

ESOT Agenda on Sustainable Transplantation



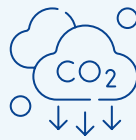
Advancing sustainability through robustness in global transplant health

The reality

Transplantation saves lives, but the systems behind it are under pressure.



11 people die every day in Europe and the UK waiting for a transplant¹



Healthcare contributes ~5% of global emissions²



Workforce shortages and inequalities are growing

Transplant systems must now respond to climate and environmental impact, rising demand and ageing populations, workforce strain and burnout, and inequalities in access to care.

Without action, these pressures will limit access and outcomes.

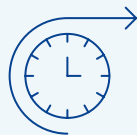
The opportunity: Sustainability through robustness

Sustainability is not only environmental. It is about building systems that are resilient, equitable, efficient and future-ready. Strong transplant systems must be able to adapt to change, withstand shocks, deliver consistent, high-quality care and use every donated organ responsibly.

In practice, a sustainable transplant system:



Uses donated organs optimally



Delivers long-term patient outcomes



Ensures fair access for all



Supports a resilient workforce



Remains stable under pressure

ESOT's Commitments

To operationalise sustainability through robustness, the ESOT Agenda on Sustainable Transplantation is structured around four interconnected pillars. Each pillar translates strategic intent into focused, measurable commitments aligned with ESOT's Strategic Plan and Manifesto.

1

Sustainable Clinical Practice

Strengthening clinical pathways to optimise organ use, improve outcomes and reduce environmental impact

2

Equity & Access

Reducing disparities in access by aligning standards, improving transparency and enabling cross-border collaboration

3

Education & Workforce Sustainability

Building a skilled, supported workforce through first-class education and leadership development

4

Sustainable Governance & Events

Embedding sustainability into ESOT's operations through accountable governance, digital solutions and measurable progress

Calls to action: A shared responsibility

No single actor can deliver this alone. Together, we can reduce inequalities in access, strengthen transplant systems and honour the gift of organ donation.



Healthcare institutions must act now

Embed sustainability across clinical practice, infrastructure and organisational strategy to strengthen system resilience and reduce environmental impact.



Healthcare professionals must lead change

Integrate sustainable and ethical decision-making into daily practice while driving continuous improvement across the transplant pathway.



Policymakers must enable progress

Deliver the policy frameworks, investment and cross-border collaboration needed to build equitable, resilient transplant systems.



Sustainable transplantation is not optional. It is essential to protect patients, respect donors and secure the future of life-saving care. Every donated organ represents a gift, and a responsibility to use it wisely, fairly and sustainably.



1. Vanholder, R., Dominguez-Gil, B., Busic, M., Cortez-Pinto, H., Craig, J. C., Jager, K. J., Mahillo, B., Stel, V. S., Valentin, M. O., Zoccali, C., & Oniscu, G. C. (2021). Organ donation and transplantation: a multi-stakeholder call to action. *Nature reviews. Nephrology*, 17(8), 554–568. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41581-021-00425-3>

2. Or, Z., & Seppänen, A. V. (2024). The role of the health sector in tackling climate change: A narrative review. *Health policy (Amsterdam, Netherlands)*, 143, 105053.