

Minutes of meeting

Meeting No: 30th meeting of the Nordic Transplant Committee

Time: Nov. 6th, 2025 at 13:00-16:00

Venue: FI028 Clarion Hotel Helsinki Airport, Taivastie 3, 01530 Vantaa, Finland

Present:

HEALTH AUTHORITIES:

Norway:

Tone Andersen, Norwegian Board of Health Supervision

Ragnhild Marie Sørensen, Norwegian Directorate for Health

Estonia:

Siim Suutre, Republic of Estonia Agency of Medicines

MEDICAL DIRECTOR:

Kaj Jørgensen, Medical Director of ScandiTransplant

BOARD MEMBERS OF SCANDIATRANSPLANT:

Allan Rasmussen, Copenhagen

Marko Lempinen, Helsinki

Vivan Hellström, Uppsala

Michael Perch, Copenhagen

Rafn Hilmarsson, Reykjavik

Virge Pall, Tartu

1. Welcome.

Marko Lempinen welcomed all attendees to Helsinki.

2. Election: Leader of meeting and writer of minutes.

Allan Rasmussen was elected to chair the meeting, while Siim Suutre was appointed as the writer of minutes.

3. Presentation of attendees

A brief round of introductions was conducted.

4. Ask for issues for any other business

No additional items were proposed for inclusion under Any Other Business.

5. Yearly request of data from ONT to CAs and Scandiatransplant Office

It was noted that the ONT occasionally sends requests for donation and transplantation data to Competent Authorities (CAs), which sometimes do not reach the intended recipients, resulting in unanswered requests. Consequently, the ONT approaches the Scandiatransplant office directly but imposes a significantly shorter deadline, having already awaited a response. It was proposed that Scandiatransplant might share the ONT's contact details with the relevant CAs to facilitate appropriate communication channels. Additionally, it was suggested that ONT can be advised to directly contact the Scandiatransplant office (e.g., ilse.duus.weinreich@scandiatransplant.org) with initial requests to allow more time for report completion.

6. Scandiatransplant's exclusive rights to deceased donors

The Board deliberated on Scandiatransplant's assumed exclusive rights to all deceased donors within member countries. While this arrangement functions in practice, it might lack formal documented confirmation in some countries. The Board concluded that the delegation of such rights could potentially originate from CAs, authorized by their respective ministries. A draft of the proposed wording for such delegation was circulated before the meeting. It was resolved that countries experiencing legal ambiguity regarding rights to deceased donors should introduce such delegation. Ideally, the wording for these delegative documents should be standardized across countries. Denmark agreed to pioneer the introduction of such delegation and share their insights with other countries.

7. What has happened in each country: CA supplemented by Board member.

Norway: Ragnhild Marie Sørensen

Donation rates in 2024¹ (2023)

- Realized donations by the method DBD (Donation after Brain Death) was **95** (101).
- Realized donations by cDCD (Controlled Donation after Circulatory Death) was **10** (18).
- **430** (440) organs were transplanted to **393** (399) patients.

¹ Annual reports from donor hospitals and the transplant service, 2024: [Sammenstilling av årsrapporter fra donorsykehus og transplantasjonsvirksomheten i 2024 - Helsedirektoratet](#)

Controlled Donation after Circulatory Death (cDCD) in 2024 (2023)

- 27 (27) of the donor hospitals (a total of 28²) report that they have approved the cDCD procedure, but only 15 (12) have so far (not only in 2024) completed the procedure.
- The National Treatment Service for Organ Transplantation at Oslo University Hospital is responsible for coordinating with all the donor hospitals to ensure equal understanding of the procedure.
- Oslo University Hospital has a department for organ donation and a department for transplantation.

Living donors in 2024 (2023)

- The proportion of transplants with **living donors** has increased significantly in 2024.³ For 2024, the number of **kidney** transplants with living donor was **71**, which is a significant increase from the two previous years with only 43 kidney transplants performed with living donors.
- In 2024, a record number of **liver** transplants with living donors were also performed, these were to 5 children. The total number of liver transplants with living donor in 2023 was 1.

