T-THO BU (2024) 02

Committee of the Parties to the
Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (CETS No. 216)

(SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA COMMITTEE)

Questionnaire for the 1st thematic monitoring round:

Prevention and awareness mechanisms to counter trafficking in human organs (THO)[1]

As adopted by the Santiago de Compostela Committee on the 3rd December 2024

Replies should be addressed to the Santiago de Compostela Committee Secretariat
(**organtrafficking@coe.int**)

by **30 May 2025**

[1] Theme adopted by the Committee at its plenary meeting on 26 October 2023.

NAME OF THE COUNTRY	Portugal

Please specify which state bodies/authorities (and, at the discretion of the country, where relevant, civil society and external contributors) contributed to responding to this questionnaire.

- **Body/authority responsible for collecting the replies**:

- **State bodies/agencies (where relevant, civil society and external contributors) that contributed to responding to this questionnaire:**

  Instituto Português do Sangue e da Transplantação, IP (IPST,IP)

Introduction

1. **The Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs** (the Convention) which entered into force on 1 March 2018, requires the criminalisation of offences set out in the Convention in Articles 4-8. It sets out that states, in Europe and beyond, shall adopt specific legislation to prevent and combat the trafficking in human organs by criminalising certain acts, protecting the rights of victims of the offences established under the Convention, and promoting national and international co-operation.

2. The Committee of the Parties to the Convention (also known as the "Santiago de Compostela Committee"), established to monitor whether Parties effectively implement the Convention (Rule 26 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure), decided that:

> *"3. The monitoring round shall be initiated by addressing a questionnaire on the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention with respect to the selected theme. The Parties shall respond to the questionnaire within the time limit set by the Santiago de Compostela Committee."*

3. As prevention and awareness is key to preventing and combating the trafficking in human organs the Santiago de Compostela Committee decided that the first monitoring round would focus on the "Prevention and awareness mechanisms to counter trafficking in human organs".[2]

4. On 3rd December 2024, the Santiago de Compostela Committee adopted this thematic questionnaire. Its purpose is to collect specific information on how Parties implement the Santiago de Compostela Convention with respect to the prevention and awareness mechanisms to counter trafficking in human organs. The replies to the questionnaire will be assessed against the related background information provided by the Parties when answering the "General Overview" questionnaire on the implementation of the Santiago de Compostela Convention (hereinafter "Country Profile Questionnaire" or "CPQ"), and any other relevant information from reliable sources.

5. It is recalled that, in accordance with Rule 27 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure:

> *"(…) 2. The secretariat shall address such questionnaires to the Parties through the member in the Santiago de Compostela Committee representing the Party to be monitored and who will act as "contact point".*
> *3. Parties shall coordinate with their respective domestic authorities to collect replies, which shall be submitted to the secretariat in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe within the time limit set by the Santiago de Compostela Committee. The replies to the questionnaires shall be detailed, as comprehensive as possible, answer all questions and contain all relevant reference texts. The replies shall be made public, unless a Party makes a reasoned request to the Santiago de Compostela Committee to keep its reply confidential.*
> *4. The Santiago de Compostela Committee may also receive information on the implementation of the Convention from non-governmental organisations and civil society involved in preventing and combating trafficking in human organs, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe and within the time limit set by the Santiago de Compostela Committee. The secretariat transmits these comments to the Party or Parties concerned.*
> *5. The secretariat may request additional information if it appears that the replies are not exhaustive or are unclear. Where warranted, with the consent*

[2] Committee of the Parties of the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (Santiago de Compostela Committee), *List of decisions*, 4th Plenary Meeting (25-26 October 2023), T-THO (2023) LD2, paragraph 6.2.

of the Party or Parties concerned and within the limits of budgetary appropriations, the Bureau may decide to mandate an on-site visit to the Party or Parties concerned to clarify the situation. The Bureau shall establish guidance as to the procedure governing the on-site visits pending any official guidelines agreed by the Santiago de Compostela Committee."

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

6. The questions in this questionnaire are grouped around Article 21, paragraphs1 and 2 of the Santiago de Compostela Convention concerning issues of preventive actions, data collection and exchange of information, training to healthcare professionals and relevant officials, and promotion of awareness-raising campaigns addressed to the general public.

