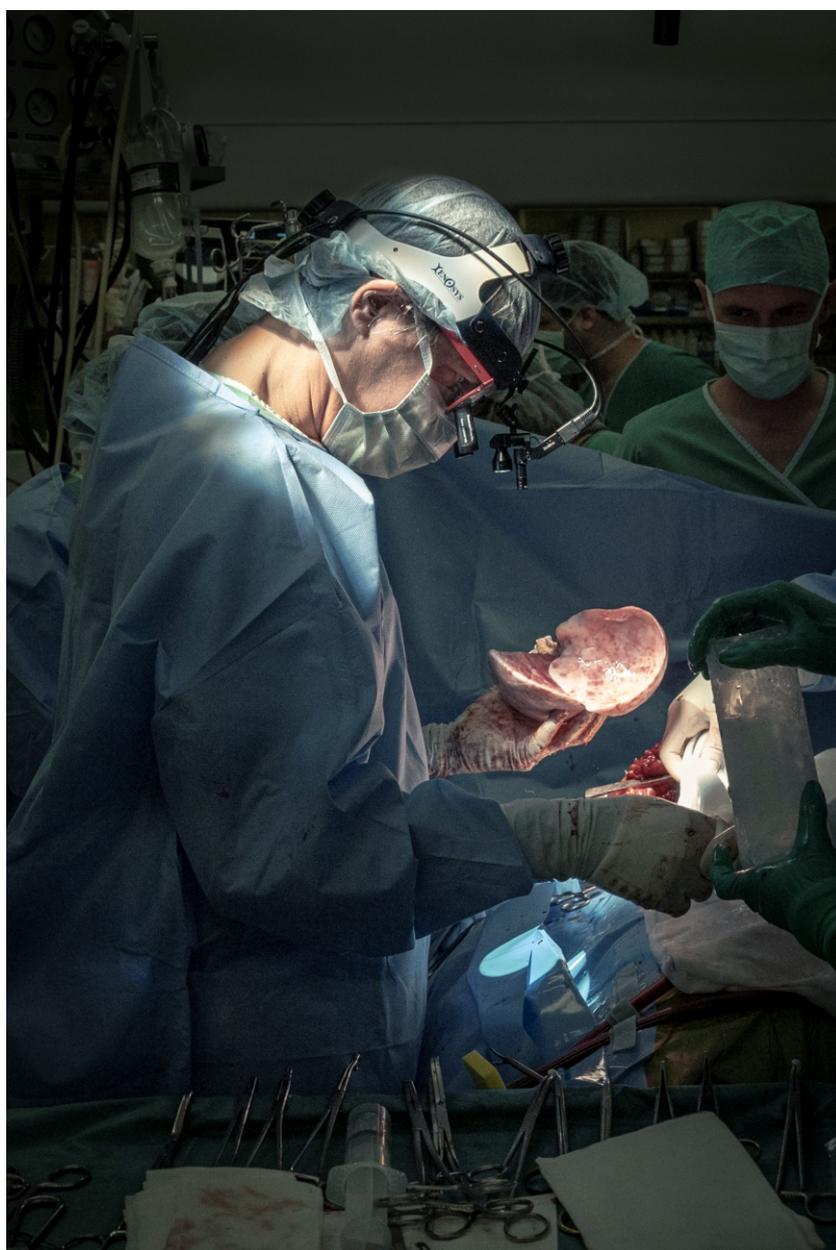




Slovenija-transplant

PRESS RELEASE

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SLOVENIA: OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2025



*Operating room, Slovenia,
2024 / ©Ela Zdešar
Photo-documentary project
»We are still here«, 2025.*

The gift is hidden in the giving.



Slovenija-transplant

The brief annual report of Slovenia-transplant, the national competent authority for organ donation in Slovenia, presents key statistical data and highlights from 2025. Despite numerous challenges in healthcare, including an ongoing physicians' strike, legislative changes, and disruptions, as well as broader societal issues in Slovenia, we maintained a stable and well-organised deceased organ donation system. Most figures have improved compared to 2024 and are shown in the graphs below.

47 people have donated organs after death. Slovenia ranked 4th among countries joined in Eurotransplant.

