

# National transplant program in Montenegro

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*The 48 EDTNA/ERCA International Conference Prague, Czech Republic, September, 2019.*



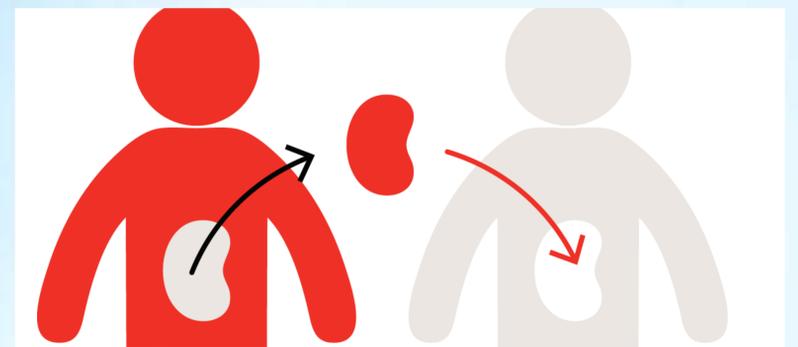
## Background

*Montenegro is located in Southeast Europe and became independent in 2006 with a population of 680,000 inhabitants and a dialysis population of 230 patients in 12 dialysis centers. Transplants were conducted in medical institutions in neighboring countries with existing transplantation programs such as Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, if patients had live donor kidney. However, many patients did not have live-linked donors, and their only alternative in addition to hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis was kidney transplantation from the deceased donor*



## Objectives

*Montenegro is one of the countries that signed the Istanbul Declaration, which strictly prohibits trafficking in human organs. However, some patients from Montenegro have decided to perform kidney transplantation in countries with black organ market or have gone on a transplant in countries with a legal possibility to place strangers on a kidney transplant waiting list if they can financially facilitate transplantation.*



## RESULTS

*In February 2011, Montenegro became a full member of the RHDC - Regional Center for Health Development, which is part of the SEEHN - Southeast European Health Network, with the center in Zagreb. RHDC is an organization and project supported by the Council of Europe, with the goal of establishing all the necessary conditions for the development of transplantation in South East Europe. Links and support of RHDC contributed to the establishment of cooperation between Montenegro and Croatia.*



## Conclusion/Application to practice

*On September 25, 2012, the first kidney transplant in Montenegro was performed with the support of a kidney transplant team from the University Hospital Center Zagreb, Croatia. Since then, 39 transplants have been carried out. However, of that number, only three were transplanted from the deceased donor, others were transplants related to life or emotionally related. This has given a very important opportunity to our patients with irreversible organ failure to get the authority they need from the Eurotransplant system.*

