation practices internationally is essential to ensure transparency, ethical governance and equitable access. And the *Newsletter Transplant* is one of the most important tools in this effort."

Council of Europe state-of-the-art safety and quality standards

Besides data on donation and transplantation, the Newsletter features a summary of the newly adopted EU Regulation on substances of human origin,¹ which recognises the EDQM's guides as technical benchmarks for quality and safety across member states.

International policy momentum against organ trafficking

This edition of *Newsletter Transplant* also highlights global efforts to combat organ trafficking and promote ethical, transparent transplantation systems, including recent resolutions from the United Nations and the World Health Assembly, and the [Santander Statement from the Global Summit in Transplantation](#).

Further information

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>.

The *Newsletter Transplant* database is connected with other international data-collection projects, including the World Health Organization's [Global Observatory on Organ Donation and Transplantation](#) (GODT), developed and maintained by the ONT. All the Newsletter data can therefore be accessed, analysed and downloaded from the GODT website.

Find out more about European Donation Day (EDD) – the European day for organ, tissue and cell donation – 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>.

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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. Its origins can be found in 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's 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.

1. Regulation (EU) 2024/1938 on standards of quality and safety for substances of human origin intended for human application.