

Informal Meeting of Ministers of Health
“FILOXENIA” Conference Centre
Nicosia, Cyprus
JULY 10th, 2012

The background is a stylized landscape with abstract shapes in orange, yellow, green, and blue. A white circle is positioned on the left side of the green area.

Cross-border collaboration in the field of organ donation and transplantation

Examples and potentialities

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Cyprus transplant history and role of cross-border collaboration



Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

- 1st kidney transplant (1986)
- 1st multivisceral organ retrieval (1992)
- 1st exported liver (paediatric) in Belgium (through Eurotransplant - 1992)
- 1st Heart/lung exported in Israel (1992)
- 1st Simultaneous Pancreas Kidney Transplant (2012)
- Exported organs (since 1992)
 - Heart (to Greece, Israel, Italy)
 - Liver (to UK, Greece, Israel, Italy)
 - Lung (to Greece, Austria)
 - Kidneys (to Greece)
- No imported organs
- Bilateral agreements for organs and recipients
 - Heart (Greece)
 - Liver (UK, Greece), Lung (Austria)

Guiding principles: self-sufficiency, quality and safety

- **Madrid resolution** resulting from the 3rd WHO Global Consultation on Organ Donation and transplantation: « *striving to achieve self-sufficiency in transplantation* », **through:**
 - national resources
 - when needed, regulated and ethical cross-border cooperation
- **Objectives and tools at EU level:**
 - Directive 2010/53/EU, binding requirements and standards on:
 - ✓ quality & safety of human organs for transplantation
 - ✓ includes the need to appoint Competent Authorities
 - Action Plan on Organ donation and transplantation, voluntary projects and working groups to:
 - ✓ improve quality and safety
 - ✓ strengthen efficiency and accessibility of transplant systems
 - ✓ increase availability of organs
- **Complementary to and supportive of national competences, e.g.,:**
 - Set-up and management of waiting lists
 - Allocation criteria

Benefits of cross-border collaboration

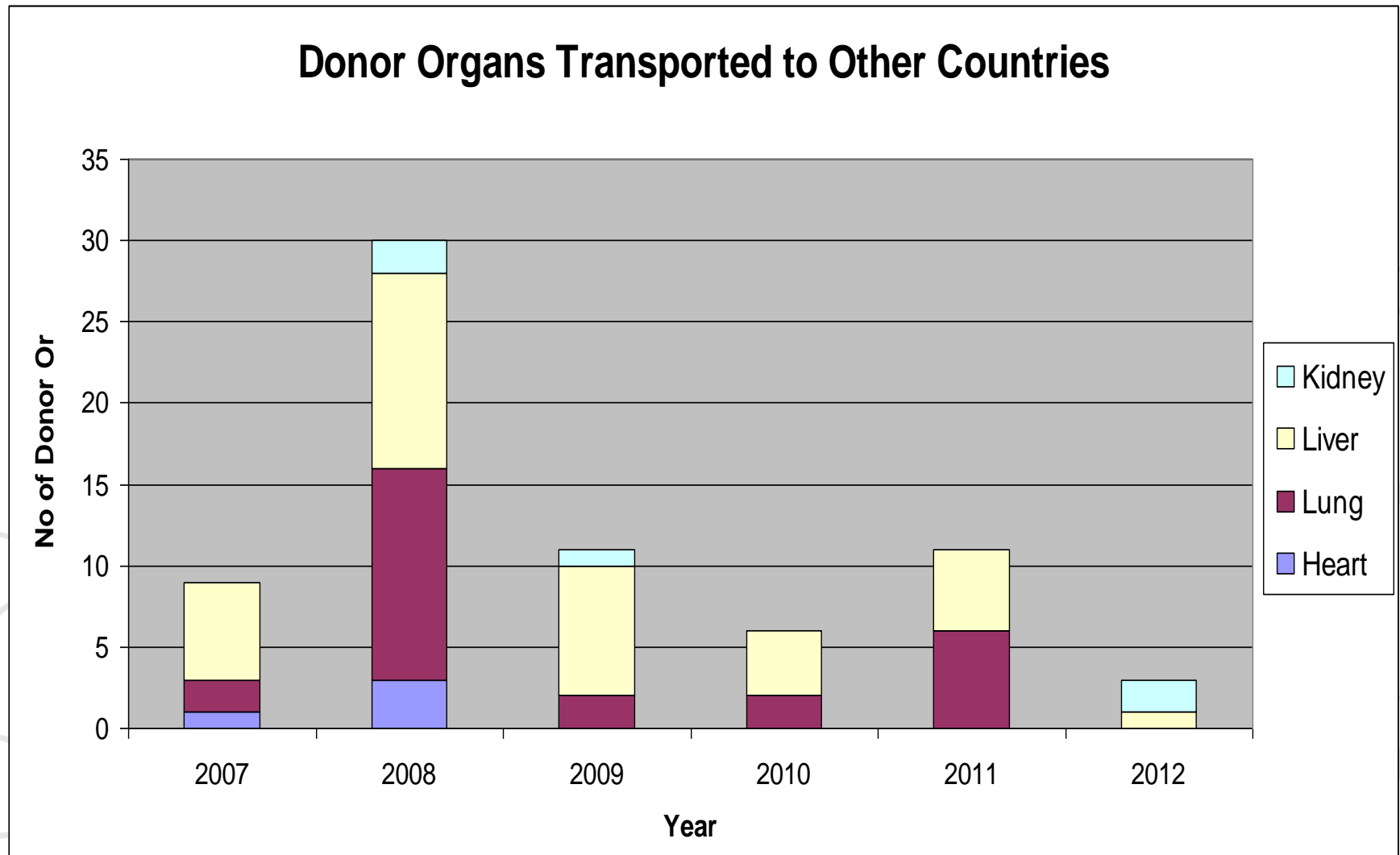
EU Member States increasingly step into bilateral or multilateral (European Organ Exchange Organisations) agreements to:

