

EUROPEAN  
MEDICINES  
AGENCY

# Regulatory Harmonisation and International Collaboration on Medicines

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XIV Encuentro RedEAMI  
26-28 November 2024, Ciudad de Panamá

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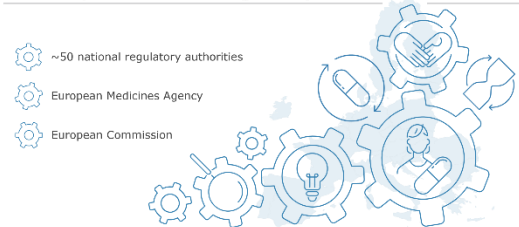
An agency of the European Union



# The European Medicines Regulatory Network: reliance in action

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## The European medicines regulatory network



# EMA in the EU

## Who do we work for?



zdrowie zdravie  
zdravlje Gesundheit  
salud υγεία saúde  
tervist veselība  
salute здраве saħħa  
terveys sundhed  
health hälsa sláinte  
egészség'  
zdravje zdraví  
gezondheid  
sveikata  
santé sănătate

**27** member  
states

**23.9**% of global sales  
of medicines

**24** official  
languages

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## Who we are

**~40000** scientific experts  
from across Europe



**7** Scientific  
Committees

CHMP  
CVMP  
COMP  
HMPC  
PDCO  
CAT  
PRAC

**1** Management  
Board

27 Member States' representatives  
4 Civil society representatives  
2 European Commission representatives  
2 European Parliament representatives



**1995** EMA established

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**~900** staff  
members

# What we do

## Protect human and animal health



Facilitate development and access to medicines



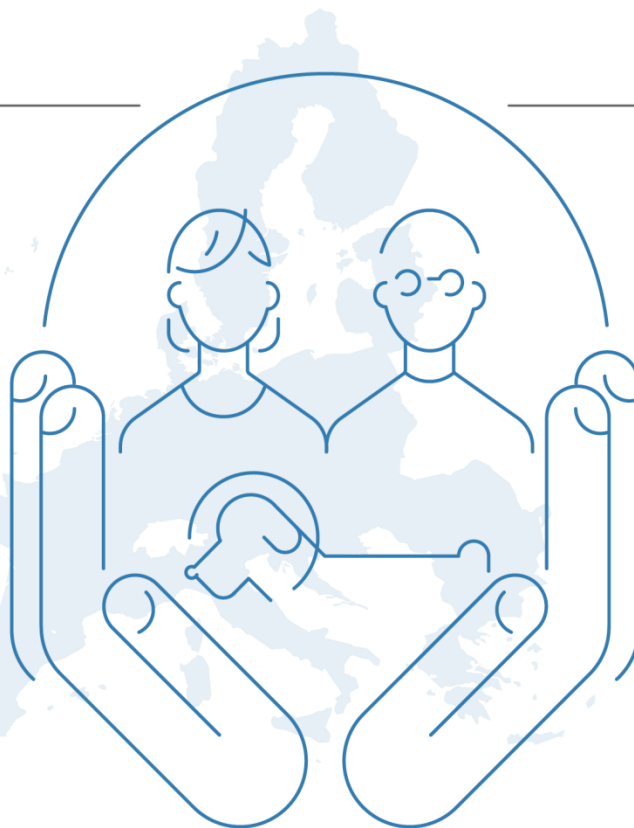
Evaluate applications for marketing authorisation



Monitor the safety of medicines across their life cycle



Provide reliable information on human and veterinary medicines to patients and healthcare professionals



# The European medicines regulatory network



~50 national regulatory authorities



European Medicines Agency



European Commission

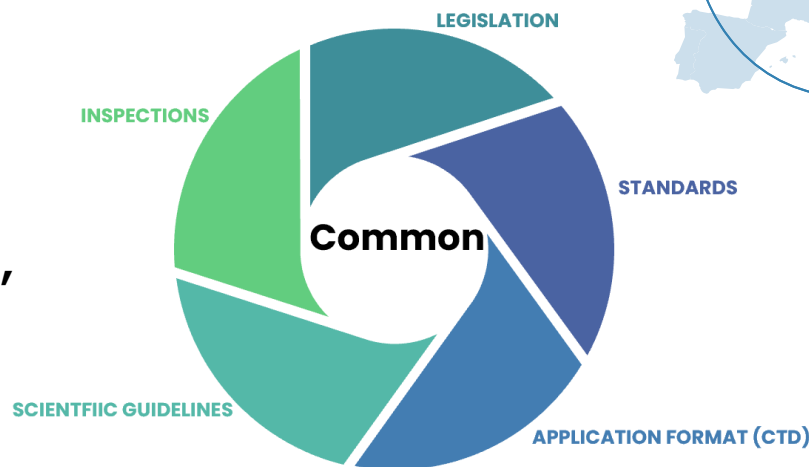


# Reliance in action: European medicines regulatory network

An effective and efficient way of regulating medicines based on full transparency, **reliance, work-sharing and recognition**.

