

IN HOPE THERE IS POWER

IN LOVE THERE IS LIFE



Senior matters The Eurotransplant Senior Program (ESP) was implemented on January 4, 1999, within the Eurotransplant kidney allocation scheme. This program was developed because of an increasing number of older donors and recipients. The ESP allocates kidneys from deceased donors aged

65 years and older to recipients aged 65 years and older without the use of a donor HLA typing. The ESP aims at a cold ischaemic period (CIP) that is as short as possible. Since its launch and up until end-June 2017, Eurotransplant has performed 8,988 transplants under the ESP scheme.

*Kidney transplant recipient
Julijana Feltrin from
Slovenia now celebrates her
birthday twice a year*

EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD I have regularly suffered from inflammation of the kidneys. I lived with my disease that advanced slowly but persistently. I feared the diagnosis of complete kidney failure and the threat of dialysis treatment more than death itself. Some people tolerate dialysis well and some do not. Unfortunately I'm among the latter group.

The last few years (with six decades of my life already behind me) have been the most difficult: creatinine levels rose and fell, but my fear only grew. I had to face the inevitable. Summer came and also the first day of dialysis. I changed: I became really desperate. The moment that I learned I needed dialysis treatment was the moment

I decided to register for a kidney transplantation and nobody could convince me otherwise.

Dialysis, malaise and desperation When I came home after dialysis I was always very tired and that day was already lost for me. I wasn't asking for much in life - just to feel a little bit better. I was living proof of the old saying: "A healthy person has countless wishes but a sick person only has one".

Soon I received a call in the middle of the night and I was hoping it was the call of my salvation. I went to the hospital. Unfortunately the kidney wasn't viable and the operation didn't go through. I returned home. Weeks of dialysis, malaise and desperation followed.

Kind medical staff offered me new hope. I applied for the senior programme, which makes the possibility of receiving a new kidney better and faster for someone of my age.

Immense power One time I woke up my husband in the middle of the night. I was crying and saying I couldn't take it anymore. Like so many times before he hugged me and comforted me as best he could. Half an hour later the call came, they told me they had a kidney for me. With a smile on my face I bravely went to the hospital. I felt immense power inside me.

My operation went well thanks to the doctors, the hospital staff, some help from above and of course most of all thanks to my unknown donor. That night a new hope was born inside me, but somewhere else people were mourning the person who gave me everything and received nothing in return.

The greatest gift This is the greatest gift of love a person can give, donating without any expectations of receiving anything in return and saving a life. A person cannot receive a greater gift than the one I and my family have received.

I am alive again, I celebrate my birthday twice a year and together with me my donor, whom I sincerely thank every day and with whom in prayer I knit an invisible but firm bond.

Can a person give or receive more? I don't believe it is possible. The path I have walked until now has been difficult but my decision would be the same again, because now I know that in hope there is power and in love there is life. 🙏