- **Optimize the use of scarce organs** by ...
 - ✓ ... offering surplus organs between Member States
 - ✓ ... making use of all organ of all donors
 - ✓ ... improving possibilities for a good match between (more) donor organs and (more) recipients on the waiting list (based on the local expertise from the origin country)
 - ✓ ... improving the health outcome after transplantation
- **Increase availability of transplant therapies to specific groups of patients...**
 - ✓ ... even when local expert knowledge is not yet available
 - ✓ ... allowing development of new transplant programmes
 - ✓ ... with an optimal investment and efficient use of resources

Self-sufficiency and cross-border cooperation can be complementary

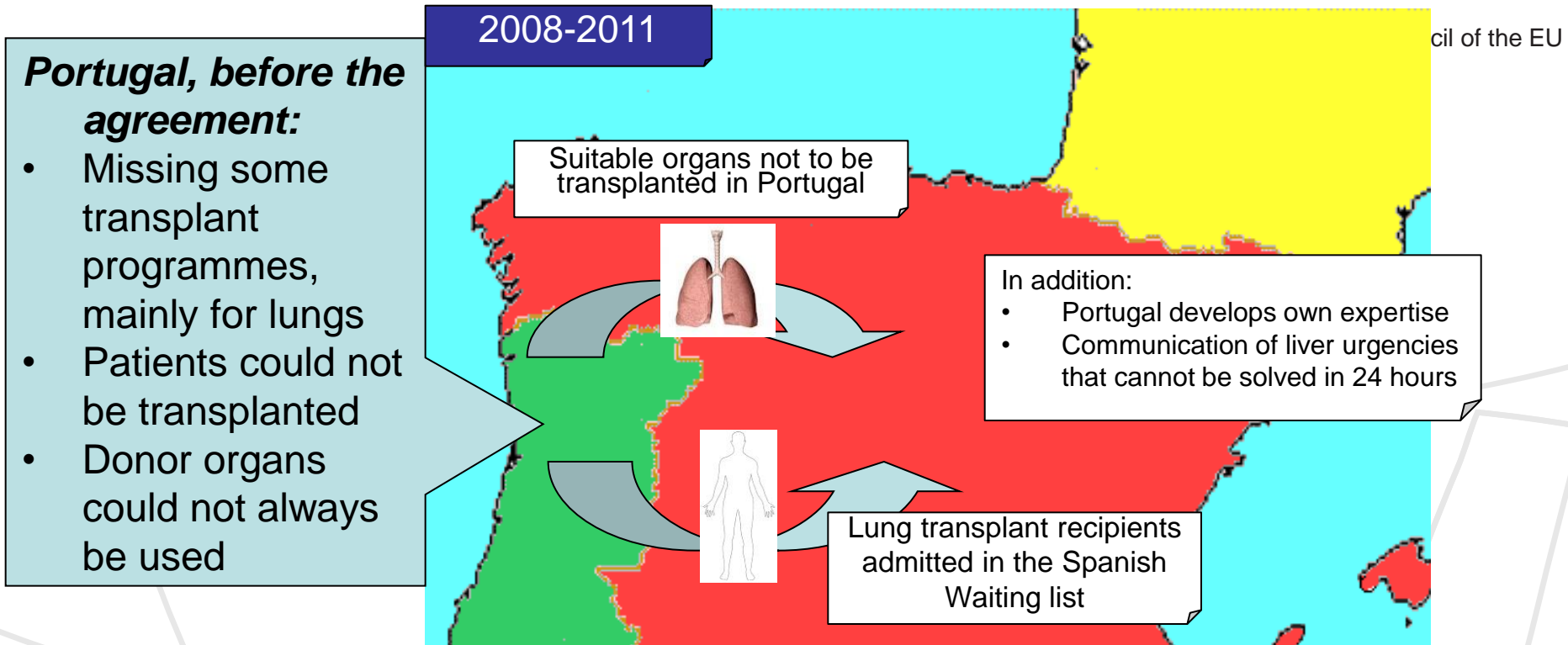
Cypriot Donor Organs Exported

Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU



Bilateral agreements

Example: Portuguese-Spanish cooperation



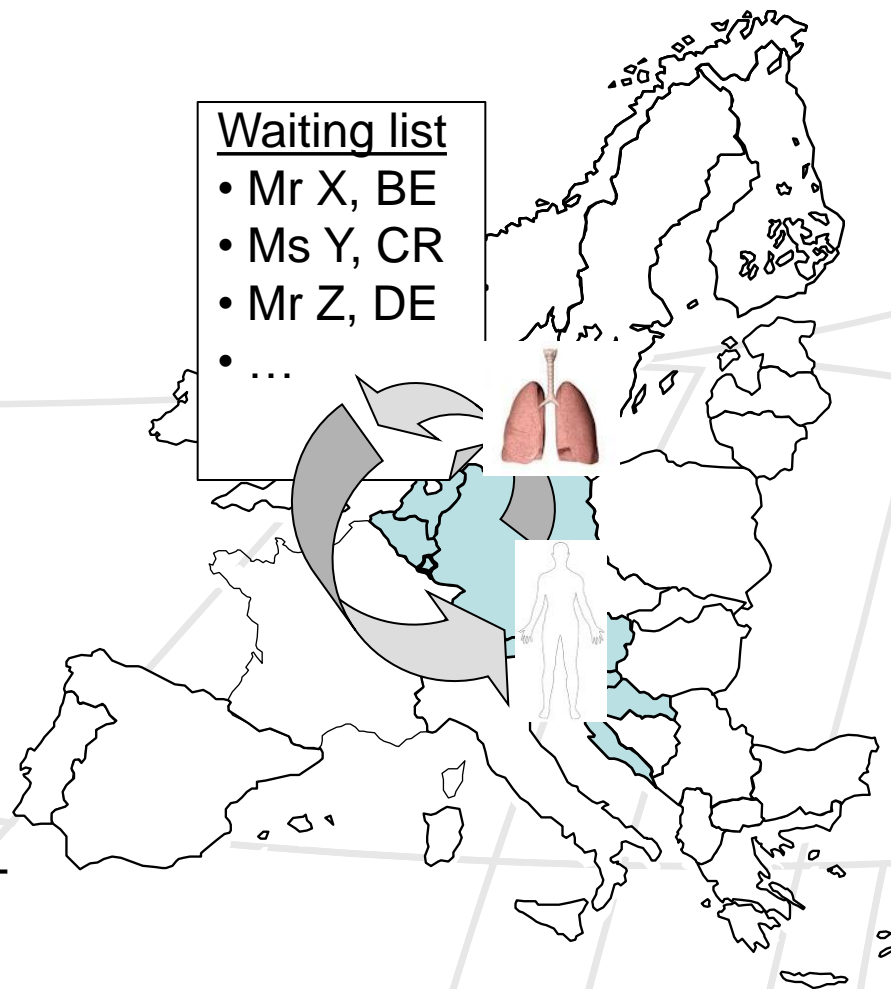
Since the agreement:

- 45 Portuguese patients have been transplanted in Spain (of which 36 lungs and 5 paediatric livers)
- Spain could organise 98 more transplants with organs offered by Portugal
- Better matching of donor/recipients
- Additional specific support provided to solve particular problems (paediatric liver tx) and to build know-how for new transplant programmes in Portugal

Multilateral agreements

Eurotransplant Approach

- 1 central office for 7 countries
 - 1 central waiting list with common rules
 - Every donor organ is reported to central office
 - Application of harmonized set of objective allocation rules
 - ✓ Medical
 - ✓ Ethical
 - ✓ If needed, national balancing
 - Procurement and transplantation in national/local centers
- ➔ **Result:**
- ❖ Close to 8000 transplants/y
 - ❖ Most organs transplanted within same country and 98% within ET area



Barriers to be overcome

- Import and export of organs needs to be regulated
- Agreement is to be found on the admission on a waiting list of patients from abroad
- Operational communication flows must be streamlined and prepared to deal with urgent situations
- Transport and logistical arrangements are to be clear
- Funding is to be agreed upon

→ **Some guidance is recommended to look for bilateral agreements**

(Member States can step into the 2012 Joint Action focusing on such agreements)

Questions

- **Which needs for transplant programmes do you have within your country?**
- **How can the expertise in other Member States or in Exchange Organisations help to offer these programmes locally, or through a cross-border exchange?**
- **What barriers are to be overcome to realise these opportunities?**



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Thank you