



Slovenija-transplant

PRESS RELEASE

## ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SLOVENIA: OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023

Ljubljana, 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2024



The **Gift** is in the giving.



Slovenija-transplant

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

### GROUNDBREAKING YEAR 2023

In this short yearly report, summary of key statistical data, highlights, and development achievements in 2023 in donation and transplantation activity in Slovenia is presented. In the field of organ donation, year 2023 was highly successful and, in many ways, ground-breaking.

*„I sincerely thank everyone who, in their own way, contributed to the excellent overall results. With the exceptional work, professionalism, and commitment of all the participating teams, as well as with the high level of public's support we succeeded in surpassing many milestones in the Slovenian donation programme. For the first time since Slovenija-transplant existence, we exceeded the number of 30 active donors PMP (30.66) and for the first time, we exceeded the number of 27 actual donors PMP (27.36). 58 deceased donors donated 186 organs for transplantation treatment. Transplantation coordinators conducted 95 conversations about possible donation and 79% of relatives gave their consent.*

*These are encouraging indicators that the public understands and supports our work. Our common goal remains always the same, that is to nurture solidarity, and to provide patients with hope and opportunities for transplantation treatment, regardless of the challenging times in healthcare.“*

Andrej Gadžijev, MD  
Director

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## DONATION PROGRAMME

- For the first time, more than 30 active deceased donors p.m.p. were achieved (30.66).
- For the first time, more than 27 actual deceased donors p.m.p. were achieved (27.36).
- For the first time, at least one potential deceased donor was detected in all 11 donor hospitals in the national donation network.
- The consent of relatives for donation increased significantly (from 68% in 2022 to 79% in 2023).

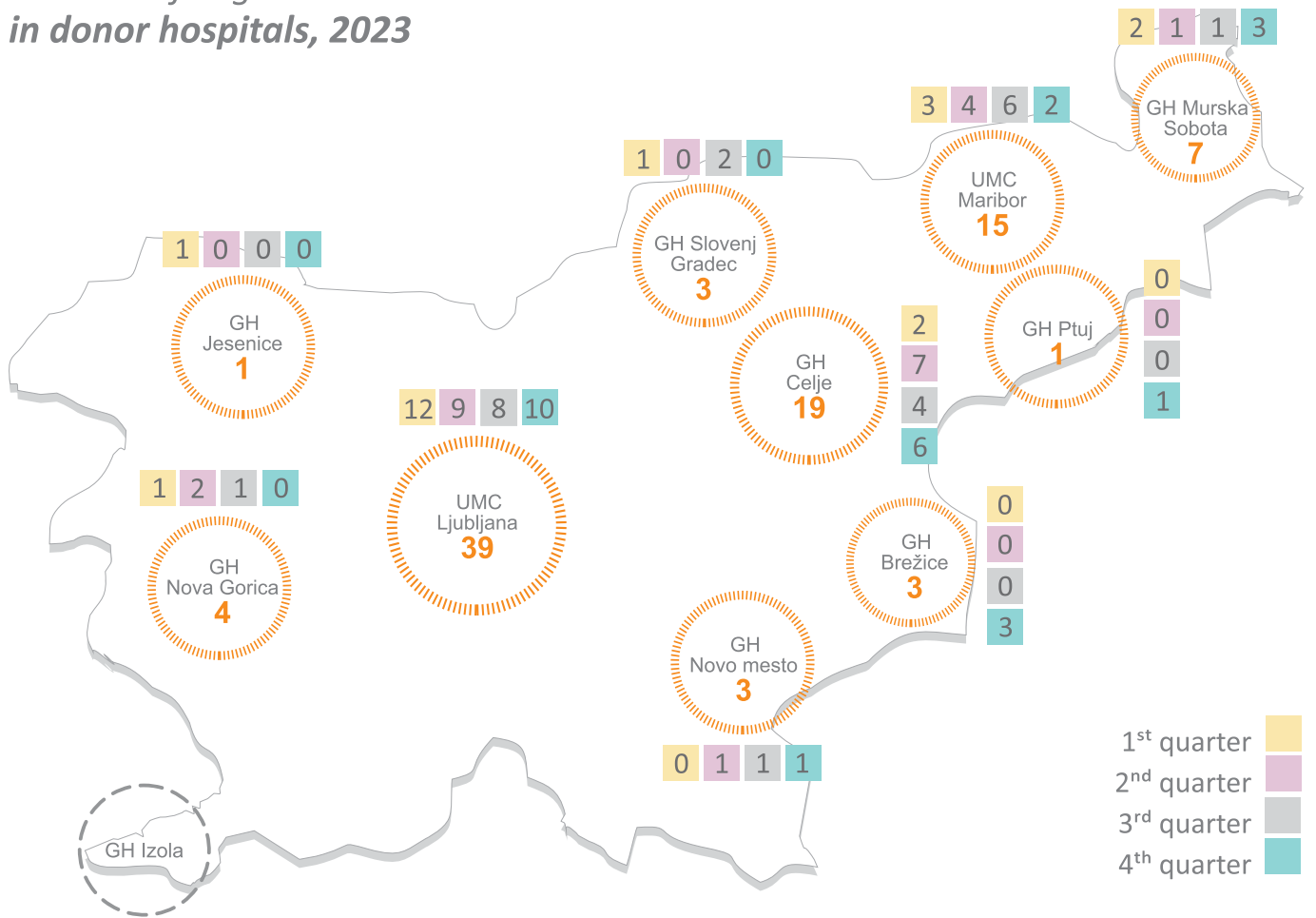
## EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

