



10 March 2018

10 years of liver transplantation in the Republic of Belarus: Ethical challenges and perspectives International Conference

jointly organised by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus and
the Bioethics Unit of the Council of Europe
with the support of the Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk

6 April 2018
Minsk Marriott Hotel,
20 Pobediteley Avenue, Minsk

INFORMATION NOTE

General comments

The international Conference “10 years of liver transplantation in the Republic of Belarus: Ethical challenges and perspectives” is being jointly organised by the Bioethics Unit of the Council of Europe and the Republican Scientific-Practical Centre of Organ and Tissue transplantation of the Ministry of health of the Republic of Belarus in the framework of the Action Plan of the Council of Europe for Belarus and with the support of the Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk.

The objective of the conference is to discuss legal, ethical and medical perspectives of organ and tissue transplantation contributing thereby to addressing challenges encountered at both international and national levels.

The programme of the Conference contains presentations on international standards in the field of organ donation and organ transplantation, including the Oviedo Convention, case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, relevant principles of the World Health Organisation, ethical challenges, fight against trafficking in human organs and exchange of relevant good practices in transplantation systems in Belarus and in other countries.

The Council of Europe is an international organisation created in 1949. The main goal of the Council of Europe is to promote cooperation for the protection of Human Rights and respect of Rule of law and Democracy.

Since the beginning of 80s, the Council of Europe works for the protection of Human Rights in the field of biomedicine. This work continues to be unique at the international

level due to its Human Rights approach. The intergovernmental committee responsible for the protection of human rights in the field of biomedicine is the [Committee on Bioethics \(DH-BIO\)](#).

An important legal document, establishing fundamental principles in the biomedical field is the [Convention of Human Rights and biomedicine](#). This Convention was opened for signature in 1997 in Oviedo (Spain) and is also called the Oviedo Convention. Drawing on the principles established by the European Convention on Human Rights, it sets out a legal framework aiming at protecting human rights in daily medical practice as well as in specific fields such as biomedical research, genetics and transplantation of organ and tissues. The principles enshrined in the Oviedo Convention are further elaborated and complemented by Additional Protocols on specific subjects: prohibition of human cloning, biomedical research, genetic testing for health purposes and [transplantation of organs and tissues of human origin](#).

[The European Committee on Organ Transplantation \(CD-P-TO\)](#) without prejudice to the competences of the other relevant committees, including the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO), oversees and co-ordinates the Council of Europe's work in the field of transplantation of organs, tissues and cells.

In Belarus:

491 organ transplantations for 483 patients (51, 7 transplantations per 1 million of population, including liver – 79, kidney – 362, heart -39, pancreas – 6, lungs – 5) were performed in the territory of the Republic of Belarus in 2017.

More than 50% of organ and tissue transplantations were performed by the surgeons of the [Republican Scientific-Practical Centre of transplantation of the 9th Clinical Hospital](#) in Minsk.

Transplantations of kidney were also held in Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Vitebsk and, in the beginning of 2018 - in Mogilev. Paediatric transplantation of liver and kidney is continuing to develop.

The success of transplantation is directly linked to the development of donorship. In 2017 organs and tissues were removed from 224 effective deceased donors (23,6 removals per 1 million of population).

Transplantation service of the Republic of Belarus is developing international cooperation with other national registries of transplantation and international organisations, including the Council of Europe (the Committee on bioethics (DH-BIO) and the European committee on organ transplantation (CD-P-TO).