7. This thematic questionnaire does not seek to collect information on the general legislative and institutional framework established by Parties to implement the Convention. Article 21, paragraphs 1, and 2 are aimed at providing for transparency in domestic transplantation systems of human organs, equitable access to transplantation services for patients, and adequate collection, analysis and exchange of information related to the offences covered by this Convention in cooperation between relevant authorities. This article also aims at strengthening the training of healthcare professionals and relevant officials and at the promotion of awareness-raising campaigns addressed to the public. This questionnaire focuses more narrowly on practical measures taken to prevent and combat against trafficking in human organs and includes highlighting protocols to identify and report trafficking in human organs, training programmes aimed at preventing this activity, and raising awareness for patients and other groups.

8. Responses to this thematic questionnaire will be understood against the background information submitted by Parties in reply to the CPQ. Whenever warranted, Parties are invited to refer to such information. Where questions overlap between the CPQ, and this questionnaire, the replies to the latter will be assessed by the Committee to prepare its implementation reports of the Convention concerning the monitoring theme.

9. If there are differences with the information provided in response to the CPQ and the 1st monitoring round, Parties are kindly requested to specify which State

bodies/agencies and, where relevant, NGOs, contributed to responding to this questionnaire.

10. Parties are kindly requested to specify whether the measure in criminal law, administrative law, and/or whichever other measure is involved when responding to each question and each part of the question.

11. Parties are kindly requested to:

    a. answer the questions regarding central, regional and local levels, to the extent possible. Federal states may, with respect to their sovereign entities, answer the questions in a summarised way;
    b. provide the relevant text for the relevant provision (or a summary thereof), in English or French only, whenever questions/answers refer to legislation or other regulations.

Chapter V – Prevention measures

Article 21 – Measures at domestic level

1. Each Party shall take the necessary legislative and other measures to ensure:

    a. the existence of a transparent domestic system for the transplantation of human organs;

    b. equitable access to transplantation services for patients;

    c. adequate collection, analysis and exchange of information related to the offences covered by this Convention in co-operation between all relevant authorities.

2. With the aim of preventing and combatting trafficking in human organs, each Party shall take measures, as appropriate:

a. to provide information or strengthen training for healthcare professionals and relevant officials in the prevention of and combat against trafficking in human organs;

b. to promote awareness-raising campaigns addressed to the general public about the unlawfulness and dangers of trafficking in human organs.

Explanatory Report

Chapter V – Prevention measures

Article 21 – Measures at domestic level

125. The purpose of Article 21 is to prevent trafficking in human organs by obliging Parties to address some of its root causes. Hence Parties shall in accordance with paragraph 1 ensure the existence of a transparent domestic system for the transplantation organs; equitable access to transplantation services for patients, and finally, adequate collection, analysis and exchange of relevant information pertaining to trafficking in human organs between all relevant domestic authorities. Parties may wish to consider the provisions of Articles 3 – 8 of the Additional protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin, when reviewing their current transplantation systems in the light of this Article.

126. The issue of "transparency" is important, because it reduces the risk of illicitly removed organs being introduced into the legitimate domestic transplantation system. "Equitable access to transplantation services" means that Parties should ensure a "level playing field" in terms of the allocation of organs for all patients awaiting

implantation. Ensuring a strong cooperation between the many different competent authorities involved in combatting trafficking in human organs is a prerequisite for achieving any measure of success. In this respect, the negotiators decided to put special emphasis on the collection, analysis and exchange of information between these authorities, thus enabling them to take timely action to prevent the crimes set out in the Convention.

127. Paragraph 2, letter a, obliges Parties to take measures, as appropriate, with regard to providing information and strengthening training, e. g. on how to detect indications of trafficking in human organs, for healthcare professionals and relevant officials. According to letter b, Parties are furthermore obliged to promote, as appropriate, awareness-raising campaigns addressed to the general public on the unlawfulness and dangers of trafficking in human organs.

Preventive Measures -
Identifying and reporting of THO

This section aims to collect information on internal protocols to identify trafficking in human organs for purposes of transplantation and other purposes, and other forms of illicit removal and illicit transplantation.

Question 1.

Which legislative, policy, strategic, and other measures have been taken to develop and implement protocols to facilitate the identification of trafficking in human organs and other forms of illicit removal and illicit transplantation[3]:

By those involved in the supply, procurement and transplantation programmes (both public and private agents

[3] "other forms of illicit removal and illicit transplantation" has the meaning provided by paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Report and by Article 4, paragraph 4, and Article 6 of the Convention.