All European authorisation pathways based on **single assessment**, that can be used as a basis for reliance by another agency.

Single assessment and single market is possible thanks to **common legislation, common rules and common dossier requirements**.



# EMA: Promoting International Collaboration

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# EMA in the global environment

Engagement and exchange with international regulatory authorities is part of EMA's daily work.

International collaboration is key to:

- **Avoid duplication** of work
- **Release scarce resources** for more critical areas
- **Facilitate alignment** of regulatory approaches between international authorities
- **Speed up access** to new and/or affordable medicines
- **Support regulators** outside the EU who may **lack resources** and/or specific competences

# Mechanisms for international collaboration



## Bilateral relations



International Liaison Officers

Confidentiality Arrangements (CA)

Ad Hoc CA

Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA)

Clusters



## Multilateral relations



OPEN



IPA  
project



EU-M4all



IPRP  
International Pharmaceutical  
Regulators Programme



SRA CRP

AMA  
project



International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements  
for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products

## Bilateral International cooperation at EMA

- We talk regularly, on a daily basis, with other Regulatory Authorities (in particular Regulators with CoA)
- All divisions/departments are involved
- **~80% of all products** going through EMA committees have some discussion at international level
- Growing interactions through multilateral 'Clusters'



# Overview of EMA / US FDA collaboration mechanisms

Confidentiality arrangement (2003)

EU-US MRA  
(2017, vet in  
2023)

Clusters  
(currently 34,  
some multilateral)

Ad hoc  
collaboration and  
exchanges

Parallel scientific  
advice

Fellowships & visits

EMA-US FDA Liaison Programme

# Inspection of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products located in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries outside EU (Mutual Recognition)

The EU has signed international agreements with countries covering mutual recognition of each others GMP Inspections.



- EU recognises outcome of GMP inspections of these authorities and NCA's do not perform inspections in these countries (some caveats apply).
- GMP compliance of sites is checked during Marketing Authorisation application but no inspection by EU NCA (unless caveat applies) and no EU GMP Certificate or Statement of Non-compliance is entered in EUDRAGMDP.

## Benefits for industry

- Fewer duplicative inspections
- Waiving of re-testing upon importation
- Encourage greater international harmonisation

## Benefits for regulators:

- Better use of inspection resources
- Focus on manufacturers of higher risk
- Encourage greater international harmonisation

# EMA assessment reports: a tool for Reliance

## European Public Assessment report includes:

- information about the product
- approved product information
- conditions to the MA
- scientific discussion (based on CHMP assessment report)
- information on the post-authorisation procedures

- EMA publishes information on medicinal products at various stages of their life cycle
- This guidance helps stakeholders know what kind of publications to expect.  
[Guide to information published on human medicines](#)
- Transparency enables many regulatory authorities to rely on EMA's assessment of medicines.



