

Newsletter

No 3

2023 Activities Recap

In this edition: Highlights from the Successful TEODOR Event in Barcelona, Local Seminars in Beneficiary Countries and the project closure

TEODOR: Transeuropean Educational initiative in organ donation and transplantation

TEODOR aims at designing and piloting a new and innovative training programme on organ donation and transplantation for physicians & relevant healthcare personnel from Latvia, Czech Republic, and Lithuania.

Financing: Erasmus+, KA2 – Strategic partnerships in the field of education and training.



PROJECT TIME:
01.09.2020 – 31.08.2023 (36 MONTHS)



PARTNERS

Pauls Stradins Clinical
University Hospital, Latvia

DTI Donation &
Transplantation Institute,
Spain

University of Barcelona,
Spain

Kralovske Vinohrady
University Hospital,
Czech Republic

Karolinska University
Hospital Huddinge,
Sweden

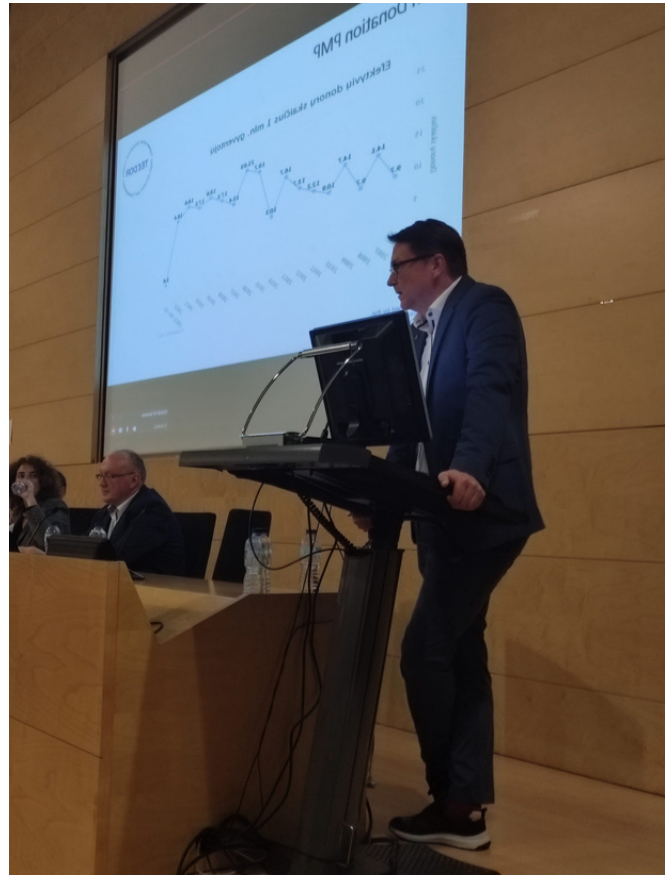
National Transplant
Bureau under the Ministry
of Health, Lithuania

University of Latvia,
Latvia

The TEODOR Event in Barcelona Has Been a Success

In the city of Barcelona, the TEODOR (Transeuropean Educational Initiative in Organ Donation and Transplantation) project achieved a significant milestone by hosting a face-to-face meeting at the University of Barcelona **from the 24th to 28th April 2023**. Co-organised by University of Barcelona and DTI Foundation, this event brought together medical professionals from Latvia, the Czech Republic and Lithuania. TEODOR, an Erasmus+ project funded by the European Commission, is led by the Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital in Latvia.

A total of **86 dedicated individuals** participated in this event, representing a diverse group comprising **43 trainees, 17 trainers** and **26 experts**. Their shared goal was to enhance knowledge and expertise in the crucial field of organ donation and transplantation.



Educational Empowerment

During the event, participants enjoyed the unique opportunity to explore two renowned medical facilities in Barcelona: **Hospital Clínic** and **Vall d'Hebron**. The program was packed with workshops and lectures covering various topics, such as **donation and transplantation programmes** in TEODOR project countries, **surgical techniques, DCD types II, III and IV**, and **postoperative care**. The educational sessions were conducted by a team of trainers – both project-trained and experts from the University of Barcelona and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

The event was not only a success in itself but also a platform for fostering international cooperation. Participants engaged in fruitful discussions with one another and with highly respected international experts in the field.