- Criminalisation of trafficking in human organs according to the “Convention”.

  The Portuguese Penal Code was amended by Law 102/2019, of September 6, which introduces the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention against trafficking in human organs, amending the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

  Article 144-B of the Criminal Code stipulates the following:

  “1 - Anyone who extracts a human organ:
  a) From a living donor, without their free, informed and specific consent, or from a deceased donor, when their unwillingness to donate has been validly expressed; or
  b) When, in exchange for the extraction, the living donor or a third party is promised or given a pecuniary or non-pecuniary advantage, or they have received it,
  shall be punished with a prison sentence of 3 to 10 years.
  2 - The same penalty shall apply to anyone who, having knowledge of the conduct provided for in the previous paragraph:
  a) By any means, prepares, preserves, stores, transports, transfers, receives, imports or exports a human organ extracted under the conditions provided for therein; or
  b) Uses a human organ, or part, tissue or cells thereof for the purposes of transplantation, scientific research or other non-therapeutic purposes.
  3 - Anyone who, with the intention of obtaining a pecuniary or non-pecuniary advantage for themselves or a third party, solicits, entices or recruits a donor or recipient for the purpose of extracting or transplanting a human organ, shall be punished with imprisonment from 3 to 10 years.
  4 - Persons referred to in article 150(1) who extract, transplant or allocate a human organ to a recipient other than the one who would be eligible, in violation of leges artis or contrary to the general criteria for transplantation in relation to clinical urgency, immunogenetic compatibility or preference and priority, shall be punished with imprisonment of 1 to 5 years, if a more serious penalty does not apply to them by virtue of another legal provision.
  5 - The penalties provided for in the preceding paragraphs shall be increased by one third, in their minimum and maximum limits, if the conduct was carried out in an organized manner or if the victim is especially vulnerable.
  6 - The penalty shall be especially attenuated if the perpetrator, until the end of the trial at first instance, concretely assists in obtaining or producing decisive evidence for the identification of others responsible.”

- Amendment to the Code of Ethics of the Portuguese Medical Association, approved by Regulation 707/2016, of July 21, in order to add an exception to medical secrecy. This exception allows the disclosure of information about trafficking in human organs (THO) and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal (TIP for OR), by Health Professionals.
  The Code of Ethics was amended by Regulation 498/2020, of May 26.

- The development of **a protocol of conduct for health professionals (HPs)** and **healthcare authorities** on how to prevent, detect and report trafficking in human organs (THO) and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal (TIP for OR). The **protocol of conduct** provides HPs with guidance and practical tools on prevention, detection and report organ trafficking. Furthermore, highlight their duty to discourage and prevent any harm of patients, as well as the duty to protect the possible victim-donor.

- The implementation of a **reporting mechanism for health professionals** and **healthcare authorities** to communicate information about suspected or confirmed cases to THO or TIP for OR to the appropriate national authorities, for criminal investigation.

In this context, in the event of suspected or confirmed cases of organ trafficking health professionals and/or health authorities should report them to the law enforcement authorities, in accordance with the existing protocol of conduct, which provides Indicators to identify signals of suspicious cases of illicit transplants, and the reporting mechanism.
Suspected cases are reported to the judicial authority using a specific form, part of the reporting mechanism, for collecting relevant information for criminal investigation such as the hospitals or professionals involved in illegal transplants, the identity of patients and donors, type of transplant (from living or deceased donor), the country and city where the transplant was performed, the medical report.

Question 2.

Specify legislative, policy, strategic, and other measures that have been taken, to ensure transparency and fairness in the domestic system for the transplantation of organs:

a. Please state if there is an audit of the donation and transplants, and the transplantation system.

Yes. There are audits and inspections, such as**:**

i. **Audits in hospitals** with the aim of improving coordination between deceased donor transplant coordinators and intensive care professionals to improve organ donation processes and to measure the identification and referral of all potential deceased donors to increase donation rates;
ii. **Audits to transplant centres** to ensure the selection of patients for transplantation in conformity with objective medical criteria (e.g. clinical urgency, immunogenetic compatibility) and non-discriminatory;
iii. **Inspections** on the services that carry out activities related to donation, procurement and transplantation, for the purposes of authorising or renewing them, including the services involved in organ allocation.

b. If so, is this an independent audit, whether internal or external to the organisation?

Yes.