The responsibility that begins and ends with people

»The fundamental task of national institute Slovenia-transplant is to ensure that all procedures related to deceased organ and tissue donation are carried out in accordance with medical, legal, and ethical criteria, and in close cooperation between various medical professions. I understand our work as a long-term professional responsibility that always begins and ends with people. Behind the numbers presented in this report are people: patients, relatives, colleagues, and experts.

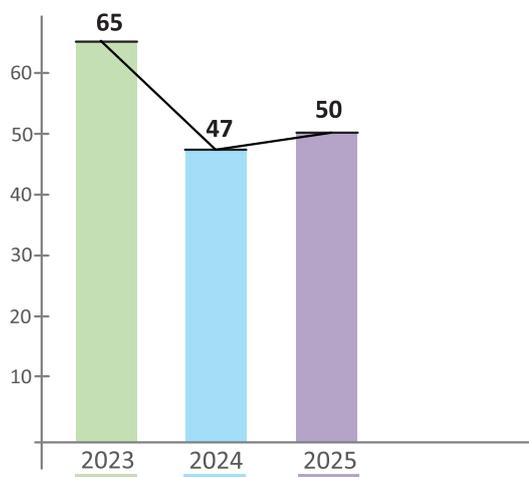
In Slovenia, consent to donation is the legal basis and ethical standard for initiating professional procedures. Therefore, we express gratitude to the relatives who supported the decision to donate organs and tissues. This noble gesture enabled someone to survive and/or to live better.

However, it was only through the joint efforts of participating experts and institutions in the national donor network that we maintained stability in the national organ donation system. I am therefore particularly pleased that we ended 2025 with better results than the previous year. Congratulations to the donor centres and their hospital transplantation coordinators, who treated 81 suitable deceased donors—18 more compared to 2024. After examinations, clinical assessments of the organs, and discussions with family members, 47 people ultimately donated 152 organs suitable for transplantation treatment. Deceased donors ranged from 3 to 90 years of age. With 22.1 utilized deceased donors per million inhabitants, Slovenia achieved an excellent fourth place among Eurotransplant countries. The national results far exceed the Eurotransplant average of 15.6 utilized deceased donors per million inhabitants.

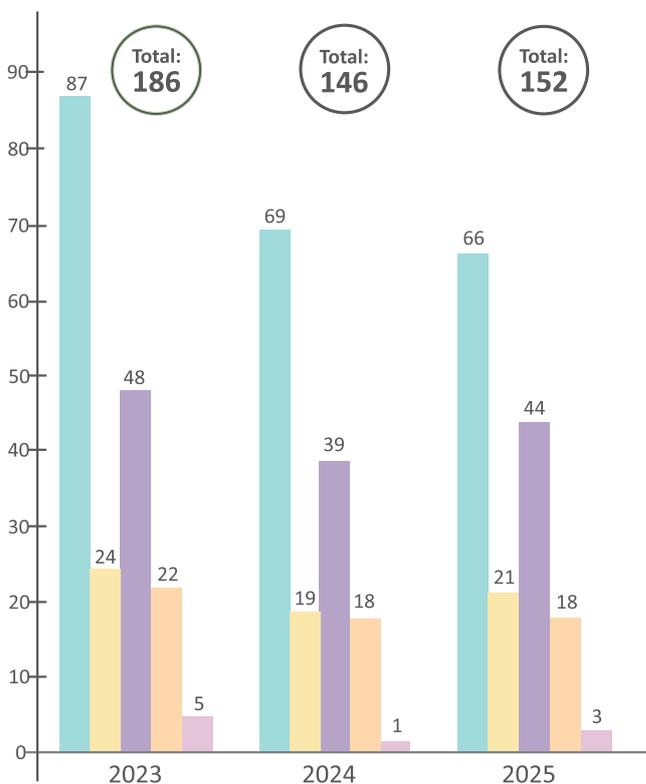
In January 2026, after the Government of the Republic of Slovenia confirmed my appointment, I began my second term as Director of Slovenia-transplant. I regard organ donation as an expression of advanced medicine, high ethical responsibility, and public trust in the healthcare system. For me, this has never been just a professional field, but also a personal commitment to maintaining and developing a system of solidarity that saves lives.«

