

**5 March 2020, Strasbourg, France**

## **“Meet the World Pharmacopoeias” Symposium**

The EDQM organised the one-day “Meet the World Pharmacopoeias” Symposium on 20 February 2020 at the EDQM premises in Strasbourg, after the [11th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias \(IMWP\)](#), which was also hosted at its premises.

This symposium gave representatives of world pharmacopoeias and stakeholders an opportunity to share experience and exchange on achievements and challenges related to pharmacopoeial convergence and harmonisation. Co-operation between world pharmacopoeias and stakeholders was also discussed.

This symposium brought together 67 representatives of pharmacopoeial and regulatory authorities, as well as of the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders, and was followed remotely by more than 160 participants, from more than 40 countries.

An update on the work of the IMWP, background information on the Good Pharmacopoeial Practices (GPhP) as well as proposed future interactions between the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG) and the IMWP were provided. Pharmacopoeias as well as representatives of the pharmaceutical industry and trade associations discussed the challenges related to pharmacopoeial convergence and harmonisation, as well as ways forward to further strengthen work sharing and co-operation. The feedback received from stakeholders during the symposium provided the IMWP participants with a basis for considering and reflecting on future initiatives and communication strategies.

The European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.) has been involved in the IMWP since 2012, when the IMWP was launched under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO) as a means of bringing together the pharmacopoeias of the world – national, regional and international – to discuss international co-operation and convergence and encourage the exchange of information between the different pharmacopoeias.

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**Note for the Editor:** Further information is available on the internet site <https://www.edqm.eu/>.

Since 2012, the International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias (IMWP) has taken place regularly and is attended by representatives from national, regional and international pharmacopoeias, all committed to working further towards harmonisation and to strengthening the WHO’s role in the development of global standards for the production and testing of medicines.

The EDQM is a leading organisation that protects public health by enabling development, supporting implementation, and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. The European Pharmacopoeia is legally binding in member states<sup>1</sup> and its standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark worldwide.

1. There are 40 members of the [European Pharmacopoeia Commission](#): *Austria, Albania, 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, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union.*

***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 47 member states.***