The **inspections** [point *iii)* above] are performed by the **Directorate-General of Health,** a public institution, according to: i) **Law 39/2012, of February 16**, which approves the organic of the Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation; and ii) **Law no. 36/2013, of 12 June**, which establishes the regime for guaranteeing the quality and safety of organs of human origin intended for transplantation into the human body, transposing **Directive 2010/53/EU**, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 7 July, on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation.
This Directorate-General of Health is responsible for supervising and verifying compliance with the requirements set out in Law 36/2013, of June 12.

The **audits** are performed by the **Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation** to fulfil its tasks, according to the mentioned laws.
The Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation is an institution of the Public Administration responsible for regulating and coordinating activities related to the donation and transplantation of organs, tissues and cells. Its mission also includes other tasks, such as:

- Ensuring the availability of Substances of Human Origin for transplantation;

- Ensuring a single integrated transplant Registry designated as the Portuguese Transplant Registry (RPT), to collect and record all data related to transplant activities, e.g. the identity of patients and donors, type of organ and transplant (with a living or deceased donor), information on how the donor consent was obtained or, in the case of a deceased donor, whether the national register of non-donors was consulted before the procurement of organs (Portugal has an opting-out system donation), information on the follow-up of the transplant recipient and the living donor;
- The management, at a national level, of the waiting list of patients who are eligible for transplantation and to select donor - recipient pairs, through the Portuguese Transplant Registry (RPT).

c. Does the audit have as an aim the identification of weaknesses in systems that hinder or do not facilitate the detection and reporting of suspected offences contained in articles 4 to 8, and 9 in this Convention?

The audits and inspections include this goal, but they are not its exclusive focus.

d. Please state the frequency of such audits

Inspections are carried out every 2 years, to ensure compliance with the provisions of Law 36/2013, of 12 June.
Audits are planned annually by the Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation and are carried out according to a predetermined schedule. However, they can be carried out at any time if necessary.

e. Are the audits mandatory or voluntary?

Audits are voluntary and inspections are mandatory.

Data Collection, Analysis, and Exchange of Information

This section concerns the effective collection, collation, and analysis of data, and exchange of information related to the offences covered by this Convention between all relevant authorities that support the identification and prevention of trafficking in human organs for purposes of transplantation and other purposes, and other forms of illicit removal and illicit transplantation.

Question 3.

a. Which legislative, policy or other measure mandates and supports the collection, collation, analysis of data and the exchange of information between authorities in order to enable them to take timely actions to prevent the crimes set out in this Convention?

- **Collection, collation, and analysis of data:**
  In 2016 the Council of Europe established the **Network of National Focal Points on Travel for Transplantation (NETTA),** European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (EDQM). This network appears in the context of the Council of Europe **Resolution CM/Res(2013)55**, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 December 2013, on establishing procedures for the collection and dissemination of data on transplantation activities outside a domestic transplantation system.
  The Member States were asked to designate, within existing national transplantation bodies and/or Ministries of Health, **National Focal Points** (NFPs) **in charge of: i) data collection on recipients and/or donors who travelled abroad in the context of a transplant procedure**; and **ii) reporting their findings to the Council of Europe Committee on Organ Transplantation** (CD-P-TO) with a view to analysing and discussing such results and informing member states.
  In June 2017 the EDQM launched a secure international database, designated the Registry on International Travel for Transplantation Activity (RITTA). On this database, NFPs can access their own national data, but not that introduced by other NFPs.
  The **Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation**, IP, has been **part of NETTA** as the national focal point **since 2016** and **collects this data annually**, reporting the results to RITTA.

The **data collection is done through specific questionnaires** and a cover letter to be disseminated among all transplant centres, provided by the NETTA (EDQM).

- **Exchange of information:**

  In Portugal, the reporting of trafficking cases is an allowed exception to the physician's obligation, to maintain patient confidentiality, according to the Regulation no. 498/2020, of May 26.

  In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of organ trafficking, health professionals and/or health authorities should report them to the law enforcement authorities, in accordance with the existing **protocol of conduct**, which provide Indicators to identify signals of suspicious cases of illicit transplants, and the **reporting mechanism**, as described in Question 1.

  Suspected cases are reported to the judicial authority using a specific form, part of the reporting mechanism, for collecting relevant information for criminal investigation such as the hospitals or professionals involved in illegal transplants, the identity of patients and donors, type of transplant (from living or deceased donor), the country and city where the transplant was performed, the medical report.