Andrej Gadžijev, MD
Director of Slovenija-transplant

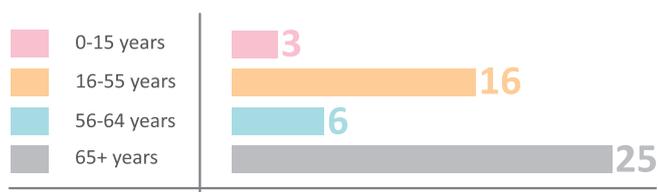
Number of active deceased donors



Number of donated organs



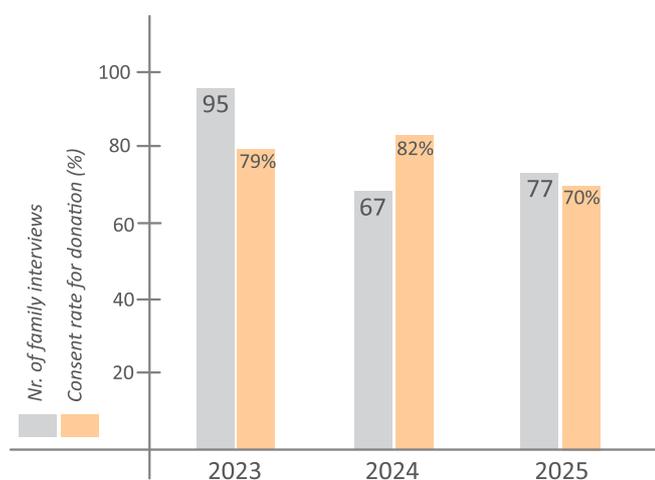
Deceased donors by age groups



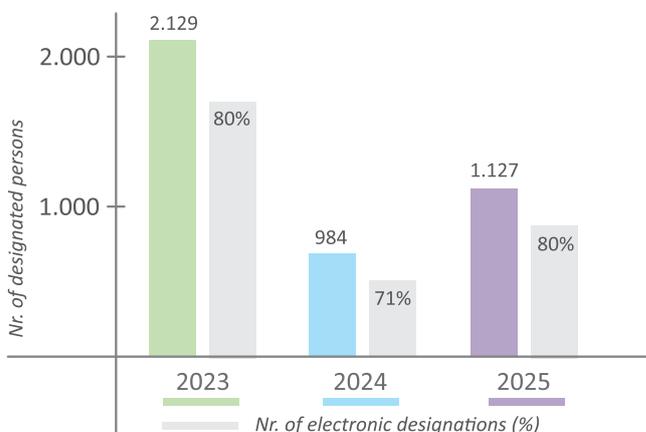
The average age of deceased donors was 58 years (2024: 60 years). The youngest donor was 3 years old and the oldest was 90.



