



FACILITATING EXCHANGE OF ORGANS DONATED IN EU MEMBER STATES

GRANT AGREEMENT 2012 21 01

MAY 2013 – APRIL 2016

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FOEDUS Joint Action is focused on facilitating collaboration on organ donation among national authorities in the European Union (EU) as it is prescribed in the Directive 2010/53/EU and in the Action Plan 2009-2015 set by the European Commission.

FOEDUS represents the natural progression of COORENOR EU-funded project that settled up the first IT portal for cross-border organ exchanges with the final aim of speeding up the communication among national coordinators on duty throughout the Europe. The first exchange was performed in August 2012 and it highlighted the need to solve relevant issues such as: reimbursement, logistics, authorizations of foreign teams, in order to have simple and streamlined procedures at international level.

FOEDUS aims to develop a better practice and facilitate the exchange of organs among EU Member States, as an important way of increasing the number of available organs and meeting the transplant needs of more patients in all EU countries.

DEFINITION OF GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATION IN CROSS-BORDER ORGAN EXCHANGES AND ANALYSIS OF BARRIERS/OBSTACLES

WP leader: Eurotransplant International Foundation

This work package is aimed to stimulate the exchange of organs between countries in order to increase the number of available organs in line with the Directive 2010/53/EU as possible contribution to solve the problem of organ shortage that all EU countries have to face.

To date, the exchange of organs that cannot be allocated at national level for various reasons is performed among EU countries within the framework of bilateral agreements as well as through established international organizations. Logistical and organizational problems are still present.

This working group intends to map all the existing bi/multilateral and agreements, describing the current practices for handling organs that cannot be allocated at national level and identifying the existing obstacles and barriers that hinder the trans-border organ exchanges, with the final aim to reduce the logistical and organizational issues arising in cross-border organ exchanges and increase the number of bi-multilateral agreements within EU countries.

CONSENSUS ON DONOR MEDICAL INFORMATION RECOMMENDED FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGAN EXCHANGES

WP leader: Agence de la biomédecine

A major issue in cross-border exchanges is the set of donor medical information. Each country has a different standard and this leads to misunderstandings and hinders smooth and quick reactions when organs are offered.

JA participants were invited to provide the forms they currently use for international organ exchanges along with national documents relative to donor maintenance. Agence de la biomédecine will provide a draft proposal for donor maintenance to be discussed during meetings, along with forms for cross-border exchanges. The newly designed EU forms will be provided in English but will also be translated by each partner in their own languages to avoid mistakes filling in at national levels (or in organ acceptance at local level). Implementation and uses of these forms through the platform (WP6- IT platform) will be monitored.

Guidance and recommendations to be generated shall not only facilitate cross-border organ exchanges but also speed-up processes and decrease ischemia time, which together with recommendations on donor maintenance and best evaluation practises shall directly impact on the quality and safety of organs exchanged.

UPGRADING IT PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF ORGANS FOR TRANSPLANTATION

WP leader: Koordinační Středisko Transplantací

Starting from the results of COORENOR project, which showed successful results of the IT portal for cross border organ exchange at its first running, WP6 aims to develop and improve the platform and its application on the basis of technologies widely used by IT departments, in order to facilitate its running and sustainability.

The IT platform will be accessible by registered users only (professionals working in the field of organ donation and transplantation and European Organ Exchange Organizations), it will implement and make available the results of other FOEDUS WPs in particular provide all the recommendation issued by WP4 as well as template for bi-multilateral agreement, solution for transport, logistic and financial issues related to international exchange.

At the same time the common medical form agreed in the framework of WP5 will be tested and provided successful result they will be adopted on a voluntary basis by the countries who will use the portal.

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

WP leaders: Slovenija Transplant and Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation

A common communication strategy will help in raising awareness and tackle issues such as explaining different national consent system and addressing mistrust or major differences in public opinion among EU countries with clear consequences on donation rates. ST & DSO will develop together a specific approach in communication about organ donation to the general public with special focus on cross-border organ exchanges.

National public campaigns will be analysed and a review of positive/negative messages which could influence the general attitude towards organ donation and cross border exchange will be performed. As second step two workshops will be organized in order to teach experts how to avoid wrong communication attitudes and how to achieve a better communicative in the field of organ donation and cross-border exchange.

Suggestions on most effective approaches when communicating with media and general public about organ donation will be included in the manual of guidelines on "how to communicate efficiently about organ donation and cross border exchange".

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Centro Nazionale Trapianti – Istituto Superiore di Sanità - CNT-ISS (Italy, Project Co-ordinator); Országos Vérellátó Szolgálat – OVSz (Hungary, Dissemination leader); Hellenic Transplant Organization – EOM (Greece, Evaluation leader); Eurotransplant International Foundation – ETI (Netherlands, WP4 leader); Agence de la biomédecine – ABM (France, WP5 leader); Koordinační Středisko Transplantací – KST (Czech Republic, WP6 leader); Institute for Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of the Republic of Slovenia – Slovenija Transplant (Slovenia, WP7 co-leader); Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation – DSO (Germany, WP7 co-leader); Federal Public Service, Public Health – FPS PH (Belgium); Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia – MoHRC (Croatia); Bulgarian Executive Agency for Transplant – BEAT (Bulgaria); National Transplant Bureau – NTB (Lithuania); Mater Dei Hospital – MDH (Malta); Instituto Portugues do Sangue e da Transplantacao – IPST (Portugal); Národná transplantáčna organizácia – NTO (Slovakia); NHS Blood and Transplant Department of Health– NHSBT (UK); Polish Transplant Coordinating Centre “Poltransplant” (Poland); Fundeni Clinical Institute – FCI (Romania).

COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Directorate of Health (Iceland); Dutch Transplant Foundation- DTF (Netherlands); Helsedirektoratet (Norway); Nicosia General Hospital (Cyprus); Organisation Nacional de Transplantes – ONT (Spain); Renal Foundation (Moldova); Sotsiaalministeerium (Estonia); Swisstransplant (Switzerland)

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