  Furthermore, the annual data collection on recipients and/or donors who might have travelled abroad in the context of a transplant procedure, allows the National Focal Point to identify and analyse any suspicious case that should be reported to the judicial authorities.

  With regard to any "offers" of organs (e.g. kidneys) made through advertisements, social networks or contacts with transplant centres, they are also reported to the judicial authorities for investigation.

b. Please indicate if there is a system in place to collect, collate and analyse data relating to offences covered by this Convention. When did this system begin to operate?

   Yes, as described above in question 3 a.

c. Which authority has the primary responsibility for the collection, collation and analysis of data specific to offences covered by this Convention?

   The Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation, as described above in question 3 a.

d. Which authority is responsible for the preparation and dissemination of such reports?

In the area of health, is the Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation, as described above in question 3 a.

e. Are reports shared with all relevant authorities? Please also include the frequency of such reporting.

Every detected case is reported to the relevant authorities.

f. Which authorities are involved in the exchange of information and reports?

In the health field, the Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation, as described above in question 3 a.

g. Do any relevant authorities not share data? If so, please specify the legal reason for not doing so.

No.

h. Do the measures and systems permit the exchange of information with relevant authorities in different countries (at both the national and international levels)? If so, please indicate whether there is a designation of a single contact point for this exchange.

Yes, trough the national contact point for the exchange of information pertaining to trafficking in human organs, as stated in Article 22 of the THO Convention.

THO Convention's Portuguese National Contact Point:
Manuel Eduardo Aires Magriço
Public Prosecutor
Adress: Av. ª D. João II, n.º 1.08.01
Edifício G, 5.º andar
1900-097 Lisboa PORTUGAL
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Yes, through the Network of National Focal Points on Travel for Transplantation (NETTA), and the Registry on International Travel for Transplantation Activity (RITTA), as described above in question a.

Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation - **National Focal Point contact details:**

Name: Ana M. Pires Silva, Legal Adviser of the Directive Board

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Prevention and Training

This section aims to collect information on policies, strategies, plans and activities to prevent the trafficking in human organs for purposes of transplantation and other purposes, and other forms of illicit removal and transplantation. The questions concern all those whose responsibilities it is to procure and supply human organs for human transplantation and those whose responsibilities it is to prevent and combat the aforementioned activities.

Question 4

Which legislative, policy, strategic and other measures have been taken to provide training to prevent the trafficking in human organs for purposes of transplantation and other purposes, and other forms of illicit removal and illicit transplantation to:

a. those involved in all the stages included in the process of the procurement, supply, and transplantation programmes (both public and private agents)?

b. Specialist doctors who monitor and treat recipients whose transplant has been performed in another country outside their usual place of residence?

c. Other immunology services that perform donor-recipient histocompatibility studies for human organ transplantation?

d. other logistical services, including transportation, for human organs for transplantation?

e. allied healthcare professionals and officials, law enforcement, customs/border surveillance services, and the regulatory authorities providing oversight of the human organ transplantation authority?

f. Specialised criminal investigation units/bodies in the investigation of offences covered by this Convention?

Answers to questions 4 a), b), c), d) and e)

- With the aim of **developing a multidisciplinary and multi-agency synergies** between health professionals, healthcare and law enforcement authorities (LEA) a national Workshop was held at the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic, in May 2018, on the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs to discuss its benefits and challenges.

  The workshop brought together the:

  - ✓ Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation;
  - ✓ Attorney General of Republic;
  - ✓ National Focal Point of NETTA;
  - ✓ High Commissioner for Migration;
  - ✓ Coordination of International Criminal Affairs;
  - ✓ National Rapporteur on trafficking in Human Beings,
  - ✓ Centre for Judicial Studies;
  - ✓ Portuguese Medical Association;
  - ✓ Representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Health;
  - ✓ Director-general of the Judicial Police.

- **Raise awareness and training of health professionals** (HPs) have been carried out by the National Focal Point of the NETTA, on a regular basis, through their participation in scientific congresses organised by the Portuguese Transplantation Society, and similar events promoted by the Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation. One of these events is the National Organ Donation and Transplantation Day in 2023, in order to support health professionals to understand the dimension of organ trafficking, the health consequences for patients and donors, and the many ways in which they can help to prevent and address such crime.

- The **protocol of conduct (**outlined above) provide HPs with guidance and practical tools on prevention, detection and report organ trafficking. Furthermore, highlight their duty to discourage and prevent any harm of patients, as well as the duty to protect the possible victim-donor.

