



Slovenija-transplant

PRESS RELEASE

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SLOVENIA: OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2024

Ljubljana, 2nd of April 2025

The short annual report is a collection of the most important statistical data and content highlights for 2024. Last year, we had to contend with difficult staff (medical doctors were on strike throughout the year) and organisational conditions (political changes, policy reforms) in the national health system. As consequence, the results in the donation programme were lower than expected. Nevertheless, we managed to keep the programme stable. High level of family consent for donation was a positive factor. We thank you all for your trust.

"Last year 42 deceased donors donated 146 organs. The average age of the deceased donors was 57 years. With almost 20 active donors per million inhabitants (PMP), Slovenia ranked fourth among Eurotransplant countries. The family refusal rate fell below 18%, which is the best result in the last three years. 102 solid organ transplantations were performed at the UMC Ljubljana Transplant Centre, namely 42 kidneys, 26 hearts, 23 livers and 11 lungs. A further two kidneys were transplanted from a living donors.

*We are proud to share, the Institute's new website www.slovenija-transplant.si has received prestigious awards in the Netko and Websi competitions for digital and communication excellence. As organ donation is an area some people still avoid, we reach out to the public in various ways, including through art and in collaboration with patient organisations. The photo exhibition *My Scar, My Life* has been successfully breaking taboos for the last two years. In April and May it can be seen at the Ana Gallery in the Trebnje Health Centre. While the sculpture exhibition *Circle of Gratitude and Cooperation* is put on display at the Gorenjska Museum in Kranj until the end of April.*

Our important goal remains for organ donation becomes an integral part of end-of-life care at a professional level and an issue at a societal level that we can comfortably discuss and make informed decisions about. Last but not least, we should not forget, one person can save up to nine lives after death."

Andrej Gadžijev, MD
Director



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ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

DONOR PROGRAMME

- 63 eligible deceased donors were detected in 11 donor centres throughout Slovenia.
- From 42 donors 146 organs were obtained, which corresponds to more than 3.4 organs per donor. The result is better than last year's record numbers. The quality and professionalism of the work of the staff in the donor program is encouraging, as they have managed to maintain the high quality and suitability of the organs for further treatment.
- The refusal rate of relatives dropped below 18% (17.5) in 2024, which is the best result in the last three years. High public support has mitigated the impact of a reduced detection of potential deceased donors.
- The National Register of Designated Person recorded lower number of donation declarations compared to previous years. 983 people expressed their will in the national register. 700 or 71% declarations were submitted electronically. The total number of declarations in the register is 16.669 (16.535 for donation; 134 against donation).