Family interviews

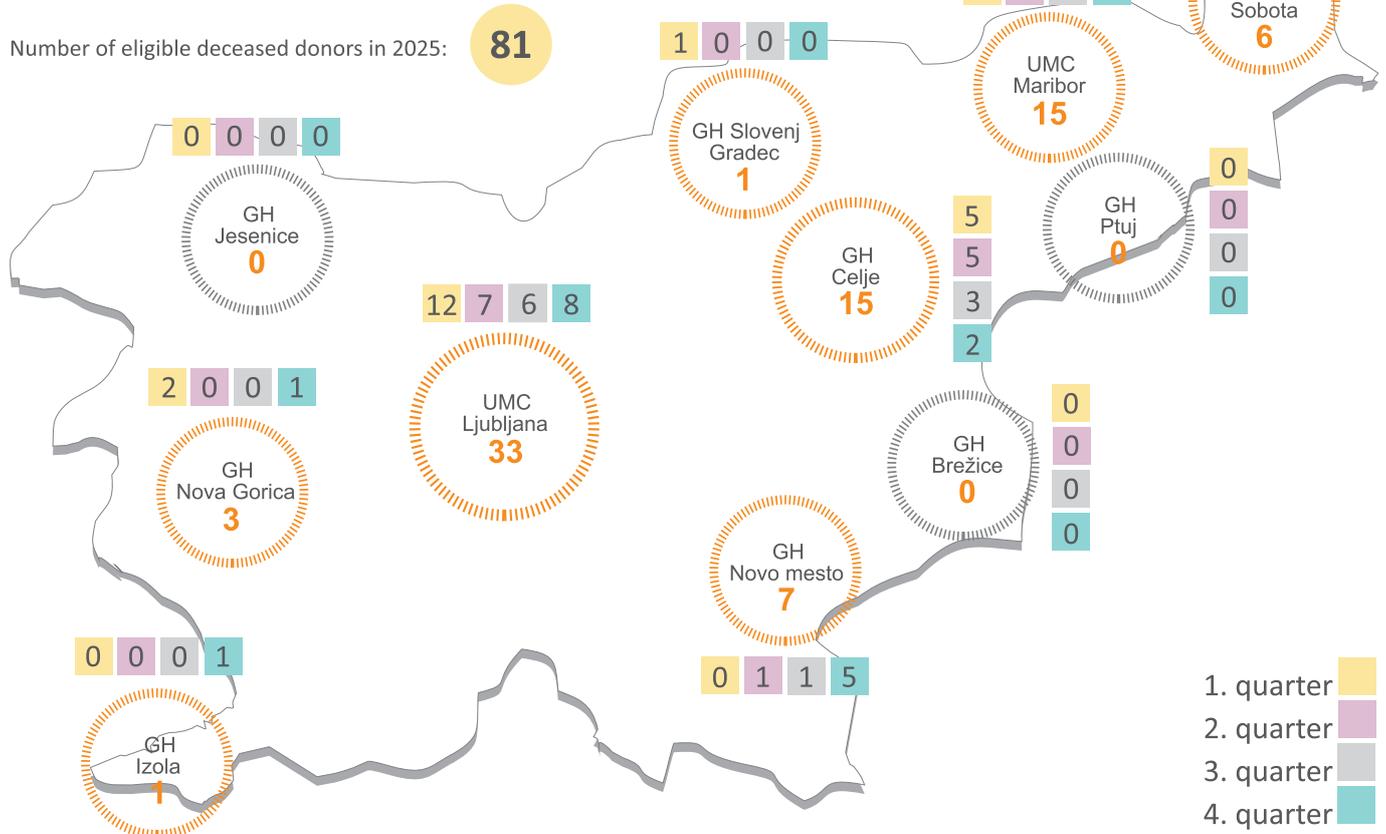


Nacional Register of Designated Persons about Post