# Opening our Procedures at EMA to Non-EU authorities - OPEN



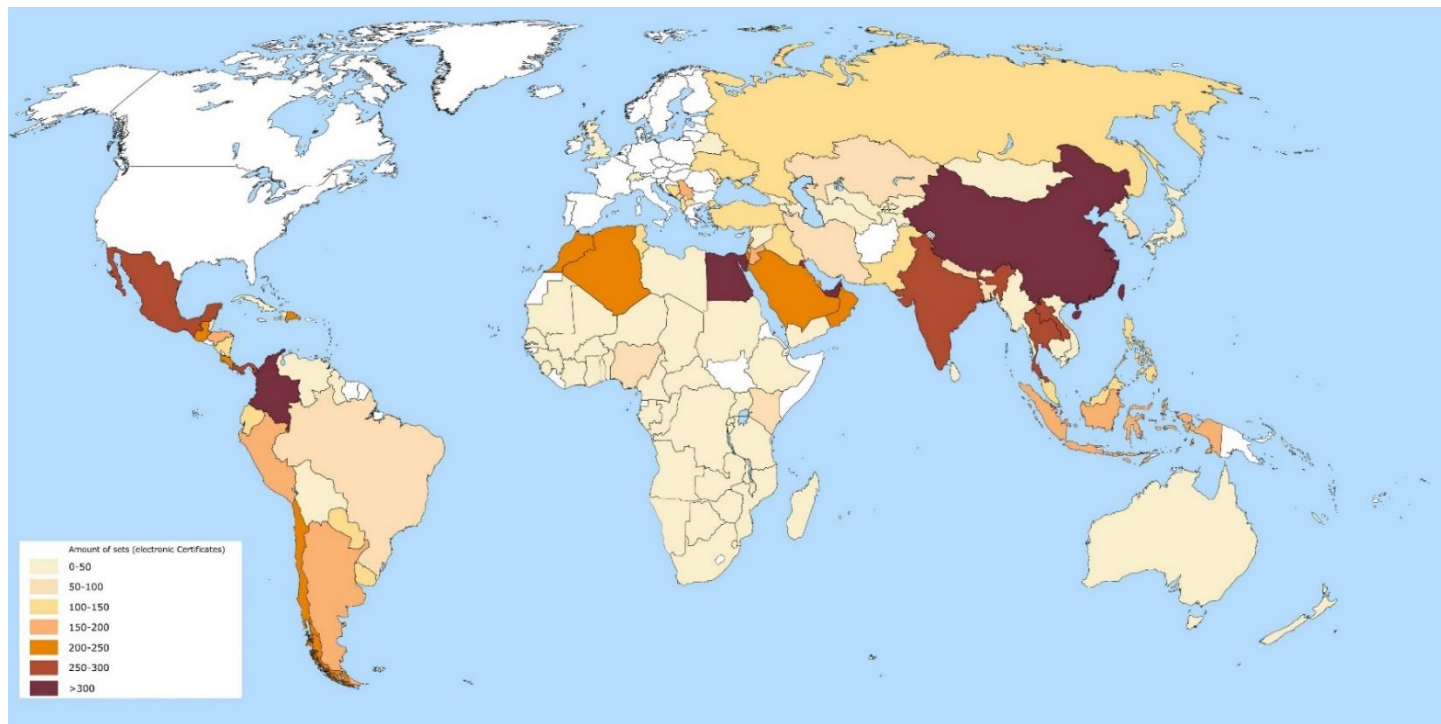
Non-EU experts were invited to attend and contribute to EMA evaluations of COVID-19 products while keeping full scientific and regulatory independence.

*The WHO EUL (Emergency Use Listing) for one vaccine led to more than 100 approvals within 2 weeks based on this EMA collaborative assessment*

After success of COVID-19 pilot, OPEN pathway now expanded to identified areas:

- **Antimicrobial resistance** (AMR) *global threat where progress requires a collective effort for human and veterinary products*
- Priority medicines designated under the **PRIME scheme (temporarily not including ATMPs products)** and PRIME-type products which **address high unmet need** (e.g. Alzheimer, )
- Medicinal products responding to health threats or **public health emergencies**

# EMA and eCPPs: a tool for reliance



(e)Certificates of Pharmaceutical Products provide **assurance**, confirm marketing authorisation **status** of a medicinal product and that is produced in accordance with **GMP** standards.

EMA is probably biggest issuer of (e)CPPs. EMA issues > 11000 certificates each year





