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The OptTEST Project

Overview of outputs of stigma and legal and regulatory barriers work

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**PEOPLE
LIVING
WITH
HIV
ARE...**



Advocacy ‘Tool-kits’ and materials are 4 fourfold

- LRB
- Literature review
- Case Studies
- Tip Sheets

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

Case Studies

15-20 case studies arise from the demonstration projects - both strategies re structural changes and exemplative discrimination advocacy

In the case of Greece these included:

- Dismissal of an airline employee because of his HIV status.
- Systematic Breach of HIV status by tax authorities
- Linkage of a migrant HIV+ woman to care
- Assisting an HIV/AIDS denialist refugee

Tip sheets

- [Simple principles for effective campaigning on legislative or regulatory change](#)
- [What types of legal and regulatory barriers are common and how do they damage access?](#)
- [What are the new testing strategies and where are they working?](#)
- [How can I identify and verify local barriers to testing and treatment access?](#)
- [How can I construct or compare a continuum of care?](#)
- [How can we do a simple, quick, low cost but robust survey of an issue?](#)
- [How and where do I find evidence for a change in policy?](#)
- [How can we build alliances between community, clinicians and public health?](#)
- [How should we present our case to decision-makers and politicians?](#)
- [Influencing at conferences and other events](#)
- [Questions you should ask yourself \(and be able to answer\) before you ask to meet with a Government Minister](#)
- [What can we do when politicians ignore the evidence?](#)



A picture of restrictive practices and regulations has emerged including:

- Lack of access to, and use of, proven new testing technologies and settings
- 'Questionable' restrictions on who can administer tests
- Unnecessary requirement for extensive pre/post test counselling
- Refusal to accept referrals from community testing into care
- Limited testing sites and restricted types of test
- Wider barriers to improving the continuum of care included: separation of healthcare into vertical specialities (e.g. drugs care separate from HIV and from TB); lack of case management systems; failure to integrate healthcare and social support; disruption of care between civil and detention authorities.
- Complex entitlement regulations and charging systems deterring/excluding migrants, including even those entitled to healthcare sometimes.

Thank you!

