

Sweden ORGAN DONATIONS

A Project in Global Challenges

THE BACKGROUND

About 83% of the Swedish population is positive towards donating their organs after their death. Despite this high willingness to donate organs, Sweden has few organ donations per million inhabitants relative to other countries in Europe, and today the demand for organs to be used in transplantations in Sweden is larger than the supply.

Project

Initially, this project was aimed at increasing the number of registered donors in Sweden through a social media campaign and seminars at SSE and KI. As we were forced to adapt due to the development of Covid-19, we decided that writing an informative report was the best method in order to fulfill our purpose given the circumstances, in addition to outlining a call-to-action plan regarding what we believe would bring about change.

Process

We gathered information online and interviewed prominent professors and researchers within our chosen field. After information was gathered, we identified several clear problems related to the Swedish system. We compiled our knowledge in a report where we described our findings and developed an action plan for policymakers to follow in the future.

Purpose

Our project's purpose is to contribute to the improvement of the organ donation situation in Sweden by outlining and determining what methods and implementations truly make a difference and save lives. Consequently, we can contribute towards the third Sustained Development Goal: Good Health and Well-Being.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



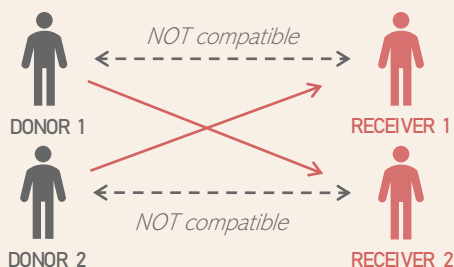
PAIRED KIDNEY EXCHANGE

A **paired kidney exchange**, also known as a "kidney swap" occurs when a living kidney donor is incompatible with the recipient, and so exchanges kidneys with another donor/recipient pair.

58,6% of all organ transplantations in Sweden are kidney transplantations. **694** are currently on the waiting list to receive a new kidney in Sweden.

10-15 more kidney transplantations with living donors have been carried out each year thanks to **STEP**.

ScandiaTransplant Kidney Exchange Program, **STEP**, is a program matching compatible donors and receivers in an effective way using a data base of incompatible donation pairs. This allows for a donor wanting to save the life of a loved one to donate their kidney to an unknown, anonymous receiver, and the loved one to receive a kidney from an unknown donator, thus evading the incompatibility. According to one of the founders of STEP, **Tommy Andersson**, professor of economics at Lunds Universitet, STEP has since its implementation in 2016 increased the number of kidney transplantations from living donors with 10%.



DID YOU KNOW?

83%

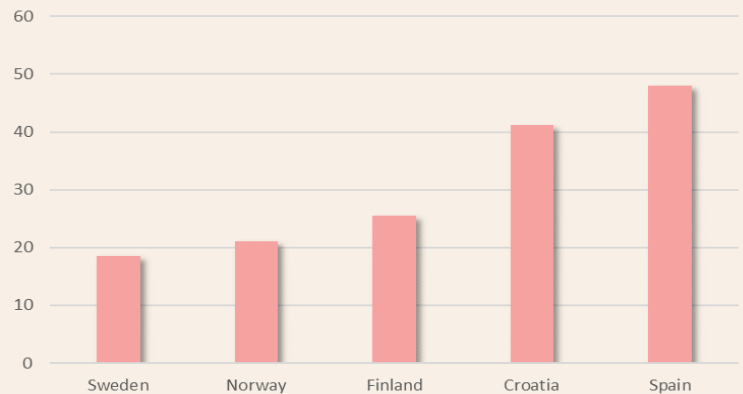
...of Swedish people are **positive** towards donating their organs after death.

60%

...of all deceased in Sweden **lack a clear position** in form of **an actively made choice**.

SWEDEN IS LAGGING

In terms of number of donations per million inhabitants



CALL-TO-ACTION PLAN

WE AS STUDENTS AT SSE

As students, we believe we have the power to locally contribute to information dissemination. We want to host a series of seminars inviting patients, doctors and experts in order to engage and inform people about organ donations. This might also have been part of a the project in more normal times.

A WIDESPREAD INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

After extensive research, we have identified that society needs to conduct a widespread information campaign for an extended period of time. We believe similar marketing channels now used to spread information about Covid-19 could be implemented.

A SUPPORT FUND FOR INCREASED CREDIBILITY AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

A support fund, in close relation to that of for example Barncancerfonden, would further increase the credibility, the engagement, and information about organ donations. A famous spokesperson, like Prins Daniel who has recieved a kidney from his father, would help to increase engagement.

REORGANIZATION AND CENTRALIZATION

We have identified the need to reorganize and further centralize Swedish transplantation centers in order to coordinate how doctors and health care professionals work toward increasing organ donations. At the moment there are large regional differences.

TRAINING OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

At last we believe Swedish healthcare professionals are in need of further education about how to proceed and increase the amount of organs that are donated. Many are not informed at all about **STEP**, and do not know in what way they can make a difference.

Elsa Persson 24519, Nils Wägmark 24494, Viktor Hökenhammar 24505
Gabrielle Lestapier 24564, Hannes Hedberg 24498, Karl Knutsson 24519