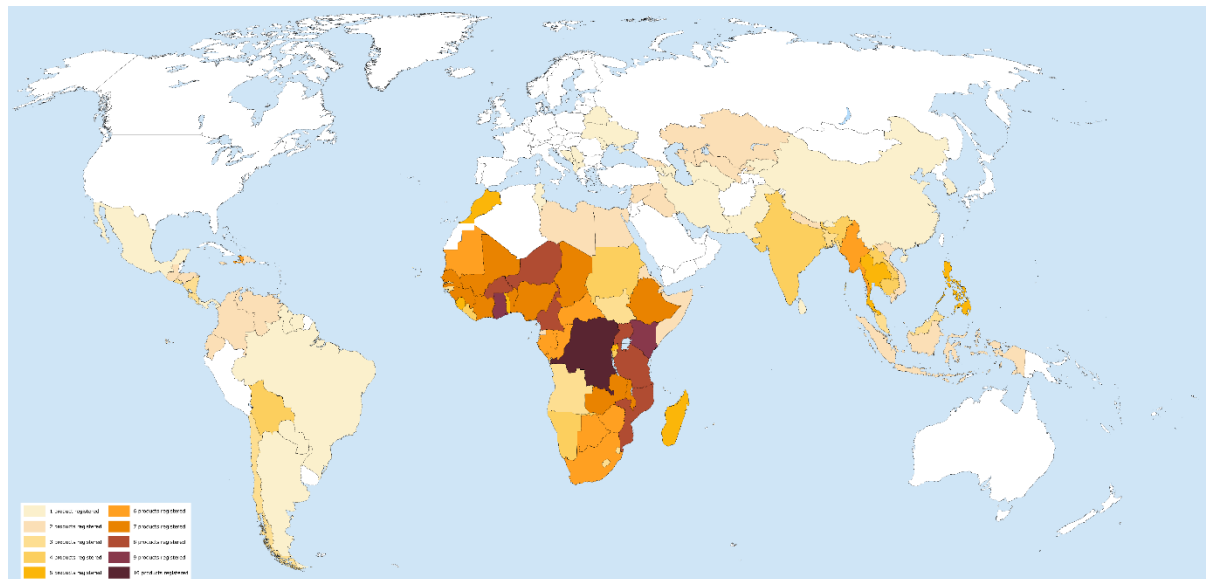
# EU-Medicines for all (EU-M4all)

EMA supports the global regulatory system through collaboration with **WHO** using two main regulatory mechanisms that **facilitate registration and capacity building**:

## 1. EU-M4all (Art. 58):

EMA evaluates and gives an opinion, in cooperation with **WHO**, on medicinal products for human use intended for markets outside of the EU.

Since 2021, this procedure can also be performed in parallel to a centralised procedure to accelerate medicines access at a global scale.



**17 medicines** with  
an EU-M4all  
scientific opinion\*

**115 countries**  
worldwide

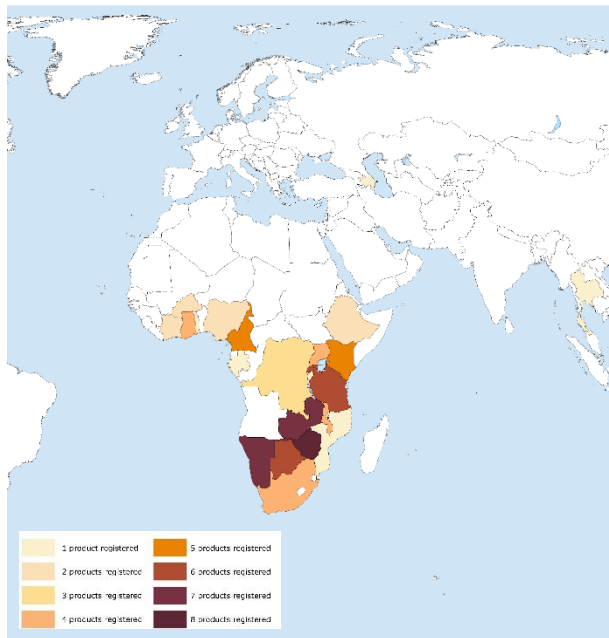
**394 Marketing  
Authorisations**

# WHO Collaborative Registration Procedure (CRP)

## 2. WHO SRA CRP:

Accelerates national approval in countries where resources may be limited, based on the regulatory work already carried out by Stringent Regulatory Authorities (SRAs), such as EMA.

This facilitates earlier access to essential medicines for patients worldwide, improving global public health.



**13 medicines** with EU marketing authorisation

**23 countries**

**83 marketing authorisations via CRP**

# EMA/WHO Post Authorisation Reliance Pilots

- Building a more efficient model for the management of Post Authorisation Commitments
- Accelerating timelines for approval of PAC
- Promoting harmonization of requirements
- Ensuring continuation of supply



# International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities

ICMRA is a voluntary, executive-level strategic coordinating advocacy and leadership entity of regulatory authorities that work together to

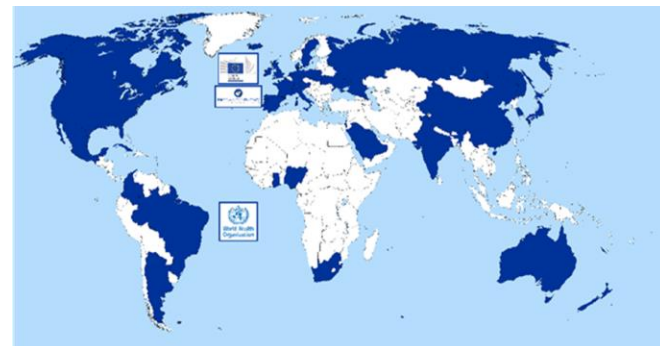
- Address **current and emerging regulatory and safety challenges**
- Provide **strategic direction for common activities**
- Identify areas for **synergies**
- **Leverage** existing initiatives

