

Report from our visit in Helsinki, 1. – 2. of March 2022

We received a travel grant from Scandiatransplant in 2020. Due to the Corona pandemi, we postponed the visit until March 2022.

Our main purpose for the visit was to gain insight into the organization and what kind of measures have been taken in Finland to increase organ donation.

We met the National coordinator, the transplant coordinators, surgeons, anesthetists and intensive care nurses.

We gained a broad overview over the organization in organ donation and cooperation throughout Finland.

One main measure taken was the National action plan 2015-2018. The National Steering group consisted of stakeholders from the five university hospitals, the Authorities and transplant professionals. The action plan developed directives for audits and reports. A second Action Plan is in the making by The National Steering group to maintain and further develop the measures implemented.

At the University hospitals, there is one donor responsible physician (20%) and one donor responsible nurse (100%). The other hospitals have physician (5%)

They arrange an education day for all the donor hospitals once a year, and use the report from the hospital to plan which aspects to emphasize at each hospital.

Finland has established a National web-register for potential and realized donors. Each ICU is responsible for to record data. There is a clear definition on a potential donor; severe head/brain trauma, GCS, clinical signs on brain death, any contra indications – referred as a potential donor? Treatment withdrawal? It is also possible to register if the patient was admitted in ICU solely with organ donation on mind. The hospitals receive feedback on their activity by the National Coordinator.

We will provide information to the Norwegian Resource Group for Organ donation and the National Center for organ transplantation and donation in Norway. We hope to start discussions on what may be done in Norway to increase the awareness of organ donation to increase the number of donors.

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Urs Christen

