



The OptTEST Project Overview of outputs of stigma and legal and regulatory barriers work

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On behalf of GNP+ and
PLHIV partner organisations



Tools and work done

- Legal and regulatory barriers website
- Demonstration projects in Belarus, Estonia, Poland, Portugal, Germany, Greece, Ukraine
- Tips sheets and case studies
- Literature review

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Legal and Regulatory Barriers Website /Tools

What is it? ...



This database shows the most common legal and regulatory barriers to HIV testing, linkage to care and treatment access across Europe and in each individual European country, including how they affect particular key populations.



<http://legalbarriers.peoplewithhiveurope.org/>

The site covers 53 countries of the WHO Europe region

Thanks to all those who contributed – the data is up and live and has gone through several refinements

The site is being updated on an iterative basis

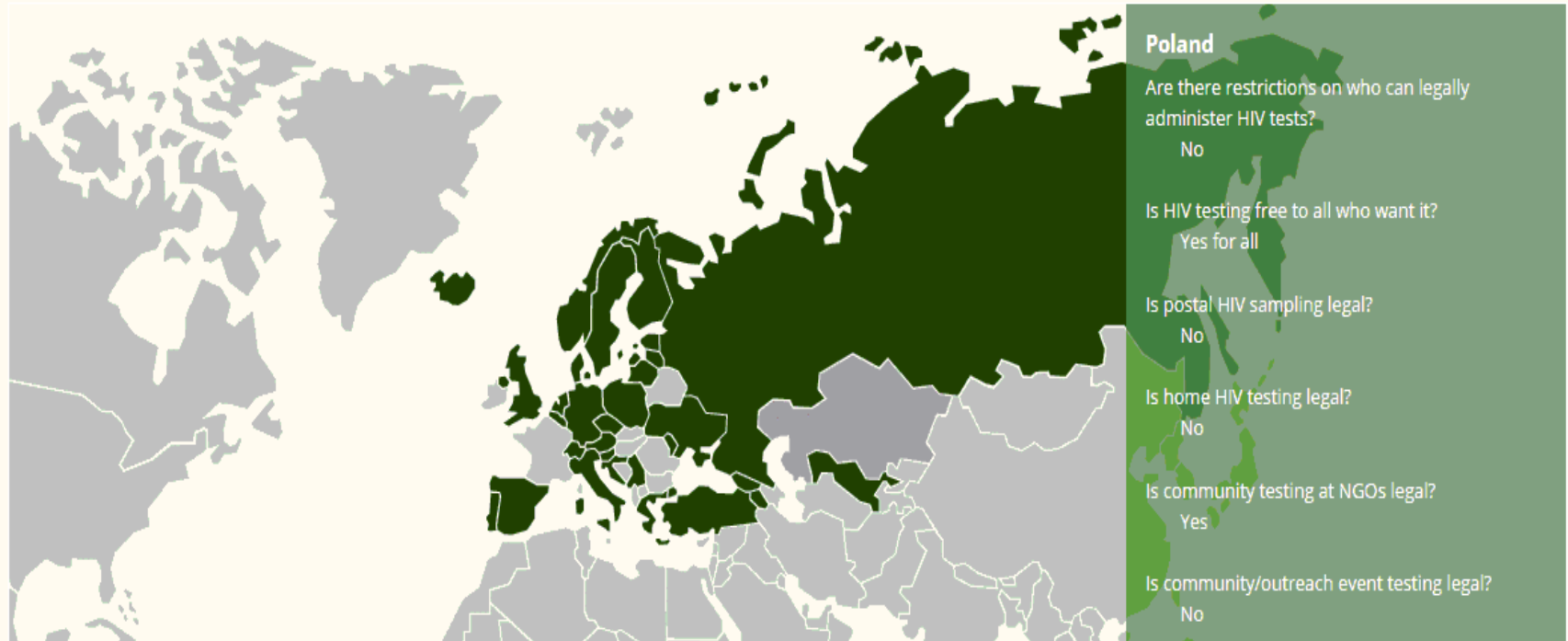
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How the data is searchable...



Each of the countries can be clicked on to show some top line information

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Poland

- Are there restrictions on who can legally administer HIV tests?
No
- Is HIV testing free to all who want it?
Yes for all
- Is postal HIV sampling legal?
No
- Is home HIV testing legal?
No
- Is community testing at NGOs legal?
Yes
- Is community/outreach event testing legal?
No

And clicked on to show the full data set for that country

Snapshot for a country ...

Czech Republic...

Free HIV testing	
HIV testing free to all who want it?	Yes in certain places
Further comments	Prague is much better covered than the rest of the country. Both numbers of places, free and anonymous access
Is free HIV testing available?	Don't know
Further comments	
HIV testing restrictions	
HIV testing access restricted for some groups/populations?	No
Availability of testing in non-clinical settings	
Is testing available in any of the following ways?	
Postal HIV sampling legal?	No
Home HIV testing legal?	Yes
Community testing at NGOs legal?	Yes
Community/outreach event testing legal?	Yes
Other	NGO testing is often in cooperation with lab using conventional tests.
Rapid tests used by community based testing services/initiatives?	Finger blood
Anonymity/Confidentiality of HIV testing	
Anonymous testing available?	Yes
If yes, please give details	Just under number, only year of birth, gender and region/country are asked.
If not, why not, what sort of information is required and is there any promise of confidentiality?	
Discrimination & equality	
Legislation	
Legislation protecting the rights of people with HIV?	Yes
Further comments	general anti-discrimination law, no specific application to HIV
Other key populations	
Needle exchange available for people who inject drugs?	Yes
Further comments	
Opiate substitution therapy available?	Yes
Further comments	
Are PWID (people who inject drugs) excluded from HIV treatment while actively using drugs?	No
Further comments	Doctors resist px for PWID sometimes

There are links link to show all of the data sources used for each of the categories of information ...

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Uses and Impact ...



The website has engaged with 600 plus respondents across the WHO region
at ALL LEVELS OF THE RESPONSE

It receives between 100 and 200 'hits' a month

It is being quoted and utilised by community groups and others in advocacy and
policy work



Demonstration projects activities/outcomes

- Belarus - increased access to sexual and reproductive health services for women PLHIV
- Estonia - 'empowered patient' programme put in place in two cities
- Greece – identification of structural barriers impacting on PLHIV access to services via stigma index implementation
- Poland – increased 'disclosure' by PLHIV- increased testing outreach services
- Portugal – increased sensitivity and possibilities for testing at primary care level
- Germany - testing campaign for young MSM
- Ukraine – changes to care continuum and service delivery guidance



Conclusions

Each of the country community partner networks has been enabled and had resources to

- Identify a specific issue (or issues) impacting on the testing and treatment continuum
- Carry out a project activity – from a community development (PLHIV) perspective
- Assist and ensure that individual , as well as categories of PLHIV, are better ‘served’ and services more appropriate are in place

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Next Steps...

As the project ends the website will be kept current by

- Being updated on an iterative basis as new information comes in
- Being better aligned and cross referenced with other regional and global data sets that GNP+ is the custodian of such as
- PLHIV related stigma - www.stigmaindex.org
- The criminalisation of HIV non-disclosure, exposure and transmission and other punitive laws that impact on the HIV response

<http://criminalisation.gnpplus.net/>

To better drive and support data driven advocacy from a PLHIV and community perspective

<http://legalbarriers.peoplewithhiveurope.org/index.php>