The **Coalition** supports:

- Enhanced communication and information sharing
- Crisis response
- Regulatory science issues

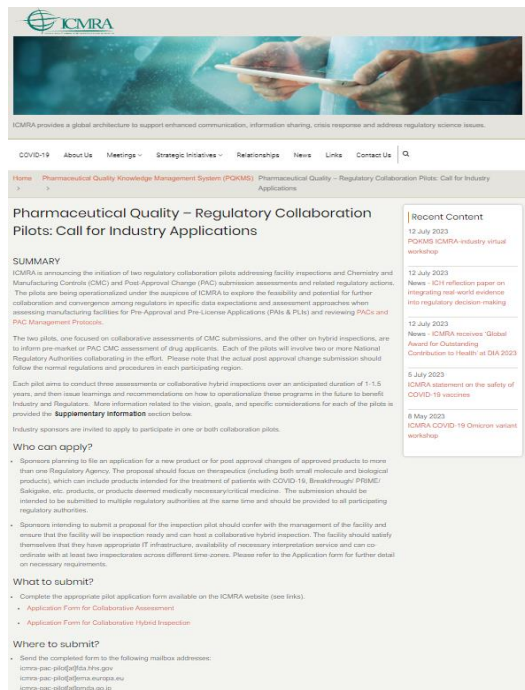
Representation from across all continents and regions

Regular Policy TCs and workshops ensure sharing of information and promote convergence in regulatory approaches



[International Coalition of Medicines  
Regulatory Authorities \(ICMRA\)](#)

# ICMRA - Regulatory collaboration pilots



One focused on collaborative assessments of CMC post-approval submissions, and the other on hybrid inspections to

- ✓ facilitate convergence in assessment practices for key products
- ✓ develop collaborative assessment approaches
- ✓ promote multi-agency GMP inspections

## Multi-agency collaborative assessment of Post Approval Change Management Protocols (PACMP):

- 5 cases have been reviewed collaboratively
- **Same submission** submitted to all Authorities
- Participating Reg Authorities up to 4; Observers up to 6
- Synchronised approval across multiple regulatory regions in 120 d
- Harmonised technical assessments with limited regional specific considerations
- No additional regulatory burden as a result of the pilot

[Pharmaceutical Quality – Regulatory Collaboration Pilots: Call for Industry Applications](#)

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[Medicines Regulatory Authorities \(ICMRA\)](#)

# European Medicines Regulatory Network support to the African Medicines Agency and African Regulators

## EMA's AMA Project

EMA and the EMRN support to the AMA will focus on the following key objectives:

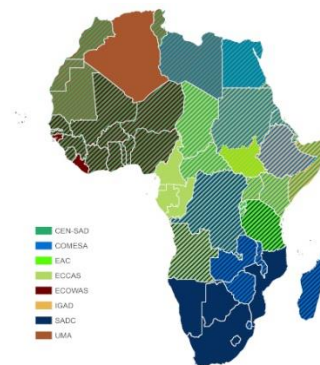
1. Support the operationalisation of AMA and the framework for collaboration among African regulators.
2. Strengthen the scientific and regulatory expertise of the African regulatory network.
3. Align the efforts of the European Medicine Regulatory Network supporting African regulators.

### National Regulatory Agencies (NRAs)



55 countries

### Regional Economic Communities (RECs)



8 regions

### African Medicines Agency (AMA)



1 continent

Support AU **joint assessment and inspection pilots**

Design and deliver **training strategy** for African Regulators

Support **regional assessment and reliance**

# Take away messages

- Drug development is global
- Medicines regulation poses cross-border challenges: regulators need to think and act both locally and globally.
- All regulators face many challenges, including **increased workload** and **limited resources**.
- **Collaborative pathways** and **reliance** avoid duplication of work and promote regulatory harmonisation, capacity building, transparency and trust, and earlier access.
- International collaboration and reliance is a need, not a choice. It brings **benefits for regulators, industry and in particular to patients** who can have access to high quality, safe and effective medicines.

***No one agency, no matter how big, can do it all by themselves***  
***Reliance is a modern 21st Century way of doing regulatory business***



# Thank you for your attention

## Further information

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