The Balkan countries are depicted according to their geographical location and currently; more than 10 countries as listed below are considered having this identity. Within 30 years the borders changed rapidly, and new countries are risen within Balkans.

HSCT activity within last 5 years is the topic in Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Serbia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Turkey.

For data collection I tried to reach all the countries’ responsible persons for data registry. In addition I contacted the European Activity Survey Office in Basel and EBMT Data Registry Quarter in London. The literature search revealed only 2 papers from Turkey and a few data on yearly published activity surveys since 1990 (1) (2) (3).

A one-page questionnaire was sent to all countries to get summary of their current status in HSCT. Only a few countries sent their feedback and filled questionnaire.

Within 5 years Turkey is performing more than 2000 tx/year, followed by Greece 300 tx/year and Romania 150 tx/year and Serbia and Bulgaria 90 tx.s/year. The transplant rate is growing in each country year by year. In 2011 more than 3000 tx were performed in total by Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Romania according to European Activity Survey. There are no reports from remaining Balkan countries.

If we look to EBMT Data Registry the total numbers of registered transplants so far nearly 10,000 HSCT are reported by Turkish centers in total since 1984. Between 2006-2012 Greece, Croatia, Romania, Serbia Montenegro, Bulgaria and Bosnia reported 1069, 618, 626, 420, 335 and 7 HSCT procedures, respectively.

A few centers in Balkan countries are JACIE accredited. Despite the current rise in last 5 years in total HSCT activity the numbers of reported transplants are below the expectancy. The HSCT rate per 10M population is below 250/year. The reasons for this discrepancy and difference between East and West were analyzed by Labar and Gratwohl in detail (4). GNP per capita was one of the major dominators according to this analysis.

Though they have a common past and geographical co-localization the Balkan countries are not collaborating with each other. The National activity is not published by the majority of the countries.

References