Mortem Organs and Tissues Donation

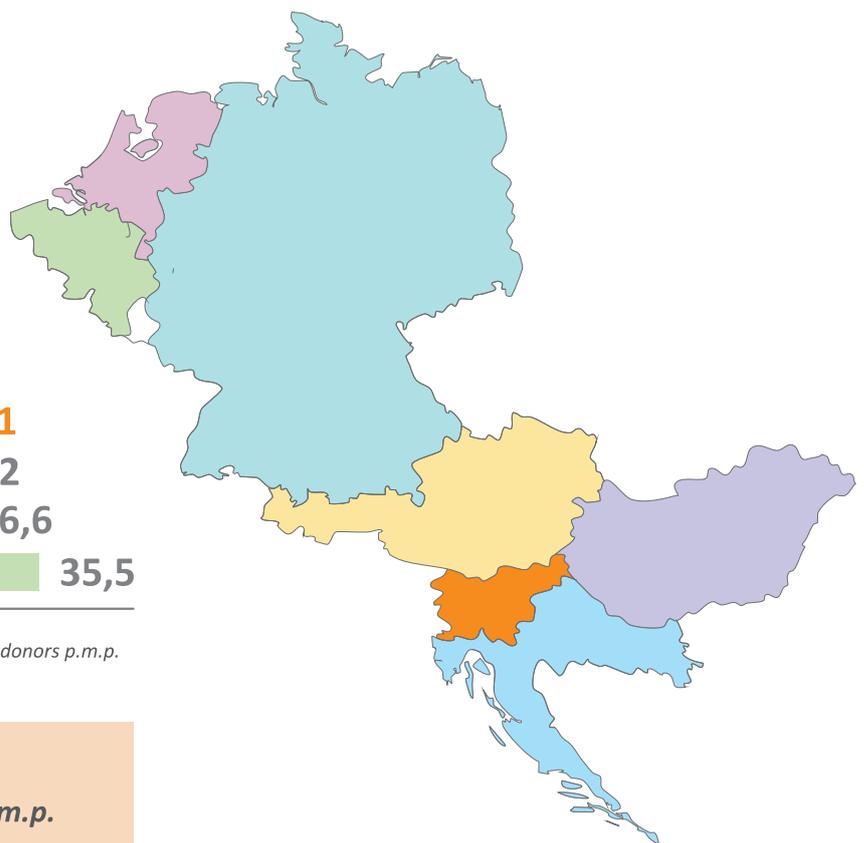
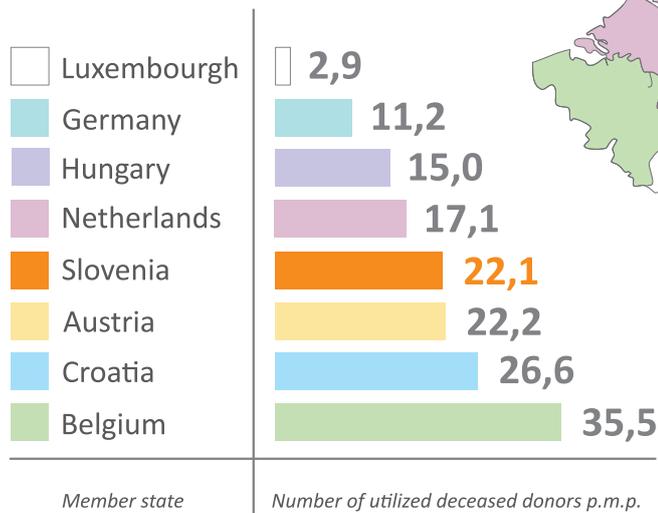


