Announcement of the inauguration, in Croatia, of the Regional Health Development Centre on organ donation and transplantation in south-eastern European countries

On 22 February 2011 Dr Ante-Zvonimir Golem, State Secretary for Health and Social Welfare of Croatia, officially inaugurated the Regional Health Development Centre (RHDC) on organ donation and transplantation in south-eastern European (SEE) countries, located in Croatia.

“We are honored by the transplant results achieved in the past few years, which have positioned Croatia among the highest ranking countries in the world. Through this centre we would like to exchange experiences, good practices and provide assistance to other SEE countries for the development of their own efficient donation and transplantation systems”, Dr Golem, State Secretary, said.

The South-Eastern European Health Network (SEEHN) countries expressed their commitment to starting long-term regional cooperation aimed at enhancing deceased organ donation and transplantation programs in the SEE area. The national focal points of the SEE countries, as future main collaborative partners, were present at this important event.
The newly designated RHDC on organ donation and transplantation will operate in full compliance with the SEEHN’s basic objectives, promoting WHO guiding principles, Council of Europe recommendations, and safety and quality standards as per the requirements of European Union directives in respect of organ donation and transplantation.

On behalf of the SEEHN, Mr Goran Čerkez, Member of the SEEHN Executive Committee, addressed the participants at this important event and expressed the Network’s support for the Centre’s successful and fruitful future endeavors. He also emphasized the role of the Centre in the context of new developments in regional cooperation for health, operationalized by the SEEHN and in promoting the establishment of SEEHN RHDCs for other technical areas of work.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe expressed its support of this event through a letter from the Regional Director, Ms Zsuzsanna Jakab, who said:

“The Regional Centre has grown within the framework of strengthening regional cooperation between the countries of south eastern Europe in the field of organ donation and transplantation, and Croatia’s position as the regional leader in the field of transplantation.”

The President of Eurotransplant, Mr. Bruno Meiser, emphasized that the Croatian model could be a source of inspiration for other countries.