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ESOT is collaborating with the Donation and Transplantation Institute (DTI) and WHO Europe to develop programmes in countries with low transplant activity and high 'transplantation tourism'. Through BRAVEST, an EU-funded project that ESOT will coordinate in collaboration with national authorities, ESOT will also help develop measures to improve the resilience of transplant and donor procurement networks when facing crisis.





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### With ESOT celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, what has been your biggest ESOT highlight to date?





The education and scientific pathway that ESOT has developed so far, from supporting future transplant professionals through our HESPERIS course to assisting fully educated professionals who enjoy innovative and top-class science through the ESOT Congress.

In short, ESOT provides a full range of diverse and multispecialty educational possibilities for the entire transplant community.



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## Reflecting on the last 40 years, what role has ESOT played in advancing transplantation in Europe?



ESOT has played a key role in building the skills and knowledge of many European and non-European transplant professionals by providing top class education, awarding educational and training grants and providing the endeavours to deliver world-leading transplant research outcomes.



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When exploring how we can tackle inequality in organ transplantation across Europe, what are the core areas we need to improve?



This requires country-specific analysis, but there are several benchmark parameters that can be useful for comparing results, including the number of transplants per type of organ, transplant centres, deceased donor reports, actual and utilised DBD/DBD, and donor transplant coordinators per type. Additional parameters include reimbursement for transplant activity and the availability of facilities and technology.





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Patient organisations and charities play a pivotal role in helping to tackle inequality in organ transplantation across Europe – what can they do?



Patient organisations and charities can advocate for the rights of patients to be assessed for transplantation regardless of their background.

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What steps can national transplant societies and local healthcare systems take to improve equality in organ transplantation across Europe?



Drive education through international internships, sister programmes and training; organise visits and interviews with national stakeholders; support networking between experts across the EU; and deliver research initiatives.

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The paradigm shift where ESOT advocated for person-centred transplant care as its mission, focusing on the person with an organ and not the organ in the person. The launch of the ESOT Patient Inclusion Initiative is a standout example.

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### Regional variations in organ transplantation exist within European countries – what causes this?



Different organisational models for organ donation and transplantation; the inexistence of national authorities in charge of transplantation; the healthcare system (reimbursement programmes, immunosuppression coverage, etc.); the professional's expertise and capacity; and the specific role of donation experts in hospitals.

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