



HS-g-23-51

Action grants on facilitating organ paired exchange

EU4Health 2023 Work Programme - Information Session Open Calls
For Action Grants

30 June 2023

Background and policy context

- Patients on waiting lists before receiving an organ transplant (scarcity of organs, difficulties to find a compatible donor)
- Kidney transplants can involve a living donor.
- Exchanges can be organised to match an incompatible donor-recipient pair with another one, and eventually create a series of matches.

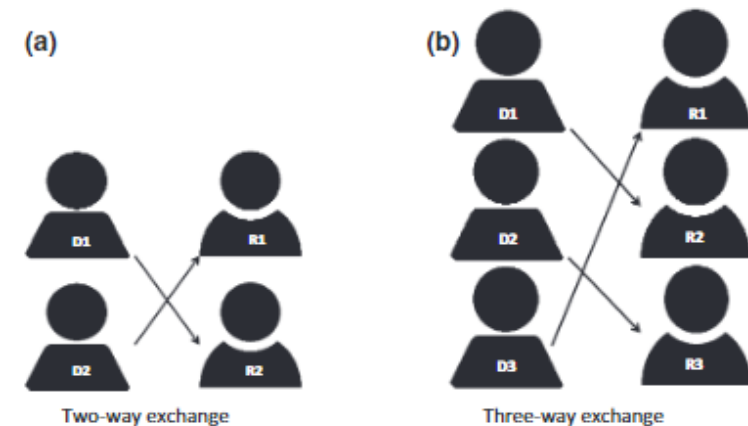


Figure 1 Different types of simple paired kidney exchanges. (a) Two-way exchange, (b) multi (n)-way exchange between multiple pairs.

Source: Kher, V. and Jha, P.K. (2020), Paired kidney exchange transplantation – pushing the boundaries. *Transpl Int*, 33: 975-984.

Background and policy context

- Such exchange schemes of donor-recipient pairs are being developed in and among some Member States to increase the probability of finding matches (in those countries where the enrolment of such pairs is allowed by national legislation).
- A software including the matching algorithm (of donor-recipient pairs) has been already developed.
- There is a need to increase the ability to identify and organize transplants with exchanged donor-recipient pairs and to strengthen such exchange schemes among Member States.
- This will bring added value for European patients, as having overall more opportunities for kidney transplants in EU can save the life of patients.

Activities to be funded

This action will apply the common algorithm for matching donor-patient pairs, among the participants and will develop its application by:

- a) developing the modalities for participating to the exchange schemes, including agreement and uptake by the different national allocation offices;
- b) feeding the algorithm with harmonised pair data via a common IT platform between participants;
- c) developing common support protocols among participants, covering all related aspects like oversight, governance, funding, follow-up of donors and patients, in order to allow that transplantations are taking place.

This action will roll out a common approach across national competent authorities, in charge of organ allocation.

Expected results and impact

The results are the following:

- a) a joint cross-EU allocation to facilitate Organ Paired Exchange on kidney transplants;
- b) development, agreement and use of common protocols, platforms and guidelines to increase the opportunities for patients looking for a kidney transplant;
- c) more and better treatment options for patients, and increase their quality of life.

The action will contribute to the recovery after the COVID-19 crisis which led to a significant amount of missed donations and transplant opportunities.

Expected deliverables

- Improved IT platform for matching donor-patient pairs and protocols for feeding and using it, based on testing/experiences by several Member States' allocation offices
- Operational and financial plan, including governance plan for the sustainable use of the IT platform
- Guidelines for effective implementation, at national level, and participating to a cross-border exchange scheme for kidney transplants (when enrolment of donorrecipient pairs is allowed by national legislation)
- Website and leaflet to disseminate and exchange good practices

In addition to those listed already in the call text (project website, project leaflet, common support protocols)

Budget and targeted applicants

- **Budget:** EUR 600 000
- **Targeted applicants:** Member States' authorities/ allocation offices and professional organisations such as European Organ Exchange organisations & European professional societies
- Number of grant agreements expected to be signed: 1
- Expected duration of the project: 12 -36 months
- More information: https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/2023-eu4health-calls-action-grants_en

Thank you



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