

Travel Grant Report Form

Name and origin of applicants

Kjersti Lønning and Fanny Bruserud

living donor coordinating nurses,

Department of transplant medicine, Rikshospitalet, Oslo University hospital, Norway.

Purpose granted

Visit Aarhus University hospital and Sahlgrenska University hospital, Gothenburg to gain a broader understanding of how STEP is organized in two different hospitals. Visit Scandiatransplant to get to know their work better.

Amount granted

DKK 16 000

Time and place of visit

Sahlgrenska University hospital, Gothenburg, Oct 29-30, 2025

Aarhus University hospital and Scandiatransplant head office, Nov 12-14, 2025

Report

During the study visits, we explored how the STEP programme is organised and coordinated at Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Aarhus University Hospital, and the Scandiatransplant head office in Aarhus. The main focus was on collaboration within the STEP teams, routines before and after match runs, roles and responsibilities, information flow between centres, and practical experiences with the programme.

The visits showed that the practical organisation of STEP differs between hospitals. In Gothenburg, the living donor coordinators have a leading role in driving and coordinating the process. In Aarhus, responsibilities are distributed among the different members of the STEP team, while the living donor coordinators mainly handle the practical coordination, including contact with donors, recipients and other centres, as well as planning crossmatches and planning the day of surgery.

A shared experience across the three hospitals was that communication between centres during match runs becomes easier and more efficient when a living donor coordinator is actively involved in the team. There was also a clear common interest in making the STEP process more efficient, predictable and harmonised across centres.

Several concrete improvement areas were discussed. These included ensuring that all relevant donor information, including imaging, is entered into YASWA before the match run in order to support effective evaluation within the seven-day timeframe; clarifying which centre is responsible for coordination when more than two centres are involved; and developing a digital solution for sharing surgery planning documents securely and efficiently.

At Scandi transplant, we discussed the potential value of a common digital communication platform, including for the surgery planning form, and the advantages of establishing an annual STEP meeting for living donor coordinators. The EDHEP project further underlines the relevance of these questions. It may therefore be timely to strengthen coordination structures now, before STEP is expanded into a broader European context.

Evaluation

The visits provided valuable insight into how STEP is organised in different centres and confirmed that local autonomy plays an important role in the programme. As in Oslo, both Gothenburg and Aarhus have adapted STEP to their local organisational structures. This flexibility appears to work well within each centre, but it may also create challenges when several centres need to collaborate quickly and efficiently during a match run. The visits confirmed that living donor coordinators play a vital role throughout the process, from preparation before the match run to follow-up and coordination after a match has been identified and until transplantation is completed. Strengthening the coordinator role, improving shared digital tools, and establishing a regular forum such as an annual meeting for living donor coordinators could contribute to better logistics, clearer responsibilities and more harmonised collaboration across the STEP network.