Child as a donor

- According to the report "Organ donation in infants in Norway" by the Norwegian Paediatric Association⁴ (2024), special anatomical and physiological conditions in children, especially up to the age of two, make current methods for determining brain death less suitable in children than in adults.
- The report states that donation of infant organs for use in transplantation almost exclusively occurs from other cooperating countries.

Reported activities for 2024

- **Interdisciplinary organization:** Several donor hospitals have an organ donation committee, an interdisciplinary donor committee or resource groups with personnel from different departments.
- **Teaching and training:** Donor hospitals consistently report participation in national professional days organized by the Norwegian Resource Group for Organ Donation (NOROD), and NOROD's educational programs I and II. They also report on internal professional days, professional evenings and lunch meetings.
- **Systematic identification of potential donors:** Several donor hospitals systematically review all deaths after intensive care to identify potential donors.
- **Bereavement call, thank you letter and memorial service:** Several donor hospitals report that donors' relatives are contacted and offered a bereavement call in connection with thank-you letters. Some relatives have participated in memorial services at Oslo University Hospital.

² 29 approved donor hospitals in September 2025.

³ The National Treatment Service for Organ Transplantation, 2024

⁴ [rapport-organdonasjon-hos-spedbarn-endelig-versjon-06-09-2024.pdf](#)

Local/regional differences in donation rates

- According to the Transplantation Act, the regional health trusts shall ensure that all potential donors can be considered and made available for donation within the health region.
- In Norway, there are some regional/local differences in donation rates.
- In 2024, the regional health trusts received an assignment from the Ministry of Health and Care Services to review the organization of the organ donation activities at the donor hospitals. The purpose was to identify all potential donors and prevent unjustified variation in the number of donors. The National Treatment Service for Organ Transplantation was given a coordinating role.
- In September 2025, the government has approved the establishment of a **national competence service for organ donation**, while the health trusts are following up on the establishment of a **quality register** and a **professional council** with participation from all health regions.⁵ Coordination between these three measures are intended to strengthen a **national coordination** of donor activities.
- **The national competence service** is being added to Oslo University Hospital. The service will increase the competence at the donor hospitals. It will provide expertise related to the identification of potential organ donors, organ preservation treatment of donors, death diagnostics and handling of relatives.

European cooperation

- Norway participates in the meeting of the Council of Europe on organ trafficking - The Committee of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (THO).
- Norway is also represented in the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-To), and National Focal Points (NFPs) on transplant-related crimes.

The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision 2024-2025

- The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision has carried out inspections of several donor hospitals⁶. **No deviations** were identified during the inspections.
- Oslo University Hospital has decided that assessments of whether patients who die can be donors should be recorded in the medical records. The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision notes that the management at the health trust should follow up on **practice** in this area.
- The management at Oslo University Hospital should also follow up on ensuring that the work with organ donation and transplantation takes care of **children** on an equal footing with adults.
- Oslo University Hospital has systems to follow up and possibly correct practices. The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision recommends (comment) that the

⁵ [Ny ordning skal øke antall organdonorer - regjeringen.no](https://www.regjeringen.no/no/nyheter/ny-ordning-skal-okke-antall-organdonorer)

⁶ [Søketreff | Helsetilsynet](https://www.helsetilsynet.no/søketreff)

management of the health trust regularly evaluates the results of donor assessment checks and possibly implements improvement measures to correct practices.

Estonia: Siim Suutre

International questionnaires regarding organ donation and regulations

Questionnaire from Austria on National Registries

Austria was reassessing its national objection register and requested insights into the national legal frameworks for organ donation across the EU. This initiative aims to enhance understanding of the diverse approaches adopted by different countries.

EURO-KEP

The EURO-KEP project (funded by EU4Health programme) seeks to establish a unified European Kidney Exchange Program. It involves mapping the legal and regulatory landscapes governing living donations and kidney paired exchanges across Europe. A survey was distributed to identify regulatory or procedural constraints impacting the feasibility of kidney exchanges in various countries.