A Unique Opportunity

Spain is internationally recognised for its leadership in cadaveric organ donation for transplantation, and the University of Barcelona, in partnership with the DTI Foundation, has been offering **postgraduate training in this field since 2010**, making it the only regulated program of its kind in Europe.

Building a Brighter Future

The TEODOR event in Barcelona served as a platform for participants to **engage in face-to-face educational sessions**. The ultimate goal was to **encourage knowledge sharing, experience exchange and discussions on the challenges and opportunities in organ donation and transplantation** within their respective countries. This collaboration seeks to promote adherence to European Union recommendations in the field of organ donation and transplantation. The long-term impact and benefits of the TEODOR project are expected to manifest at an individual, professional, and decision-making level, ultimately **enhancing education and citizens' access to transplantation across Europe**.

Local Seminars in Beneficiary Countries

One of the key activities of the TEODOR project in 2023 was the **organisation of local seminars in the beneficiary countries – Czech Republic, Latvia, and Lithuania**. These seminars aimed to provide a local perspective on the contents that students had already been working on during Level II of the project and to gain insights into the unique challenges faced in each country. Local trainers led the sessions, focusing on expanded Level II content and local challenges in organ donation and transplantation workshops. These seminars featured a flexible methodology format, allowing for face-to-face, online or hybrid arrangements.



Czech Republic: Exploring Organ Donation

In the Czech Republic, four local seminars were held, each covering different aspects of organ donation and transplantation. Here's a preview of the topics covered:

Workshop 1 (20.06.2022):

- Specifics of organ donation in the Czech Republic
- Organ donation in clinical practice
- Interviewing relatives of donors
- Hands-on training and practical exercises

Workshop 2 (18.10.2022):

- Interactive lectures on diagnosis of death, DCD in clinical practice, and compassionate communication
- Practical workshop in small groups, including hands-on training and soft-skills development

Workshop 3 (24.11.-26.11.2022) and (30.03-02.04.2023):

- Intensive training in communication skills and psychology during work with donor relatives

Workshop 4 (28.03.2023):

- Interactive lectures on diagnosis of death, DCD in clinical practice, and compassionate communication
- Practical workshop in small groups, focusing on hands-on training and coordination with the Transplant Centre



Latvia: A Focus on Education

In Latvia, **four local seminars** were conducted **in the spring of 2023**, adapting the fundamental programme framework for each session to address local nuances. The covered content included **various aspects of organ transplantation, legal aspects, donor management, and more.**

Topics included:

- Introduction to organ transplantation
- Legal aspects of organ donation and the Latvian system
- Identifying and notifying potential donors
- Coordinating potential donors
- The concept and diagnosis of brain death
- Effective communication with donor families
- Management of organ donors in the Intensive Therapy Unit
- Privacy and relationships between organ donors and recipients
- Heart transplantation and post-transplantation



Lithuania: A Digital Seminar

In Lithuania, one online local seminar was held on the **20th of April 2023**, focusing on **key aspects of organ donation and transplantation.**

Topics included:

- Heart transplantation: current perspectives and future outlook
- A new approach to "contraindications" to donation
- Liver transplantation

These local seminars provided valuable insights into the specific challenges and practices in each beneficiary country. By sharing knowledge and expertise, **TEODOR is fostering a collaborative environment that will ultimately lead to improvements in organ donation and transplantation across Europe.**

The Outcomes of TEODOR

The closure of the TEODOR project marks the culmination of **an extensive and meticulously planned initiative**. Throughout its lifecycle, **the TEODOR project achieved its predetermined objectives, deliverables and goals**. The closure of the project marks not only the end of a journey but also **the beginning of new opportunities**. It allows the consortium to reallocate resources, leverage lessons learned, and move forward with valuable experience. As we conclude the TEODOR project, **we express our gratitude to all those who contributed to its success and look ahead to future endeavours** guided by the knowledge and insights gained from this project.

The project results: <https://www.stradini.lv/lv/content/teodor>

Beyond TEODOR

It did not take long to see **the first impact of the project results**. In August 2023, doctors at **Pauls Stradins University Hospital** (Latvia) in collaboration with **Karolinska University Hospital** (Sweden) **successfully performed an orthotopic liver transplant** on a patient in Latvia. The transplantation, which took about 7 hours, was made possible thanks to the training and cooperation developed in the project.



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