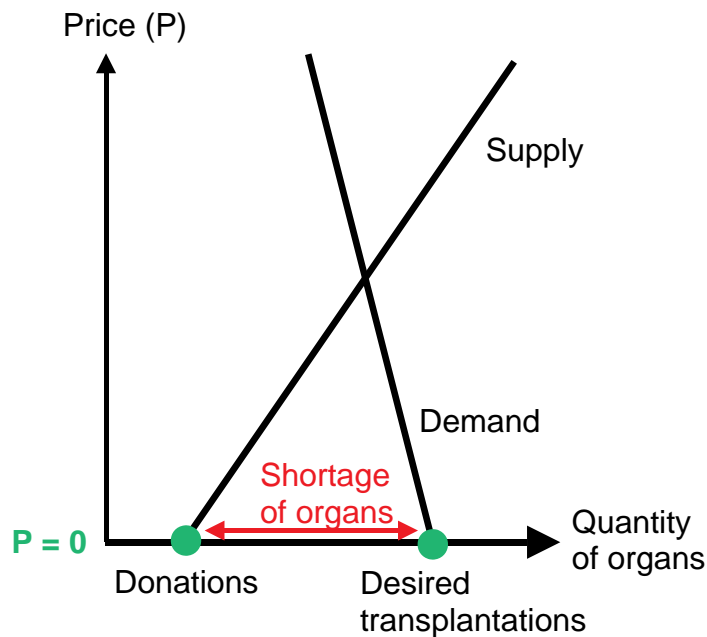


Organ donation - from an economic perspective

1

In many countries, the **trade in organs** is **inadmissible for ethical reasons**. Thus, the price in the case of an organ donation is - as the name suggests - zero. That is a **price ceiling** which may not be exceeded.

Graphically, the situation is as follows:



2

The price of 0 brings about a shortage of organs. That results in **waiting lists** and a **long waiting time**. If the trade in organs would be legal, then the price would rise and the shortage would disappear. But the change in price is not an option. Which measures can be taken to reduce the shortage?

3

Normally, the following **measure** is taken to **reduce** the **shortage**:

A registration system with **opt-in** or **opt-out** possibilities is introduced. Opt-in means that only those who have given consent are donors (system in Germany) whereas in the case of the opt-out possibility anyone who has not refused is a donor (system in Austria). The latter system results in a higher consent rate (Germany only 12 %, Austria nearly 100 %).