EDQM Survey on Xenotransplantation Regulation:

The EDQM conducted a survey on national regulations concerning xenotransplantation, as there are currently no specific EU rules on this matter. The survey results were inconclusive, but it was noted that xenogenic medicinal products might qualify as advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs). However, regulating them under ATMP guidelines could prove challenging.

Inspection of Tartu University Hospital

An inspection of organ procurement and handling at Tartu University Hospital was conducted on 6th of March 2025. The inspection report indicates no critical or major non-compliances were found, reflecting adherence to established protocols and standards.

Nordic Council of Ministers Working Group Invitation

Competent authorities from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have been invited to join the Nordic Council of Ministers' working group on Blood, Tissues, and Cells. The mandate for the Nordic Working Group on Substances of Human Origin (2025-2027) includes fostering cooperation with the Baltic countries. This working group does not address organ-related matters.

Estonian Health Insurance Fund Clinical Audit

The Estonian Health Insurance Fund has commissioned a clinical audit to analyze cases excluded from the organ donation process in 2023. The audit report is available in Estonian at the following link: <https://tervisekassa.ee/media/887/download?inline>.

Estonian Preparations for SoHO Regulation (2024/1938)

Estonia is preparing for the implementation of the SoHO Regulation (2024/1938), which is expected to come into effect on 07 August 2027. The regulation specifies that solid organs are excluded from the definition of Substances of Human Origin (SoHO) for its purposes. It is expected that in Estonia substances of human origin under will be managed under a single legislative framework, while a separate law will govern the regulation of solid organs.

Denmark: Matilde Bredahl Hansen in writing

'In June 2024, there was a political agreement to strengthen organ donation in Denmark through a national action plan. The initiatives in the action plan includes a change of law regarding the organ donor registry, hospital organization and living kidney donation. A key element is the legislative change to the organ donor registry in Denmark. From 1 June 2025, all Danish residents aged 18 and over will be automatically registered in the organ donor registry, though you must still actively confirm your decision to become a donor. The change aims to ensure that more Danes make an informed choice and that relatives are better supported in the donation process. A considerable effort has been made to communicate the meaning and implications of the new law to the public. DCD was started in the fall of 2023 and is currently implemented in three of the university hospitals. Overall, it is going very well with a total of 68 DCD donors. Last year, we reported, that unfortunately, DCD are putting extra pressure on the capacity of the transplantation centers and some possible donations have been cancelled because the transplant team was not able to procure the organs. We are currently looking into this issue as part of the evaluation of DCD.'

Iceland: Rafn Hilmarsson

The DCD program was initiated in collaboration with Gothenburg Hospital, with the first cases being processed successfully this year.

Finland: Marko Lempinen

Projections indicate a possible decline in donor numbers for 2025 compared to 2024 in Finland. An inspection of the Helsinki transplant unit in 2025 revealed only minor non-compliances.

Sweden: Vivan Hellström

The DCD program, started a few years ago, has shown an increase in DCD donor numbers, while living donor figures have declined. Overall, 2025 was a positive year, despite a slight decrease in DBD donors coinciding with the introduction of DCD donations.

8. Changes in Scandiatransplant organization.

STS to STC

It has been decided that Scandiatransplant will take responsibility for organizing the bi-annual congresses at Scandiatransplant centers. There will be a bidding process, and the Council of Representatives of Scandiatransplant will decide the locations. This initiative also aims to alleviate the financial burden on the individuals directly responsible for organizing the congress. As a result, the Scandinavian Transplantation Society Congress (STS) will be renamed the Scandiatransplant Congress (STC).

New Medical Director

Kaj Jørgensen has announced his retirement. It was decided that the next Medical Director will be a full-time manager based at the Scandiatransplant office in Aarhus, responsible for overseeing the IT team. Therefore, candidates with non-medical backgrounds are encouraged to apply. The job vacancy has been advertised, with the application deadline set for the end of January 2026.

9. Any other business

Although no specific topics were listed under Any Other Business, it was noted that Latvia is interested in joining Scandiatransplant. Latvia is progressing with the authorization of its laboratory, and Latvian representatives currently participate as observers in Scandiatransplant working groups.

10.

Next meeting will be in Oslo in October 29th, 2026.