- The National Register of Designated Persons recorded the highest number of donation declarations on the annual level: 2.129 people expressed their will (2.101 for donation; 28 against donation).
- In cooperation with the Spanish Donation and Transplantation Institute (DTI), we held the anniversary, 10th intensive Transplant Procurement Management course. Over the last ten years, 327 participants from donor hospitals around Slovenia took part in this demanding training on donor medicine.
- In line with contemporary communication and technical demands, we built a new institute's website [www.slovenija-transplant.si](http://www.slovenija-transplant.si).
- We published and recorded more than 1800 press news about organ donation and transplantation in Slovenian traditional and new media.
- The traveling exhibition My Scar, My Life was put on display at the University Hospital Maribor, the Eskulap gallery at the Sevnica Health Centre, the Brežice General Hospital, the National Assembly and the Secondary Health and Cosmetic School in Celje. The inspirational and impactful exhibition has been running successfully in good cooperation with the Slovenian Transplant Association.

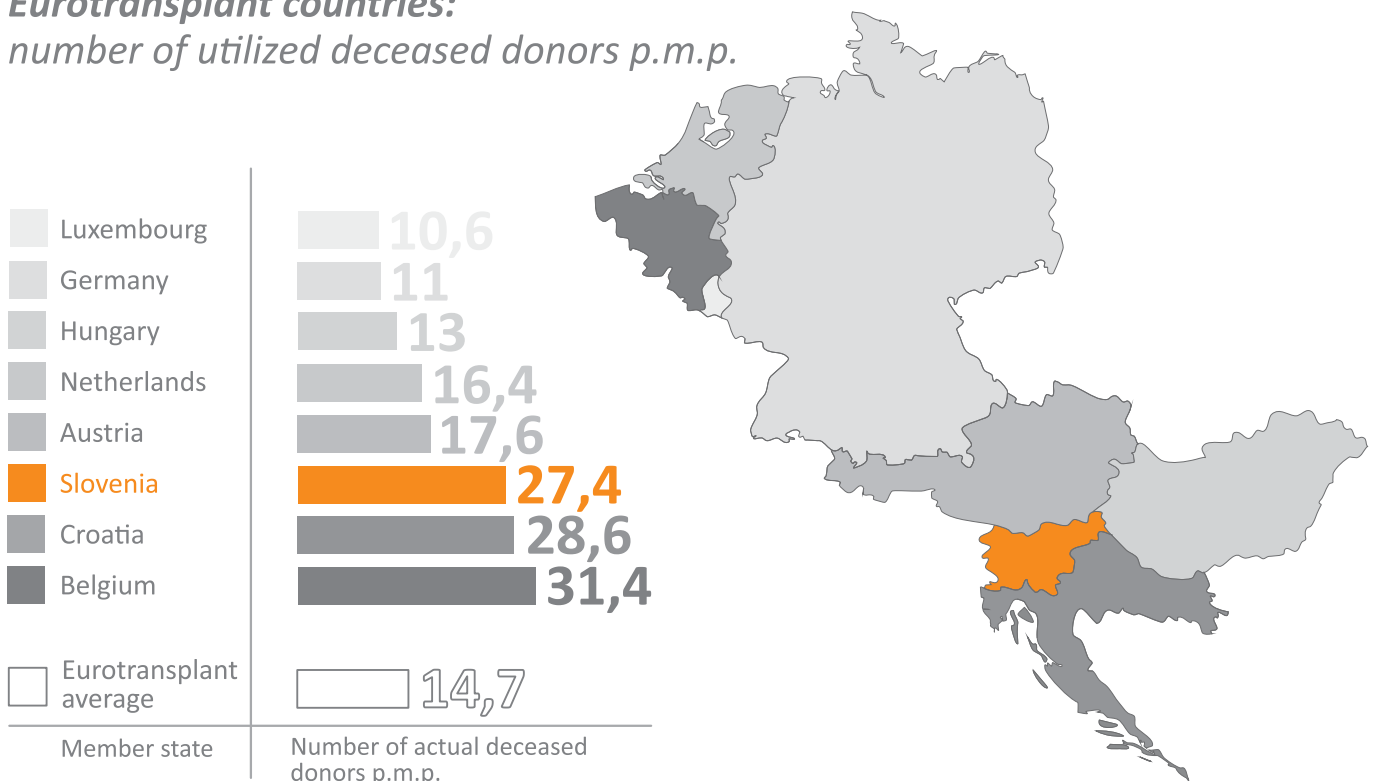
## EU PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT

- In accordance with the requirements of transparency, traceability and quality, we upgraded the modules and codes in the national information program for tissues and cells. The European Commission expressed praise for the quality and advancement of the application, which is unique in the international environment.
- The II. research competition of Slovenija-transplant for the best research work was successfully implemented. The first prize was won by Tadej Zorman with the discussion titled Ethical aspects of donation after circulatory death.
- In excellent cooperation with Polish partner Fundacja Pasjonaci Zycia Slovenija-transplant successfully concluded the inspiring Erasmus+ project **You are more than one life: adult education for the promotion of transplantation.**

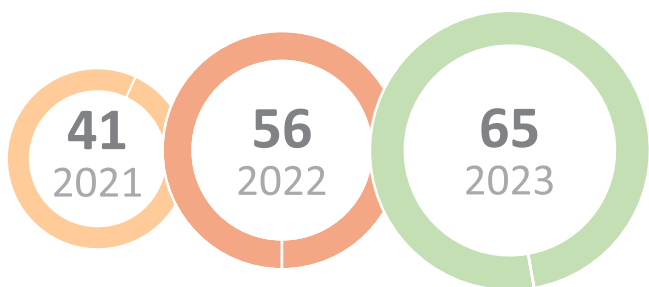
**Number of eligible deceased donors in donor hospitals, 2023**



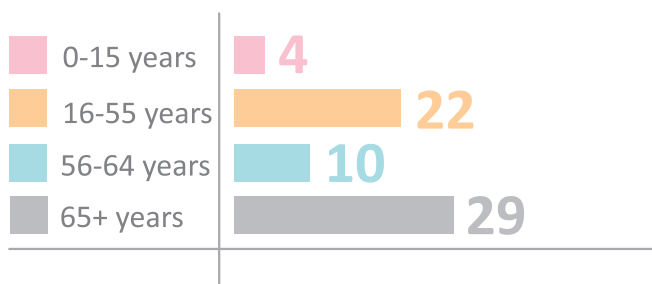
**Eurotransplant countries:**  
number of utilized deceased donors p.m.p.



