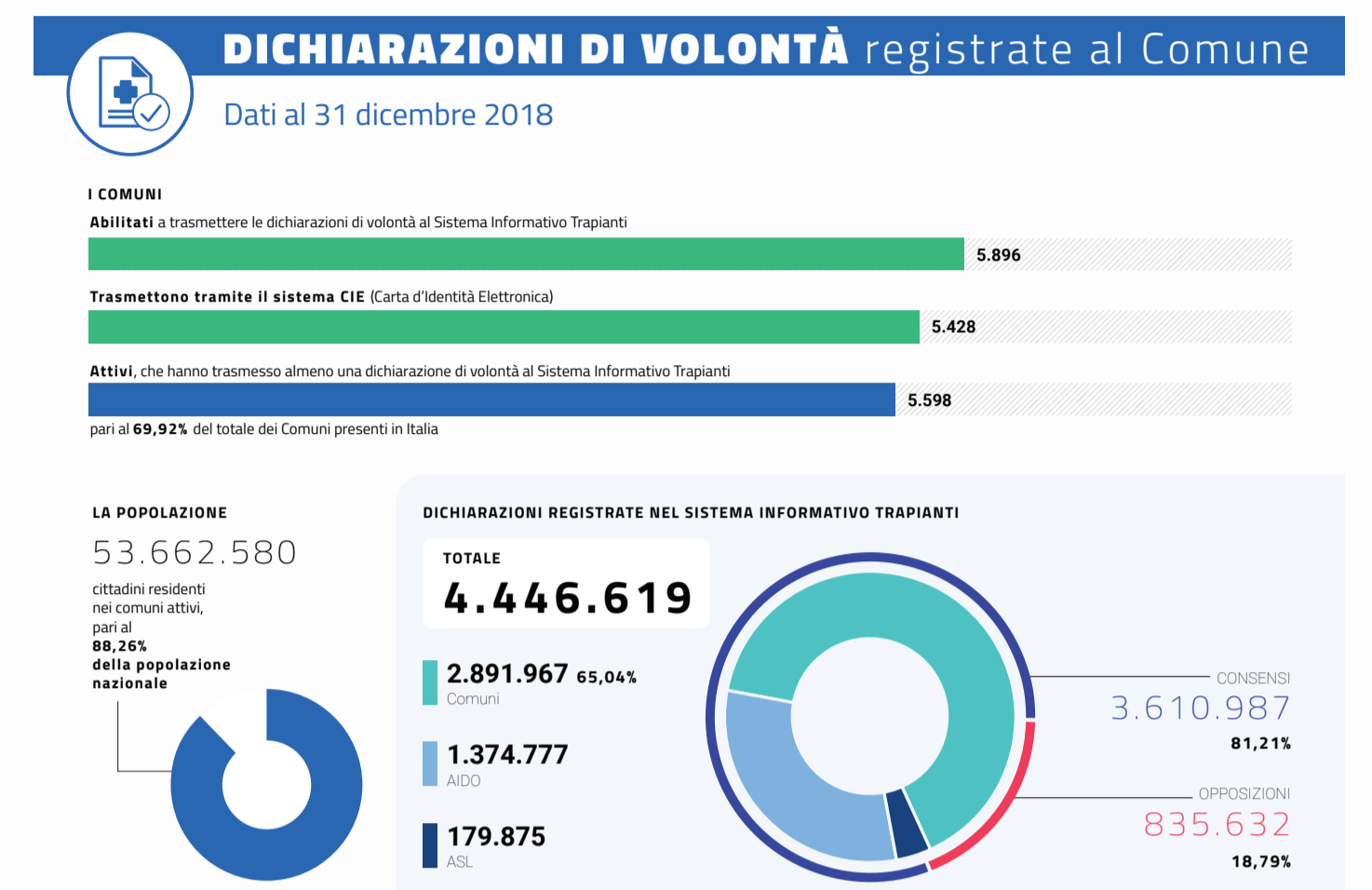
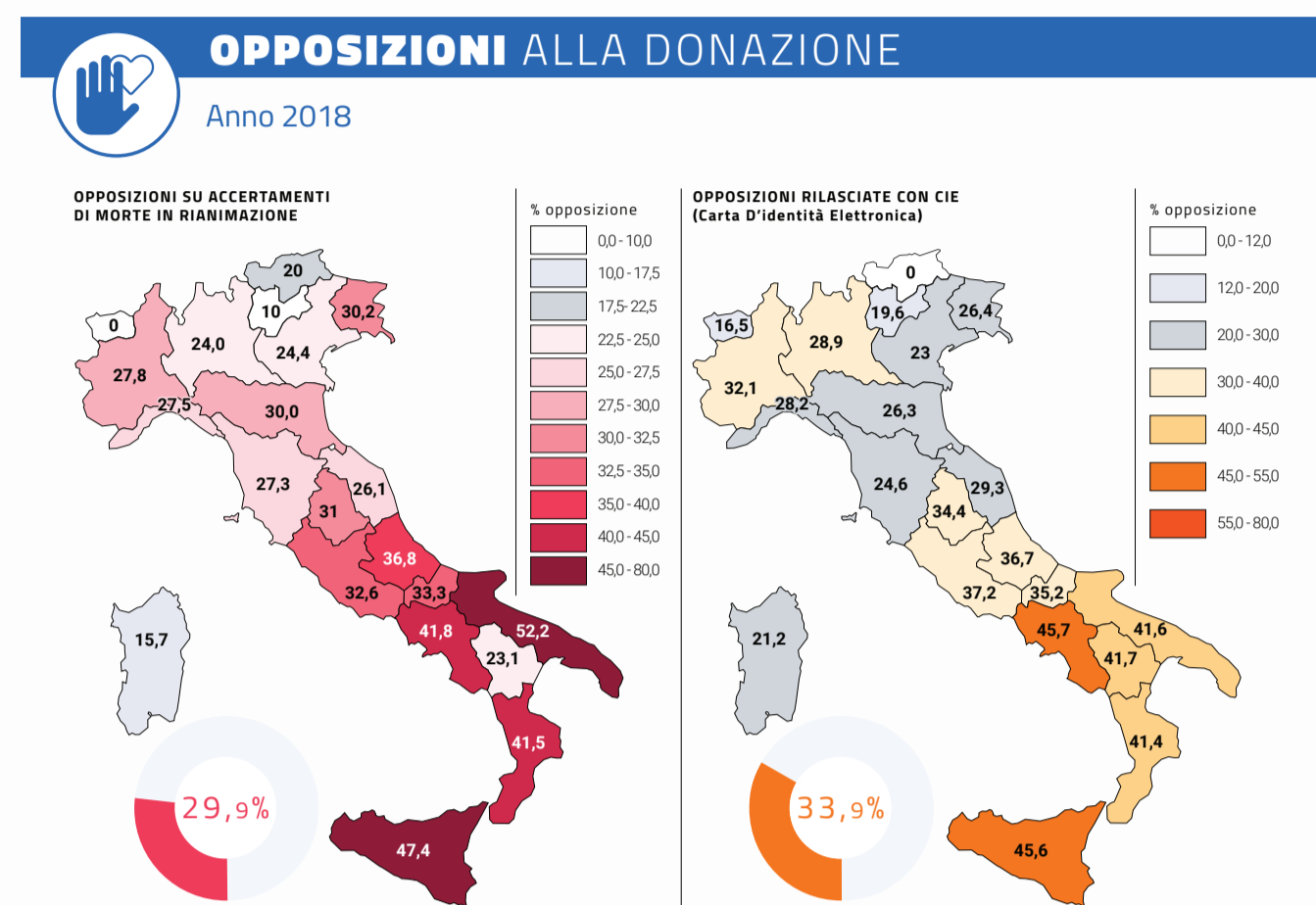


# SURVEY ON THE AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF DONATION

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**Background** - In Italy around 30% of the population opposes organ and tissue donation. In the last two years the number of citizens in favor has increased due to the fact that citizens wishing to be an organ donor can declare this preference to the municipalities on the occasion of the release of their identity card. This led us to undertake an educational and fact-finding project aimed to identify the most common sources of information regarding the donation of organs and tissues in a pool of people from the general population.



