

CALL TO ACTION

The problem:

- ✓ In Europe 1 in 10 adults has some degree of chronic kidney disease (CKD).
- ✓ The current rise in diabetes, obesity and ageing will further worsen this situation.
- ✓ Hospital-based haemodialysis can cost up to 80,000 € per patient per year
- ✓ The annual risk of death for dialysis patients is 10 to 100 times higher than the risk of death in the general population.
- ✓ Patients undergoing dialysis suffer from a decreased quality of life
- ✓ Rates of kidney transplantation vary dramatically between EU Member States

The solution:

- ✓ Kidney transplantation is the treatment of choice for end-stage kidney disease (in suitable patients).
- ✓ Transplantation provides better clinical outcomes than dialysis
- ✓ Transplantation substantially reduces the healthcare costs of Chronic Kidney Disease by avoiding or delaying dialysis
- ✓ Transplantation makes it easier for CKD patients to maintain their full activities, including education and work
- ✓ Quality of life is substantially superior after kidney transplantation compared to dialysis

The European Kidney Health Alliance is calling on the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States to work together to design and implement relevant measures to boost organ donation and ensure increased access to transplantation across EU Member States

EKHA calls for:

- ✓ **Equal access to kidney transplantation** across the EU to all valid candidates
- ✓ **Education programmes** for healthcare professionals, patients and the general public to boost **living donor transplantation** at EU and national levels.
- ✓ Establishment of **appropriate legal and structural frameworks** to make EU Member States' transplantation programmes successful
- ✓ **Opting-out systems** for **deceased organ donation** in EU member states
- ✓ **A coordinated approach towards kidney transplantation** at EU level.

How can we achieve this?

- Successful donation systems rely on:
 - Support to well-functioning registration systems on transplantation rates and outcomes
 - Appropriate training and availability of specialised staff (e.g. transplant coordinators)
 - Cooperation amongst intensive care and emergency units and other hospital departments that care for potential deceased donors.
 - Promotion, simplification and implementation of systems helping citizens to clarify their position for or against donation of their organs to public authorities
 - Adequate social security/health insurance coverage mechanisms for donors and recipients.



- Promotion of public awareness and communication around organ donation (from a living or deceased person).
 - Generation of recommendations for unrestricted and evidence-based donor and acceptor selection criteria
 - Implementation of education and information programs to all candidates for renal replacement therapy on all kidney transplantation options (living and deceased) and control systems of their efficiency
- Kidney transplantation should be promoted and encouraged by all means including EU wide strategies to:
- Educate the general public, patients and healthcare professionals about the benefits of transplantation and the need to increase organ donation
 - Provide financial incentives encouraging Member States or regions to increase and improve their transplantation programmes.
- Living donor transplantation should be promoted by:
- Stimulation of family and altruistic living donation
 - Pre-emptive donor exchange programmes
 - Compensation of costs for living donors such as medical care or absence from work
 - Creating an optimal legal environment for living donation.
- Deceased donor transplantation should be promoted by improving awareness of this need and augmenting organ retrieval policies:
- Implementation of 'opting out' schemes for deceased kidney donation
 - Acceptance of expanded deceased donation (e.g. 'non-heart beating' donation).
- Member States lagging behind on either living or deceased donor transplantation should be supported to make all necessary efforts to stimulate these options.
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About the European Kidney Health Alliance:

EKHA is a **common effort by stakeholders** to propose solutions for the challenges of Chronic Kidney Disease in Europe through **effective prevention and a more efficient care pathway** intended to facilitate the **provision of appropriate and affordable treatment to all Europeans equally**, while promoting the highest quality of care. EKHA works on the principle that the issue of kidney health and disease must be considered at European level and that **both the European Commission and European Parliament have vital roles to play in assisting national governments** with these challenges.

About the “Gift of Life” campaign:

The “Gift of life” campaign is EKHA’s advocacy initiative to raise awareness on the need for:

- **a coordinated approach at EU level** as regards kidney donation
- **appropriate legal, structural and cultural frameworks in EU member states** to boost donation rates and hence reduce the numbers of deaths resulting from kidney failure while waiting for a transplant.

The “Gift of life” campaign aims to provide

- **A platform to channel EKHA’s key messages on transplantation** to the European Commission, the European Parliament and other relevant EU stakeholders in the field
- **A framework for EU member states** to develop national awareness raising activities on transplantation in a coordinated manner.

Join us!