- Concerning **raising awareness and training of LEA**, the Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation and the Centre for Judicial Studies jointly organized such activities for judges and prosecutors. This training was performed by a judge of the

Supreme Court of Justice, responsible for addressing the issues of criminal prosecution of organ trafficking, and the National Focal Point of the NETTA who explains e.g. how the crime is commissioned and how to identify deviations from the procedures of legal transplantations, and the reporting mechanism of organ trafficking.

Answer to question 4 f.

The national criminal police (*Polícia Judiciária*) plays a crucial role in investigating organized crime, including human trafficking for organs.

It operates through specialized units, such as the **Anti-Trafficking Unit,** which focuses on trafficking offences, including organ trafficking and related crimes. They collect intelligence, coordinate with international law enforcement agencies (like Europol and Interpol), and analyse data to investigate trafficking cases. Data on trafficking offences is collected during investigations and reported to national and international databases.

These units collaborate with other law enforcement bodies, such as the **GNR, Customs**, and **International Agencies** like **Europol** and **Interpol**, to combat transnational **organ trafficking** networks. Additionally, the ***Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal*** **(INML)** provides crucial forensic support in cases of **illegal organ transplantation**. Together, these specialized bodies and units work to investigate, prosecute, and prevent offenses related to **human organ trafficking** in Portugal, ensuring compliance with **national laws** and **international conventions**.

Question 5

Are there any oversight programmes to assess the frequency and effectiveness of the training provided? If so, are there revision programmes to ensure remedial actions for any deficiencies identified?

The effectiveness of the training provided is measured by the number of cases detected and reported by health professionals to the competent authorities, and by the number of candidates for living donation who are refused due to suspicion of financial compensation.

Awareness Raising

This section concerns awareness-raising programmes aimed at identifying measures for educating the general public, and civil society, on the risks and unlawfulness of trafficking in human organs.

Question 6

Please elaborate on the strategies, policies and other measures that have been planned or implemented:

a. To educate the general public on risks associated with the trafficking in human organs.

b. To encourage civil society, including patients' associations, academia, publishers, media, online platforms, industry, and other relevant organisations, to engage in

   a. raising public awareness campaigns, and, or

   b. the promotion of awareness-raising measures provided by public authorities

   on the unlawfulness and dangers of trafficking in human organs for human transplantation.

c. To raise awareness of media, including social media and e-commerce platforms, and other virtual sites that facilitate information linking potential donors and recipients of human organs for transplantation of the illegality of illicit solicitation, recruitment, offering and requesting of undue advantage, including the making of a financial gain or other comparable advantage.

Answers to questions 6 a. and b.

- In accordance with article 15 of Law 12/93, of April 22, which regulates the collection and transplantation of organs, the government must promote information campaigns on the significance, in terms of solidarity, health policy and therapeutic means, of the harvesting of organs, tissues and cells and the carrying out of transplants.

The information campaign should also provide information on the possibility of expressing unwillingness to donate post-mortem, on the existence of the National Register of such decisions and on the issue and use of the individual card on which this is mentioned.

- Public events, such as the National Organ Donation and Transplantation Day, and workshops and conferences, with media coverage, are used to raise awareness and inform the public, by Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation. The events focus on the phenomenon of transplant tourism and/or organ trafficking, the risks of buying a kidney, why does it happen, where and in what context does it occur, and what has been done so far to address the problem at national and international level.

- Awareness-raising in schools provided by the National Focal Point of NETTA, representing the Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation:

- A video and information leaflet on the risks associated with organ trafficking have been published on the Institute's website for the information of patients and the public, available at https://www.ipst.pt/files/IPST/GERAL/2024/Paciente_Folheto_Portugues_Rim.pdf

Answer to question 6 c.

In Portugal, there is a concerted effort to **raise awareness** about the **illegality of illicit solicitation, recruitment, and financial gain** related to organ transplantation. This is done through government campaigns, media initiatives, and educational programs, alongside active monitoring of **social media** and **e-commerce platforms**.

Authorities collaborate with international organizations to combat organ trafficking and ensure that people are informed about the risks and legal consequences associated with organ trade.

Question 7

Are there national oversight measures adopted to assess the effectiveness of awareness campaigns carried out by the institutions/organisations, whether public or private? If so, please specify.

No.