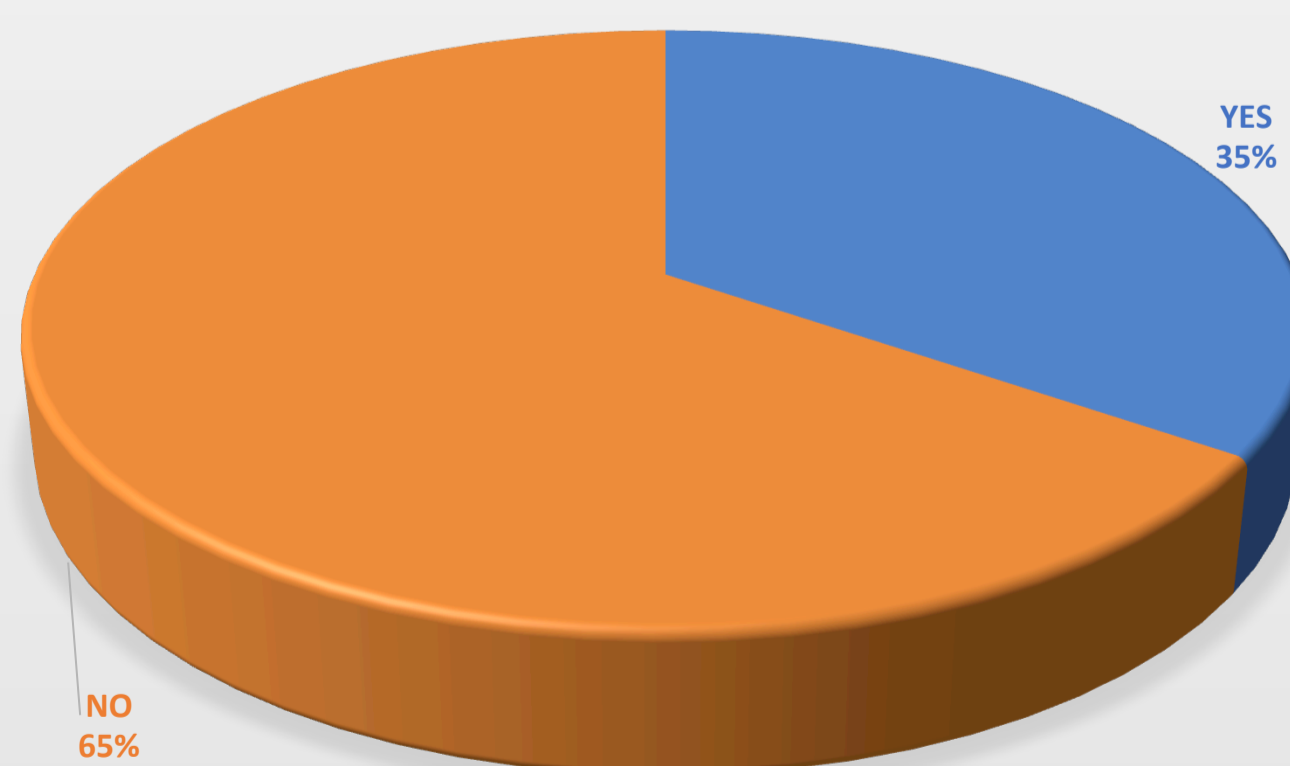
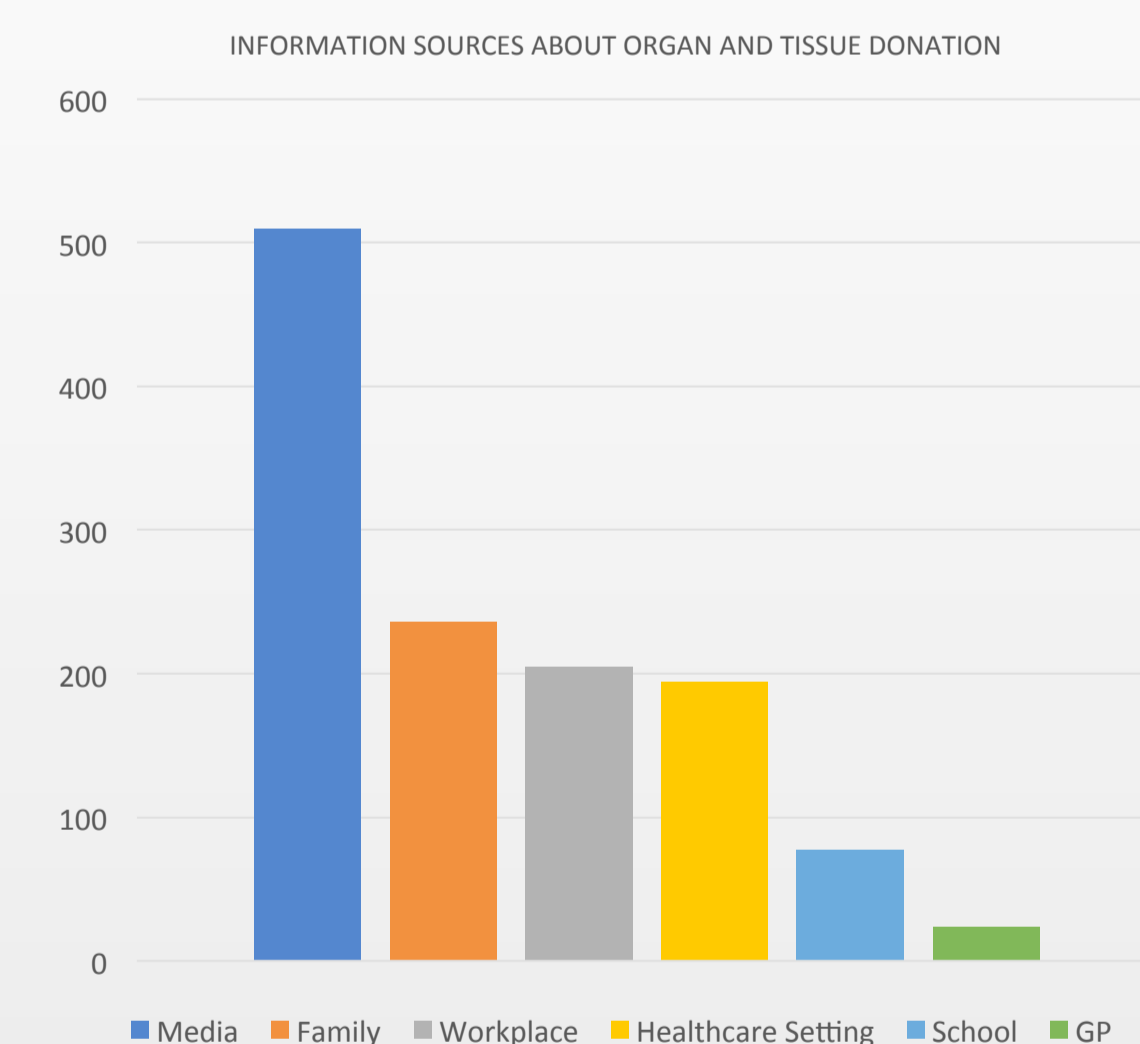
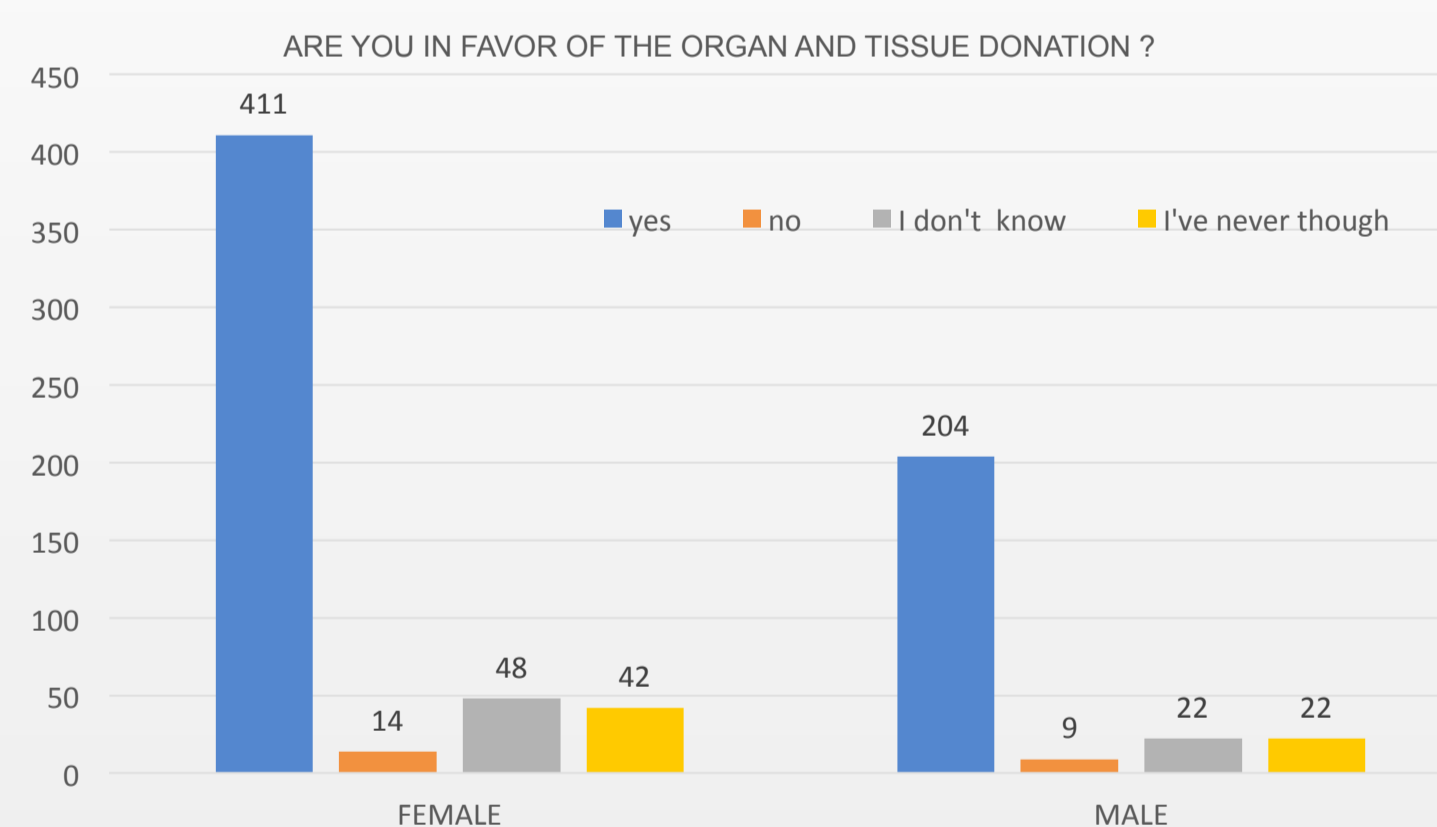
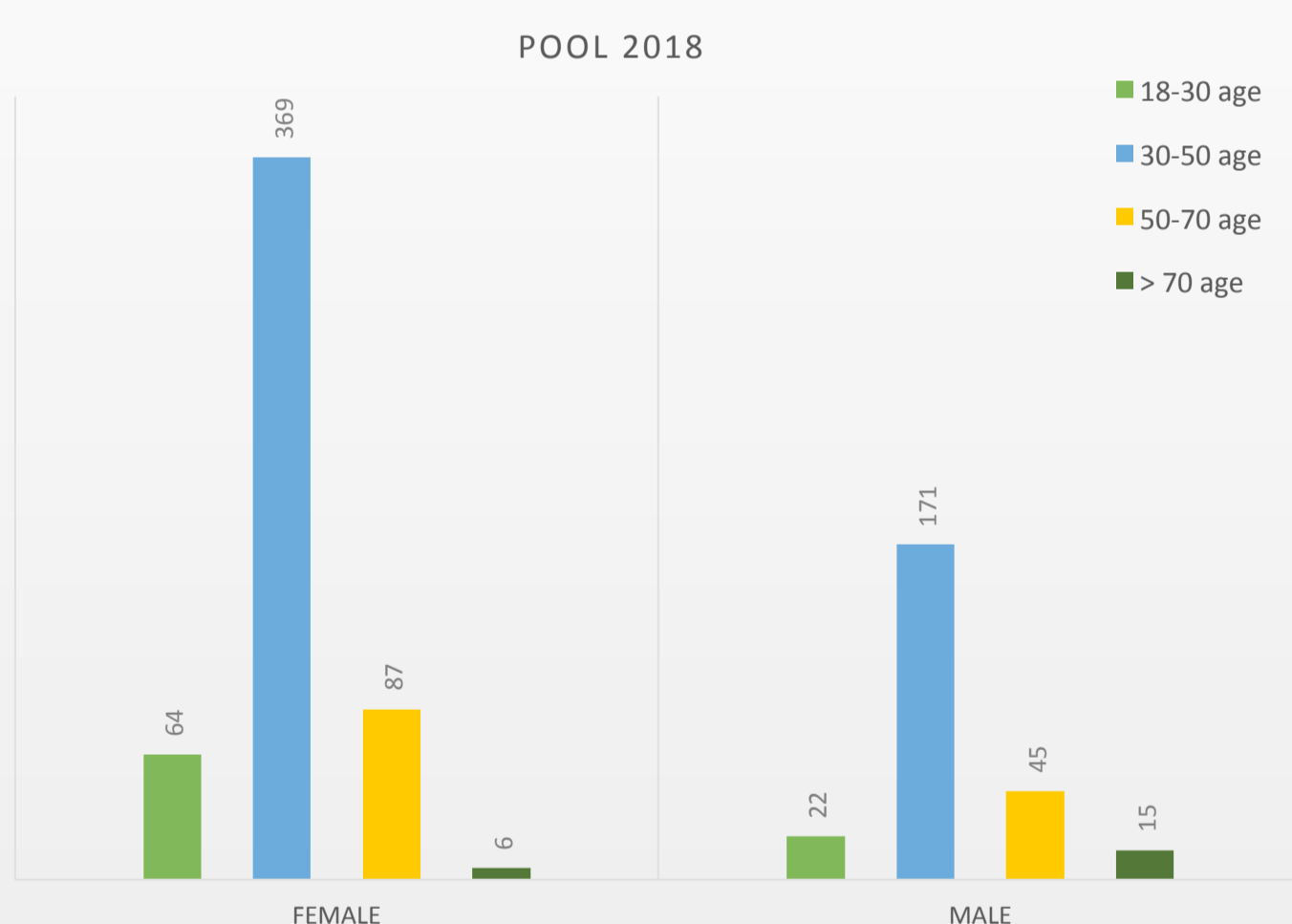
**Material-Methods:** Over the course of 1 year we distributed to individuals within our hospital an anonymous questionnaire valid to test the level of knowledge on the possibility of donating organs and tissues and on the importance of transplantation as a life-saving therapy. Other aspects investigated are also: sources of information, the expression of personal will and the ways to declare it

**Results** – We obtained a pool of 772 subjects, 515 females and 257 males, over the age of 18. 1.9% of women and 2.7% of men had never heard of organ donation. 5% of women and 8.2% of men had never heard of transplantation.

The most information comes from the media, only 3.1% had been informed by the GP.

79.6% declared themselves in favor of the donation, 2.9% were against it, 9% said they did not know and 8.2% had never thought about it.

53% said they knew how to express their willingness to donate but only 35% reported having done so.



**Conclusion** – In spite of a high percentage of subjects who considered themselves to be in favor of the donation, only a small part knew how to express their will and an even smaller percentage had done so. No gender differences were observed.

The results gathered show that there is a lack of training in GPs and highlight the necessity to optimize the educational and didactic role of the mass media to increase the number of people declaring their desire to become organ donors.

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