

## **Eurotransplant starts cooperation with Hungary**

Leiden, 3 November 2011

Today, after careful preparations, Eurotransplant and Hungary have signed a preliminary cooperation agreement. By teaming up Eurotransplant and Hungary aim at improving transplant services for patients on the waiting list with better matching between donors and recipients and faster help for urgent patients due to the enhanced number of organ donors.

Hungary has a long tradition in organ transplantation. At present there are 14 donors per million population. In Hungary heart, kidney, liver and pancreas transplantations are performed. In the area of lung transplantation Hungary cooperates since many years with the lung transplant program in Vienna (Austria).

Starting in 2012 Eurotransplant will allocate donor organs for three groups of Hungarian patients:

1. high urgent patients in need of a donor kidney, heart or liver
2. highly immunized kidney patients
3. pediatric transplant candidates

The preliminary cooperation between Hungary and Eurotransplant is based on reciprocity.

### **Towards full membership**

Today in Budapest the cooperation agreement was signed. On behalf of Eurotransplant president Prof. Dr. Bruno Meiser and vice-president Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Mühlbacher placed their signature. Hungary was represented by Dr. Miskovits Eszter, general director of the Hungarian National Blood Transfusion Service.

If the preliminary cooperation agreement is considered to be a success and to the mutual advantage of both Eurotransplant and Hungary, the final steps towards Hungary's full membership will be taken. With Hungary joining Eurotransplant, the number of cooperating countries rises to eight and the total population within the Eurotransplant service area expands from 124,5 to 134,4 million inhabitants.

### **About Eurotransplant**

Eurotransplant International Foundation is responsible for the allocation of donor organs in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and Slovenia. The allocation is objective and transparent, based upon medical and ethical criteria.

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### **Not for publication**

For further information you can contact the communications consultant Sandre Douma of Eurotransplant, +31 622 477 003. Detailed information on Eurotransplant can be found on [www.eurotransplant.org](http://www.eurotransplant.org).