EDUCATION, EU PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT

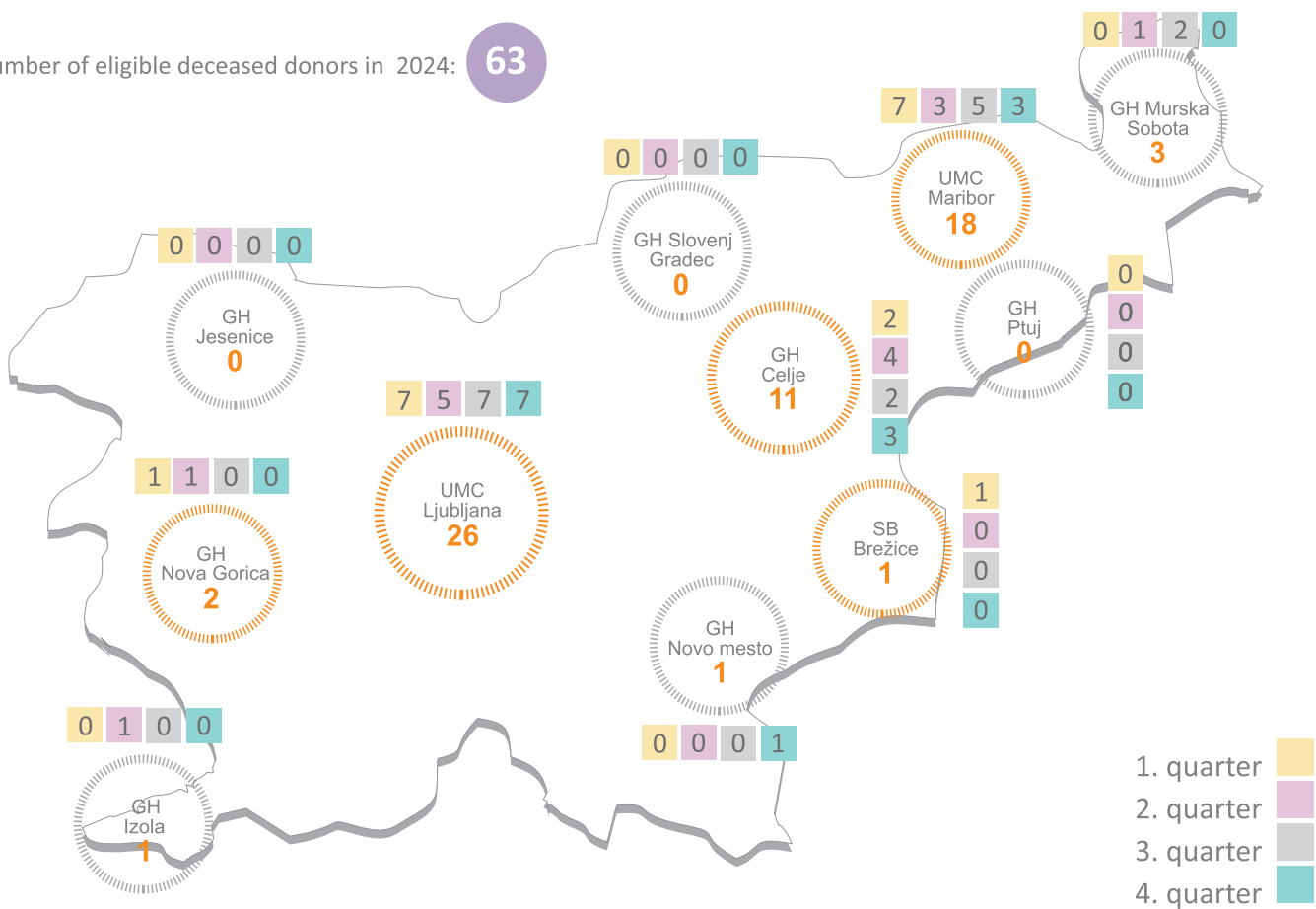
- Regular training programmes were updated in line with new developments and up-to-date professional guidelines, such as active deceased donor detection, guidelines for the treatment and care of critically ill patients in the intensive care unit (so called ICOD program) and organ donation after controlled circulatory death (cDCD).
- We have been actively involved in international committees to update the professional guidelines in the field of donor medicine and biovigilance. The guidelines will be published in 2025.
- The EU project We All Have More Than One Life, which we carried out with a Polish project partner between 2022 and 2023 (Erasmus+ program), was selected for the international *EDUInspiration2024* Award among numerous projects in the field of social action.
- The website www.slovenija-transplant.si received two prestigious awards in the NETKO 2024 competition: Best Project of the Year 2024 and 1st place in the public and non-governmental organisations category. We also won 1st place in the public and non-governmental organisations category at the important WEBSI competition for excellence in digital communications.



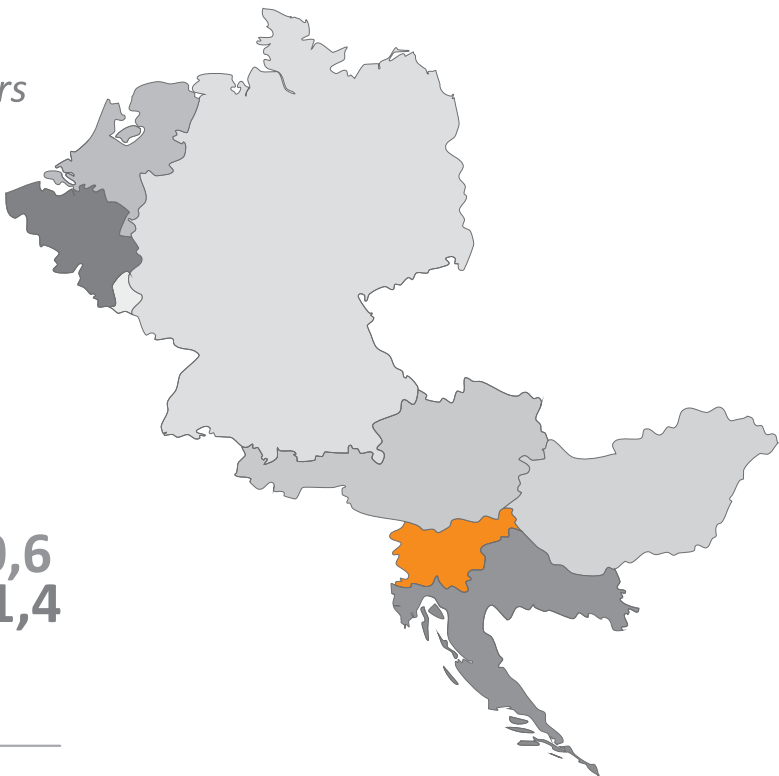
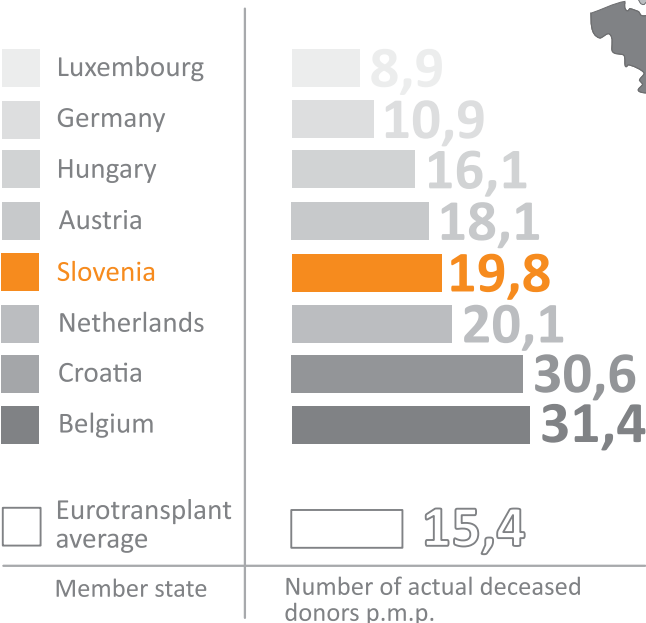
European donation day 2024: Press conference and the opening of the art exhibition *Circle of gratitude and collaboration* (Photo: Slovenija-transplant).

