



## Generation Europe Debate

"Organ Donation"

*Date: 20-23.01.2009*

*Place: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) online conversation*

*Participants: 20*

*Organised by: Mary Papageorgiou, GE contact person in Athens*

For my first debate I wanted to approach such a sensitive matter that should become everyone's concern.

In a world full of illnesses and fatal accidents there are people who can give hope, life to those in need and I wonder if something is more sacred than that?

During those conversations with my friends I realized that there are so many young people here in Greece that really want to become organ donors but don't know where to turn to or what procedure to follow. In general there's total lack of information and I would add media's apathy for the matter.

They also expressed me their hesitations that derive from various reasons.

First of all, they do not trust the national health system because somehow think that they're going to be exploited and don't get the required treatment if they come to a crucial line of life or death state just because they are organ donors because .if they had an accident and their condition is crucial with little chances to survive, they won't treat them properly only because they are organ donors.

Secondly there's a lot of discouragement from inside their families, mostly from older people, due to religion. And I really cannot understand that. Wasn't Christ's message to the world to help those in need? to treat them like if it was Himself? Hence I think that Church should make statement to support organ donation.

Lastly the bureaucracy on the procedure and that even in hospitals didn't allow them to find someone authorized and informed to answer their questions.

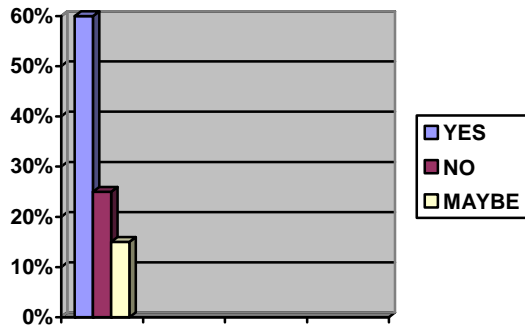
So why people stay only in words?

Last year the tragic death of an Australian in Mykonos and the decision of his father to donate the organs of his 22 years old son become such a big issue in Greece and even though the percentage of organ donation rose there was no information by the authorities or the media on how to promote this noble purpose.

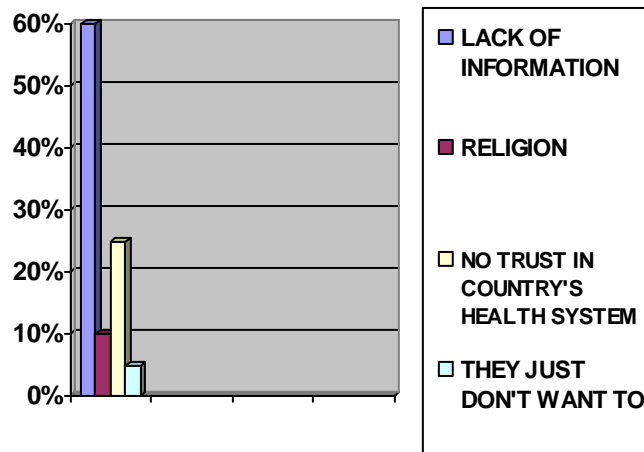
To sum up, I know that death is something frightening and people want to avoid discussing about this possibility but ever from something so painful as that something good can come, you can save a child who has spend all of his/hers life inside hospitals, a young mother who can't play with her kids, one person who's life depends on machines and prays for strength. We can all give hope!

From a small poll that I conducted I came to these results

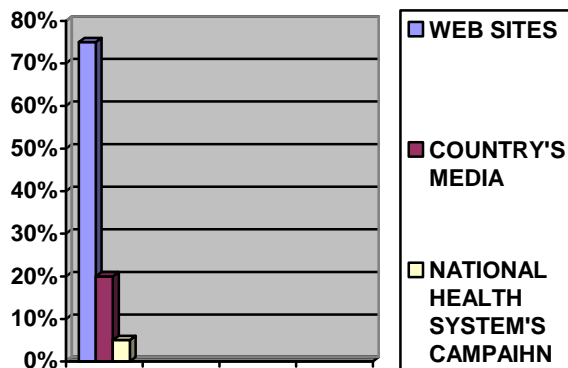
1. Would you like to become an organ donor?



2. Why do you think many people don't want to become organ donors?



3. from where you have mostly heard about organ donation?



## WEB SITES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.eom.gr](http://www.eom.gr)

[www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov)

[www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org)