

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

Ref: 877a07

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

pressunit@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



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Council of Europe organises training course on combatting counterfeit medicines

Strasbourg, 04.12.2007 - Methods to fight counterfeit medicines and other pharmaceutical crimes and to protect public health will be the central theme of a two-day training course to be held in Strasbourg on 6 and 7 December.

The training programme, organised by the Council of Europe ad hoc group on Counterfeit Medicines, aims at raising awareness and enhancing the capacity of representatives of regulatory and enforcement agencies in preventing, disclosing and investigating counterfeiting of medicines and avoiding harm to the end users of medicines.

"This course is an important effort that complements the Council of Europe's other activities and initiatives in protecting the health of Europeans against the dangers posed by counterfeit medicines through standard setting in public health, quality of medicines and co-operation in the criminal law sphere," said Alexander Vladychenko, Director General of Social Cohesion.

"Raised awareness of the problem and practical skills to combat it combined with co-operation of all the competent authorities in this field, manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacists and governmental and non-governmental organisations is key to effective anti-counterfeiting measures."

The training programme, entitled "Best practices to combat counterfeiting of medicines and to protect public health", includes sessions on public health focused communication, risk assessment, management, and practical procedures and standard processes as regards investigations of suspected counterfeit medicine.

Government officials, representatives of the drug regulatory bodies, police and customs will also discuss all steps of the process, starting with the investigation, collecting and handling evidence and ending with actions aimed at harmonising reporting and effective co-operation with all concerned stakeholders.

Trainers from France, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom will share their experience in the field with 14 teams from the Council of Europe member states, comprising the health and law enforcement sectors.

The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (EDQM) / Network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories (OMCL) and the Council of Europe Directorate for Human Rights and Legal Affairs, and the ad hoc group on counterfeit medicines are co-operating in carrying out specific programmes of activities and developing tools aiming at protecting public health from counterfeit medicines and other pharmaceutical crimes.

[Full training programme](#)

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