### Active deceased donors

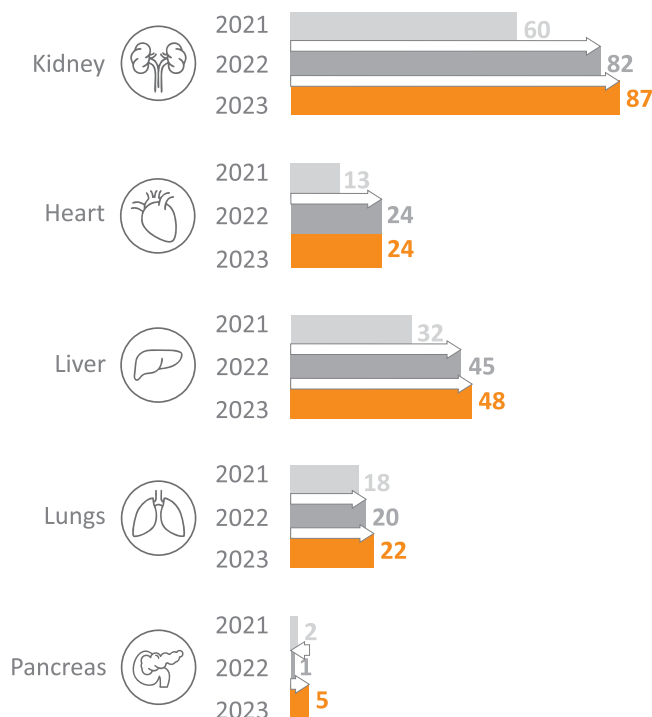


### Deceased donors by age groups



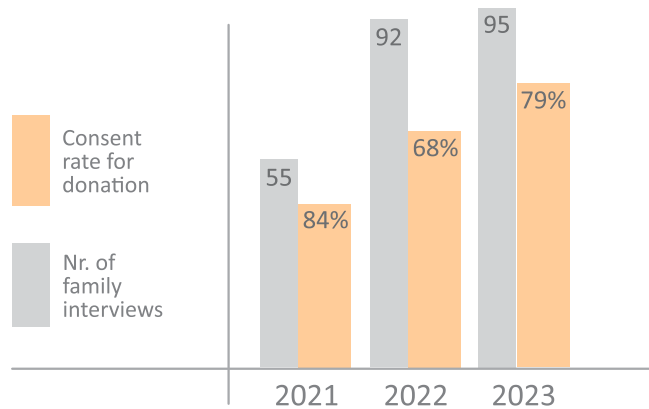
\* Average age of deceased donors was 60 years (6 years more in comparison to 2022).

### Deceased donors donated 186 organs



\* 1 kidney was donated by a living donor.

### Family interviews and consent rate for donation



### National Register of Designated Persons about Post Mortem Organs and Tissues Donation



#### DESIGNATED PERSONS

year 2021	year 2022	year 2023
<b>FOR = 977</b> AGAINST = 10	<b>FOR = 2.011</b> AGAINST = 54	<b>FOR = 2.129</b> AGAINST = 28

### Designated persons by age groups

AGE GROUPS/YEARS	TOTAL DESIGNATIONS	IN 2023
58<	2.417	151
49-58	2.566	306
39-48	3.609	461
29-38	4.310	640
19-28	2.703	547
>18	34	24

\* In 2023, the majority of designated persons (640) derived from the age group 29-38 years.

## TRANSPLANTATION ACTIVITY

In the Transplantation Centre in UMC Ljubljana 106 solid organs were transplanted.

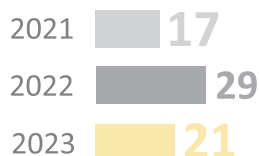
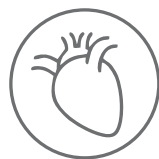
### Number of transplanted solid organs

#### KIDNEY

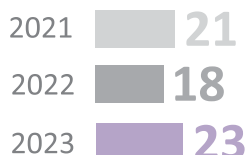


\* One transplantation of kidney was from a living donor. Two additional kidneys were transplanted to Slovenian paediatric patients in Graz, Austria.