Number of eligible deceased donors
in donor hospitals in 2024

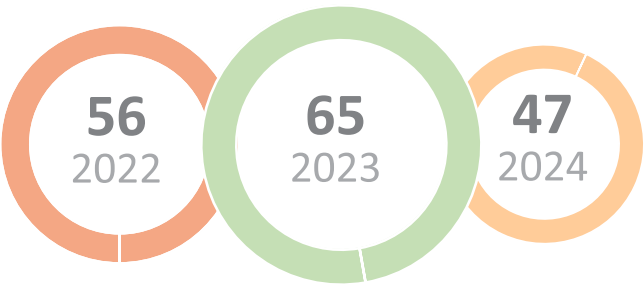
Number of eligible deceased donors in 2024: **63**



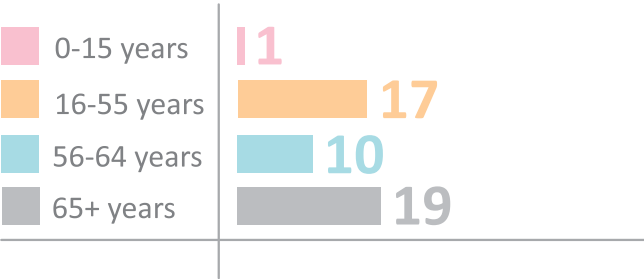
Eurotransplant countries:
number of utilized deceased donors
p.m.p.



