





Key facts and figures on EU organ donation and transplantation

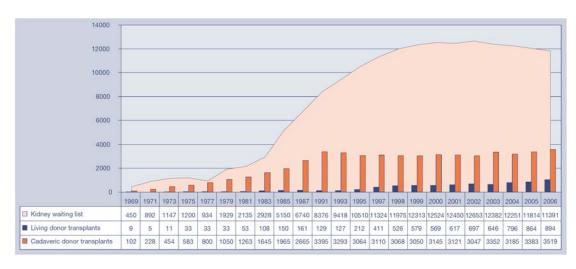
Due to rapid advances in transplantation medicine, the use of human organs for transplantation has steadily increased during the past decades. However, this advancement has led to a shortage in available organs and poses new quality and safety challenges.

An analysis of donation and transplantation variation across the European Member States shows that there is considerable potential to increase the availability of organs in Europe. While Spain identifies more than 33 deceased organ donors per million population (pmp), some other Member States just identify one organ donor per million population.

Similar differences can be seen in living donation rates. Thus, if good practices - organisational changes and improvements - were to become standard there is a large potential for increasing organ donation in Europe.

1. Increasing demand for organs

Currently, demand for organs exceeds their availability in all EU Member States and demand increases faster than organ donation rates in most Member States.



SOURCE Eurotransplant (2006)

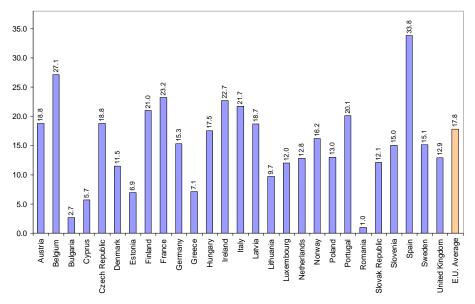






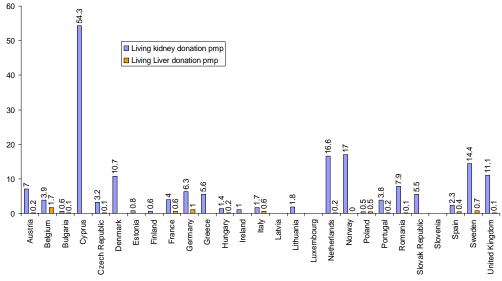
2. Donation rates and organ availability varies across Europe

Donation rates and transplantation activity varies widely between the Member States, ranging from 33.8 deceased donors per million of population (pmp) in Spain to 1 deceased donor per million population in Romania. Only Spain and few others Member States have succeeded in increasing significantly the number of donors. These increases are linked to the introduction of better organisational practices.



SOURCE: Council of Europe (2007) Deceased organ donors in the European Union

Living donation rates also differ substantially between Member States, and not all countries realise their potential for living donation. For example, in Cyprus the living donors pmp is 54.3 versus 0.5 living donors pmp in the UK. Interestingly it seems to be substituting the availability of organs from deceased donors. Figure 03 of Annex I provides an overview of living donations. In 2006, a total of 2,855 transplantations from a living donor (kidney and liver) were conducted.



SOURCE: Council of Europe (2007) Living kidney and living liver transplantations performed in 2006







3. Trust and confidence in organ donation and the transplantation system

Trust in the health care system and the organ donation system plays an important role in increasing the donation rate. Another indicator is family refusal rates.

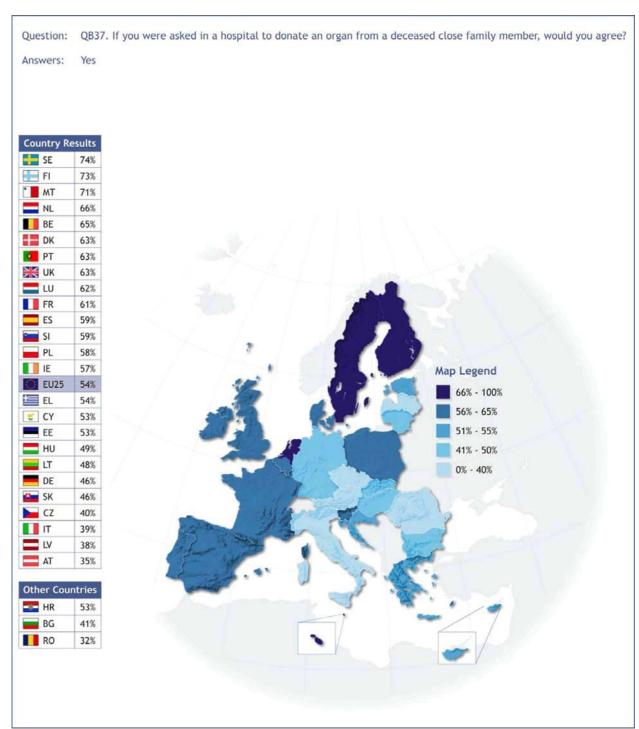
The 2007 Eurobarometer survey¹ (two graphs inserted below) shows considerable differences in the hypothetical willingness to donate a family member's organs.

In particular, the Nordic countries have a strong willingness to donate their organs, indicating a strong level of trust in the systems.







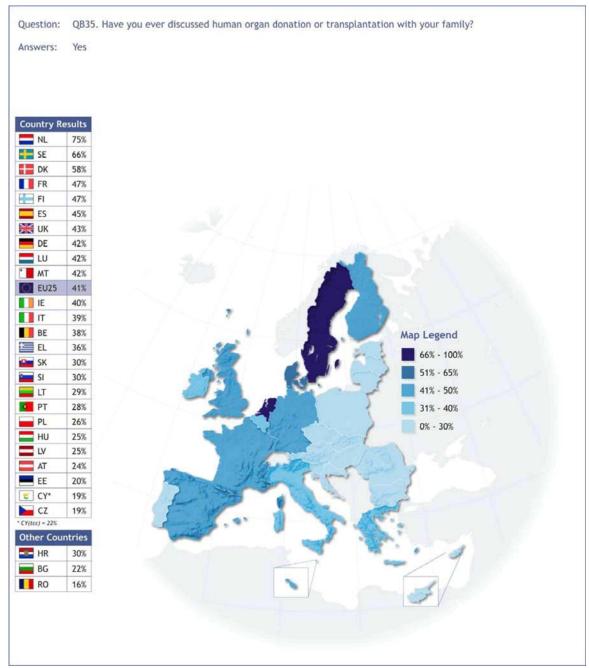


SOURCE: Eurobarometer (2007)









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