#### HEART

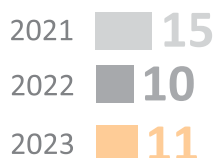


#### LIVER



\* In Bergamo, Italy, three Slovenian paediatric patients received liver transplantation.

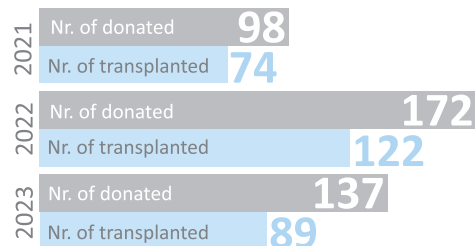
#### LUNGS



#### PANCREAS

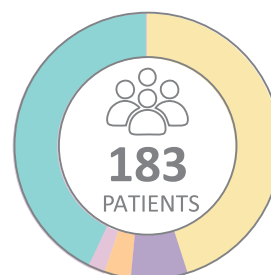


#### CORNEAS



#### Waiting list

183 patients (status on 31. 12. 2023).



#### KIDNEY 76

\* 1 in combination with pancreas, 1 with heart

#### HEART 79

\* 1 in combination with kidney

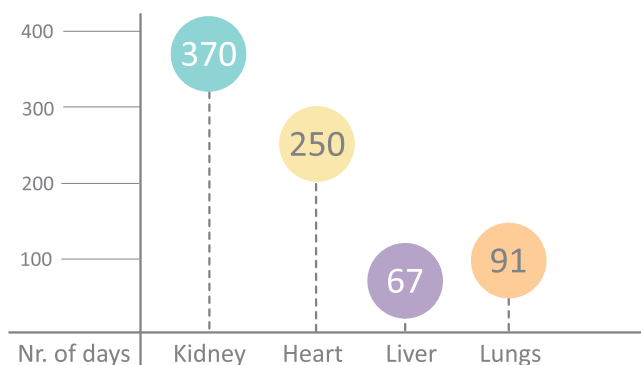
#### LIVER 19

#### LUNGS 8

#### PANCREAS 3

\* 1 in combination with kidney

#### Average waiting time (in days)



Waiting list in Eurotransplant (status on 31.12.2023): 23.716.



# The Gift is in the giving.

PRESS RELEASE- Ljubljana, 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2024

Since 2002 the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for the Transplantation of Organs and Tissues (Slovenija-transplant), has been the central national expert institution for connecting, co-ordinating, promoting and supervising donation and transplantation activity in Slovenia. The Institute provides organizational conditions, develops professional protocols and assures appropriate legislation for a successful, ethical, high-quality and transparent donation program in Slovenia. It continues to set an internationally recognized example of how a national donation programme should be managed and organized.

Slovenija-transplant works as the primary co-ordination office of the national donation and transplant network. It provides expert support to donor hospitals in cases of professional dilemmas. In its premises, there is a central transplant coordination office, where transplant coordinators on a daily basis connect and coordinate activities for patients on the waiting list to receive the appropriate organ in time. Cooperation takes place at national and international level, most often between Eurotransplant countries.

Slovenija-transplant educates the professional public and informs citizens about the donation and transplantation activities. With strategic approach to communication, it creates society that is inclined and supportive to organ donation.

Slovenija-transplant is also recognized member in many international professional committees and partner in EU projects. With its expertise and experiences, the Institute co-creates strategic documents, professional guidelines and co-shapes the future of organ and tissue donation.

Slovenija-transplant is led by Andrej Gadžijev, MD, a specialist traumatologists. It employs 9 full-time staff members and works with more than 90 experts under contract in the donation programme. The institute operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia.

For more information please visit our website:  
[www.slovenija-transplant.si](http://www.slovenija-transplant.si).



*Data sources: Archive of Slovenija-transplant, Eurotransplant Statistics Library, reports of transplantation units in UMC Ljubljana.*



## Slovenija-transplant

Institute for Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of the Republic of Slovenia Slovenija transplant

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