Active deceased donors

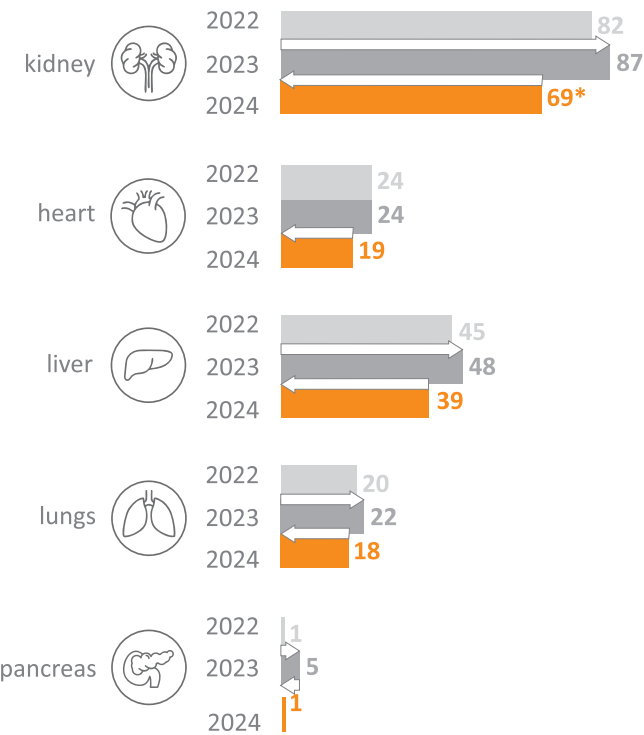


Deceased donors by age groups



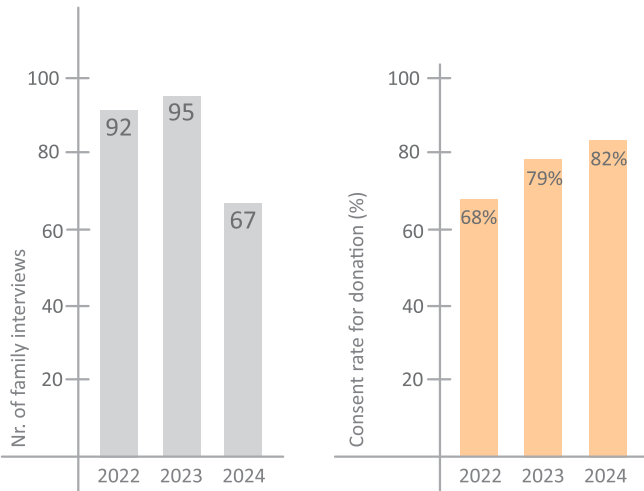
* The average age of deceased donors was 56,7 years (2023: 60). In the Eurotransplant countries, the average age of the deceased donors was 57 years.

Deceased donors donated 146 organs for transplantation



* 2 additional kidneys were donated by living donors.

Family interviews

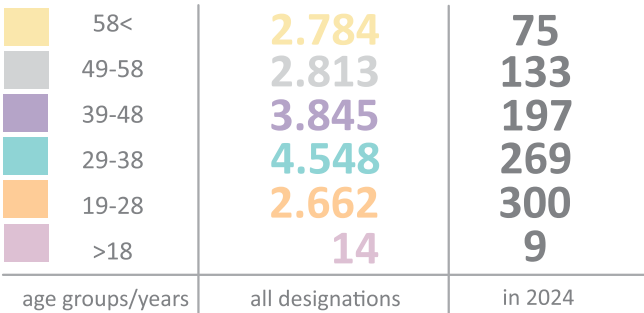


National Register of Designated Persons about Post Mortem Organs and Tissues Donation



DESIGNATED PERSONS		
year 2022	year 2023	year 2024
FOR = 1.947 AGAINST = 53	FOR = 2.105 AGAINST = 28	FOR = 983 AGAINST = 24

Designated persons by age groups



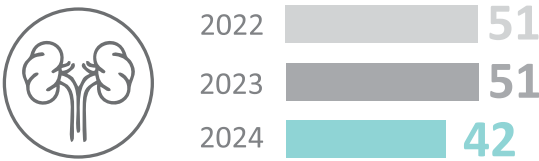
* In 2024, the majority of designated persons (300) derived from the age group 19-28 years.

TRANSPLANTATION ACTIVITY

In the Transplantation centre in UMC Ljubljana 102 solid organs from deceased organs were transplanted. Additional two kidneys were transplanted from living donors.

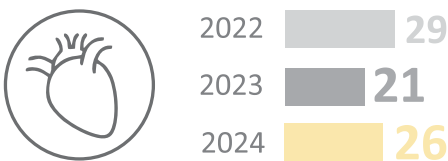
In the Eurotransplant region, 7.150 organs from deceased donors were transplanted.

KIDNEY

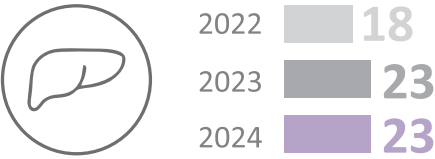


* Additional two kidneys were transplanted from living donors.

HEART



LIVER



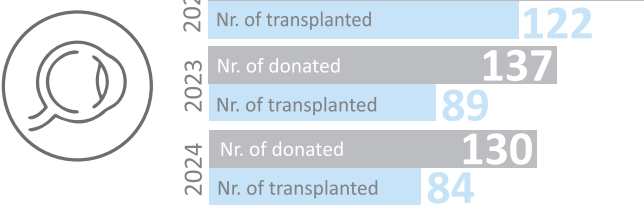
LUNGS



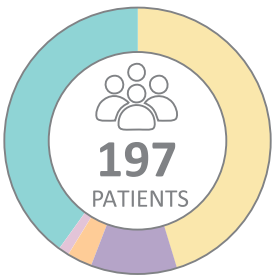
PANCREAS



CORNEA



Waiting list
197 patients (status on 31.12.2024)



- KIDNEY 80
- HEART 90
- LIVER 21
- LUNGS 6
- PANCREAS 0

Waiting list in Eurotransplant
(status on 31.12.2024): 13.570 patients

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



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

