

**7 October 2022, Strasbourg, France**

## **European Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation 2022 – Become an “influencer for life” and share what’s most precious**

In recent years, great strides have been made in the field of organ, tissue and cell transplantation and human application, making it one of the great medical success stories of modern times. Transplantation is in many cases the only viable treatment for reclaiming essential functions and improving quality of life, for example by restoring patients’ sight or helping them regain mobility. It can also mean the difference between life and death for patients with end-stage organ failure, devastating burn injuries or blood cancers.

The European Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation (EODD) is the opportunity to recall just how important organ, tissue and cell donation and transplantation is. This is also a great time to celebrate both the donors and their families who share what is most precious in life and the health professionals who make organ, tissue and cell transplantation possible. On the flip side, however, we must also remember that the need for donors remains unfulfilled and too many patients on waiting lists die before they can receive an organ transplant.

This is why, once again, on the occasion of EODD, the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM) calls on everyone to consider organ, tissue and cell donation and to discuss the matter with their close family and friends, making their wishes known. This can make a real difference, in more ways than you might imagine. Donation alleviates the suffering of patients on waiting lists and saves lives: one single donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and save or improve more than 100 others through tissue donation.

Celebrations for EODD 2022 will be hosted by Poland and take place on Saturday, 8 October. Mr. Waldemar Kraska, Deputy Minister of Health, will represent the Polish delegation at this much-anticipated event, to be held after a two-year hiatus in public gatherings imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As every year, the EDQM has prepared a social media campaign to support EODD. This year’s campaign invites us to positively influence others’ lives and seeks to recruit “influencers for life”, who take the time to consider organ donation and share what’s most precious. Check out the [EODD 2022 web page](#) and the EDQM Facebook page [@EDQMCouncilofEurope](#), and download the [EODD 2022 social media posters](#) to show your support for the cause!

Since 1996, EODD has contributed to the steady increase in the number of donors in Europe by spreading the message among the general public on the importance of organ, tissue and cell donation, transplantation and human application. EODD is organised in line with the mission of the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO), the steering committee in charge of organ transplantation activities at the EDQM/Council of Europe, which includes raising awareness on organ, tissue and cell donation, transplantation and human application.

The work of the CD-P-TO also focuses on elaborating ethical, quality and safety standards in the field of transplantation, promoting the principle of non-commercialisation of organ, tissue and cell donation, and strengthening measures to avoid trafficking.

- [Find out more about this year's EODD social media campaign](#)
- [Learn more about the work of the EDQM and the CD-P-TO in the field of organ donation and transplantation](#)

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**Note for the Editor:** Further information is available on the internet site [www.edqm.eu](http://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.<sup>1</sup> The EDQM also develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

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.

***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.***