



Eurotransplant

Basic Mandate

Eurotransplant International Foundation

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1. Mission of Eurotransplant

Eurotransplant¹ is a non-profit service organization which facilitates patient-oriented allocation and cross border exchange of deceased donor organs. Eurotransplant provides services to transplant centers and their associated tissue typing laboratories and donor hospitals in its member states.

To achieve its mission Eurotransplant has set the following goals:

- To achieve an optimal use of available donor organs and tissues;
- To secure a transparent, objective and fair allocation system, in compliance with national rules, based upon medical and ethical criteria;
- To support donor procurement to improve the availability of donor organs and tissues;
- To further improve the results of transplantation through collection and evaluation of donor, recipient, allocation, transplantation and follow-up data, scientific research and to publish and present these results;
- The promotion, support and coordination of organ donation and transplantation in the broadest sense.

2. Basic mandate of Eurotransplant

The Basic Mandate of Eurotransplant includes the following elements:

- Assignment (section 3)
- Services (section 4)
- Support (section 5)

3. Mission of Eurotransplant

3.1 Process

Eurotransplant's primary assignment is to coordinate the international exchange and allocation of deceased donor organs. To carry out this assignment Eurotransplant performs activities related to the whole process of organ donation and transplantation. The process included the following responsibilities:

- Coordination of donor procedures and support of donor procurement;
- Maintaining a waiting list;
- Receiving donor offers;
- Providing central support and advise for transplant centers, tissue typing laboratories and donor hospitals;
- International coordination of organ transport;
- Allocating of organs;
- Follow up of transplantations;
- Evaluating transplantation results;
- Supporting scientific research in order to improve allocation and transplantation results.

3.2 Working environment

Eurotransplant interacts, via its employees, with various stakeholders such as national competent authorities, national representatives of the transplant societies, financing authorities, donor hospitals, transplant centers, tissue typing laboratories, other organ exchange organizations and scientific societies.

Eurotransplant allocates organs based on (inter)national legislation. Eurotransplant maintains contact with all its stakeholders in order to analyze and further develop allocation policies.

Eurotransplant delivers its services in a social and political framework which demands transparency. Therefore, comprehensive quality and patient safety management systems are in place and being maintained.

3.3 Competencies of the organization

To perform its mandate, the organization of Eurotransplant needs to be in a position to:

1. Perform allocation in a 24-hour service framework
2. Continuously update and improve the process of allocation
3. Establish and maintain an (inter)national network
4. Report on and account for the outcome of its services

¹ meaning: Stichting Eurotransplant International Foundation

This means the organization will:

- Operate and maintain its services on a continuous basis;
- Manage the influx of complex information, varying in format, structure and content, from different sources;
- Perform activities to realize its (inter)national orientation;
- Maintain close communication with regulatory and legislative authorities on an (inter)national level–;
- Implement, comply with and support the development of (inter)national rules and regulations;
- Share the knowledge of Eurotransplant concerning allocation;
- Participate in (inter)national frameworks on topics as standards/best practices, issuing of rules, ethical issues, shortage of organs and international harmonization;
- Coordinate international cooperation;
- Gather data in order to perform the allocation process.
- To report on the outcome of the allocation process, account for the outcome to further develop the process.

4. Services

To be able to perform its mandate Eurotransplant maintains an efficient and effective organization. Eurotransplant follows the relevant (ISO) quality standards. Eurotransplants' activities are aimed at realizing effective services with adequate quality, regarding issues such as patient-safety, accuracy and data protection.

Important aspects of Eurotransplants' quality system involve the Eurotransplant Reference laboratory (ETRL) and a system for auditing the High-Urgent status of the patients on the waiting list.

The main mandated tasks performed by Eurotransplant are described below.

4.1 Allocation services

To be able to perform these services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Eurotransplant maintains a staff of medical doctors, an allocation service desk and medical administration.

To support this primary process supporting services are required in the area of housing, facilities, information and communication.

In realizing the continuity of its services Eurotransplant complies with all relevant rules and regulations concerning labor conditions in the Netherlands.

The Eurotransplant Reference Laboratory provides 24 hours a day, seven days a week immunological support to the allocation office and to the transplant centers.

The ETRL is responsible for the proficiency testing of all histocompatibility laboratories associated with Eurotransplant and the evaluation of highly immunized patients to be included in the acceptable mismatch program.

The development of Eurotransplants' allocation processes is driven by the evaluation of post-transplant results. For this purpose, Eurotransplant maintains a transplant follow-up registry.

4.2 Development of allocation process

To continuously update and improve the allocation process Eurotransplant develops and maintains a network of experts. The allocation process differs per organ with respect to rules and specific details. The network represents these different scientific areas. The expertise relating to the different organs - kidney, heart and lung, liver and intestine, pancreas, is provided by advisory committees for each organ. The more general topics, organ procurement, tissue typing, registry matters and ethical issues, also have their own advisory committee.

All committees meet regularly. The Eurotransplant staff prepares and conducts the meetings and guides recommendations through the organization and the governance structure.

Eurotransplant checks recommendations for compliance with the different (inter)national legislation and regulatory frameworks.

Eurotransplant actively joins in European projects related to organ transplantation. It is also actively involved in (inter)national regulatory projects. In this way Eurotransplant works at the improvement of its services, and standardization of processes and methods.

4.3 External networking

Eurotransplant performs activities to establish and maintain international regulations that can help Eurotransplant to improve the allocation process, but also to get an understanding of, and support for its activities.

To this purpose congresses are organized by Eurotransplant. These congresses focus on the professional, scientific and political communities in the field of organ transplantation within Eurotransplant member states. These congresses aim to enhance networking between participants and staff of Eurotransplant, thus contributing to mutual trust and understanding within the community. Furthermore, Eurotransplant hosts a website for members which provides information for its stakeholders.

Eurotransplant maintains an external network with international organ exchange organizations.

4.4 Reporting and accounting

Eurotransplant accounts for the results of its services in various ways and with various reports. It produces standard reports on different topics concerning the transplantation process. These reports are made available to members via the Eurotransplant websites.

Eurotransplant contributes to congresses and publications.

Eurotransplant publishes an annual report, reporting on both on the allocation process as well as the financial developments of the preceding year. The annual report also reports on the realization of the general policies in the field of allocation and its supportive processes. The Eurotransplant annual financial accounts are audited and approved by an external auditor.

Coordination of external contacts is laid down in a Eurotransplant communication policy.

5. Support

To facilitate the process of allocation and the related processes and thereby the organization and people working in it, Eurotransplant organizes several supporting processes. These processes are described below.

5.1 Clearinghouse

To facilitate the international exchange of organs, Eurotransplant supports the donation and transplantation centers with a clearinghouse function concerning the settlement of costs between the donating and receiving centers in the event of international organ exchange.

5.2 Information and quality

Eurotransplant continuously develops and maintains their information systems. These systems support the analysis of processes, and execution of allocation rules and the processing of other information. To operate these systems an adequate ICT infrastructure is maintained.

Eurotransplant adequately tests all procedures and systems in line with its quality standards.

5.3 Other

To enable Eurotransplant to operate as a service organization a supporting organization i.e., day-to-day management, finance, planning & control, facilities, human resources, ICT, administrative support are in place.

6. Governance

Eurotransplant is a foundation governed by Dutch law. The Governance structure of Eurotransplant consists of a Board of Management, a Supervisory Board, a Council of Administration, a Council of Medicine and Science as well as a number of Advisory Committees, consisting of international experts

7. Finances

Eurotransplant's activities are entirely financed by the participating member states. The organization's budget is negotiated with the financiers and/or the national competent authorities annually.