In 2025, the largest number of people (261) enrolled from the 39-48 age group, followed by 255 enrollments from the 29-38 age group.

Eligible deceased donors in donor hospitals in Slovenia



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



**Eurotransplant average:
15,6 utilized deceased donors p.m.p.**

Transplantation activities

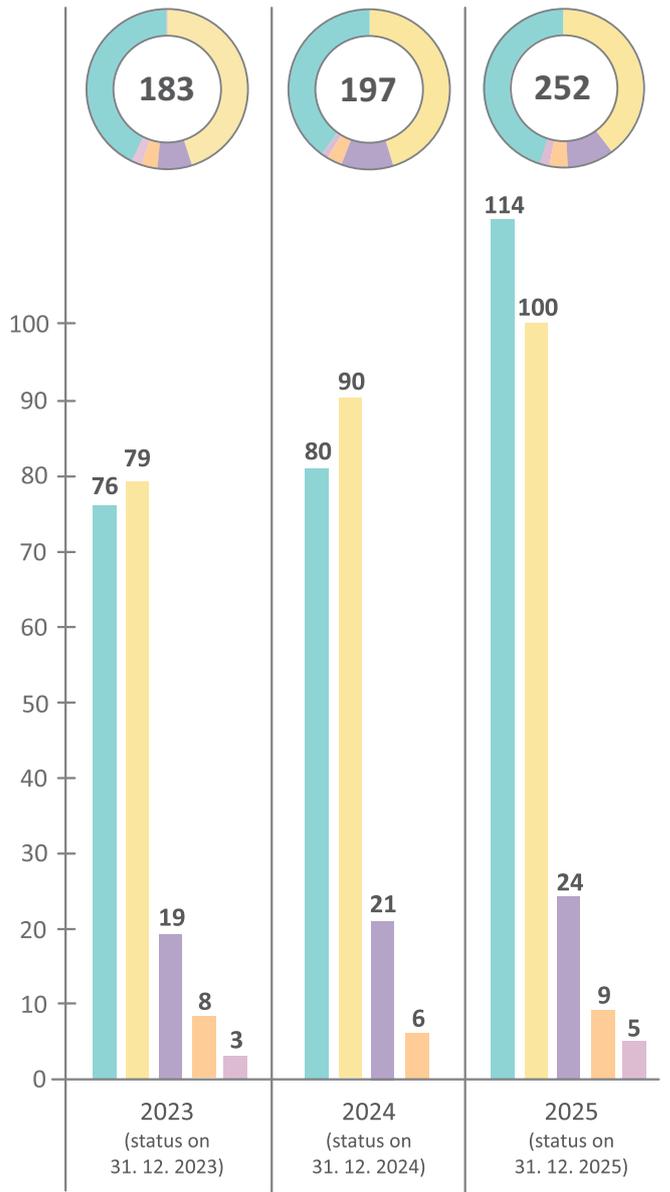
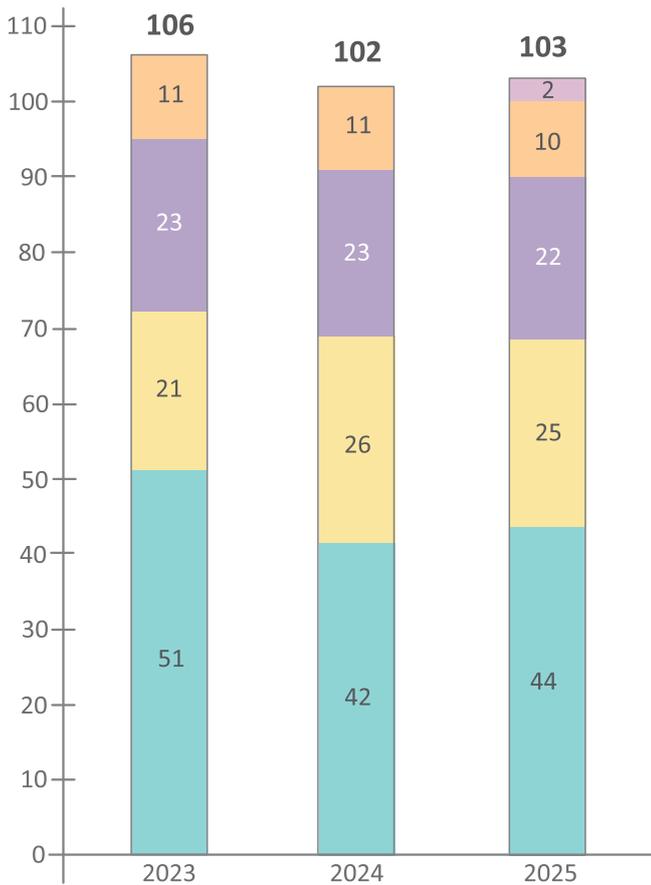
In the Transplantation centre at the University medical Centre Ljubljana 103 organ transplantations from deceased donors were performed. Only one kidney was transplanted from a living donor.

103 organ transplantations from deceased donors and 1 performed kidney transplantation from a living donor at UMC Ljubljana.

Waiting list

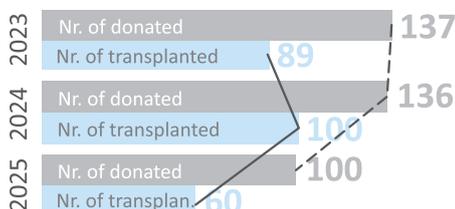
In the Eurotransplant region 7.366 organ transplantations from deceased donors were performed.

Number of transplanted organs at UMC Ljubljana (deceased donors)



Legend: KIDNEY (teal), HEART (yellow), LIVER (purple), LUNGS (orange), PANCREAS (pink)

CORNEA



Joint waiting list at Eurotransplant (status on 31. 12. 2025): 13.686 patients.

Slovenija-transplant

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

RETIREMENT OF PRIM. DANICA AVSEC

In autumn 2025, Prim. Danica Avsec, MD, a specialist in anaesthesiology and intensive care, a widely recognised expert and one of the key figures in establishing the donor and transplantation system in Slovenia, retired. She entered the field of organ donation in 1990. In 1998, she was appointed hospital transplant coordinator at UMC Maribor. She also became a member of the National Expert Board for Transplantation at the Ministry of Health. In 2000, she took over the management of the Slovenija-transplant Institute during its establishment, and in 2002 became its first director. She successfully led and developed the institute for 20 years. She was one of the doctors responsible for donor medicine in Slovenia, a lecturer, and a co-creator of international standards, directives, and national professional guidelines. With excellent communication and networking skills, she brought organ donation closer to people in a dignified, professional, and understandable way. For her exceptional professional achievements and lasting contribution to the Slovenian healthcare sector, she received many awards. She was appointed Primarius in 2002, Councillor in 2008 and in 2019. In recognition of the importance of her professional work for the prosperity of Slovenia, in December 2025 she received one of the highest state distinctions, the Order of Merit, awarded by the President of the Republic, Nataša Pirc Musar.



During the Annual Eurotransplant Meeting in September 2025 in Leiden, Danica Avsec, MD, received a special recognition award for her longstanding contribution to the boards of Eurotransplant and for enhancing cooperation between Slovenia and Eurotransplant.

(Photo: www.annualmeeting.eurotransplant.org)

DECEASED DONATION PROGRAMME

- Stable results, improved detection, and better outcomes in smaller donor centres.
- 81 eligible deceased donors in donor centres.
- 77 conversations with relatives about organ donation, more refusals compared to previous years (70% consent rate).
- After death, 47 people donated 152 organs.
- 22.1 utilized donors per million inhabitants;

Slovenia holds an excellent 4th place among Eurotransplant countries.

- Average age of deceased donors: 58 years.
- Marking the 10th anniversary of the first organ transportation with the governmental aircraft Falcon (press conference at the airport, cooperation between Slovenija-transplant, Ministry of defence, and UMC Ljubljana).

- 1.127 new enrollments in national registry of designated persons about organ donation in 2025, with a total of 17.759 entries in the register.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Organisation of a week-long TAIEX workshop for representatives of the National Transplantation Agency from Moldova (April 2025).
- Leading a one-day visit of the Eurotransplant delegation to Slovenia (June 2025).
- Participation in the ESOT Congress (London) and the Eurotransplant Annual Symposium (Leiden).
- Participation (in the role of the national competent authority) in expert committees.
- Cooperation with Eurotransplant and other international organ and tissue exchange networks.
- Co-developing new professional guidelines for organ donation and transplantation.
- Implementation of activities in the EU project BRAVEST (Building Resilience Against crisis: a systematic and global approach to advance organ safety and supply in transplantation).

EDUCATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC

- 5th national workshop on the biovigilance system with international participation.
- 13th annual intensive three-day training on organ procurement and transplantation (TPM Course).
- Two interactive workshops on breaking bad news and communicating with the family.
- Full-day training for employees at the Institute for Transfusion Medicine and authorised persons for collecting designations at the Red Cross units across Slovenia.
- Training on the basics of the donor programme in General hospital of Jesenice.
- Six audit and educational meetings in donor centres.
- Referrals of co-workers in the national donor network to advanced trainings in Spain.
- Newsletter for professional audience: four editions of News from Slovenija-transplant distributed to more than 600 subscribers.

Sources of the data: Slovenija-transplant, Eurotransplant, UMC Ljubljana.

INFORMING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- Over 1,400 articles and mentions in printed and online media.
- Social networks: [f](#), [▶](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#) profile.
- European Donation Day, 10 October 2025: press conference, story of the mother of young deceased donor, exhibition of artistic and documentary photographs "We are still here" (photo: Ela Zdešar).
- Photo catalogue "We are still here".
- Regular press releases and press conferences.
- Round tables, lectures, and field exhibitions. The exhibition "My scar, my life" on display in the Ana Gallery at the Trebnje Health Centre and the Boris Vošnjak General Library in Slovenska Bistrica. The "Circle of Gratitude and Cooperation" exhibition presented in the Gallery at Ljubljana City Hall, the Pillar Hall of the Gorenjska Museum in City Hall in Kranj, the Postojna Library, and Mengeš Primary School. The exhibitions are a joint project of patient associations (the most active being the Slovenian Transplant Association) and Slovenija-transplant.



Slovenija-transplant

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



The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Organ and Tissue Transplantation Slovenija transplant (abbreviated as Slovenija-transplant), is a non-profit public body and central national organisation in the field of organ donation and transplantation. It was founded by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (2002). Slovenija-transplant ensures the organisational conditions, professional protocols and appropriate legislation necessary for a successful, ethical, high-quality and transparent organ donation system in Slovenia. It is a central and a linking office of the national donor-transplantation network and it coordinates cooperation with Eurotransplant. The dedicated team at Slovenija-transplant educates professionals about protocols and informs the public about the importance of voluntary organ donation.