

PEOPLE
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Legal and Regulatory Barriers to testing and treatment

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Global Network of
People Living with HIV



This work is part of the Optimising testing and linkage to care for HIV across Europe which has received funding from the European Union within the framework of the Health Programme

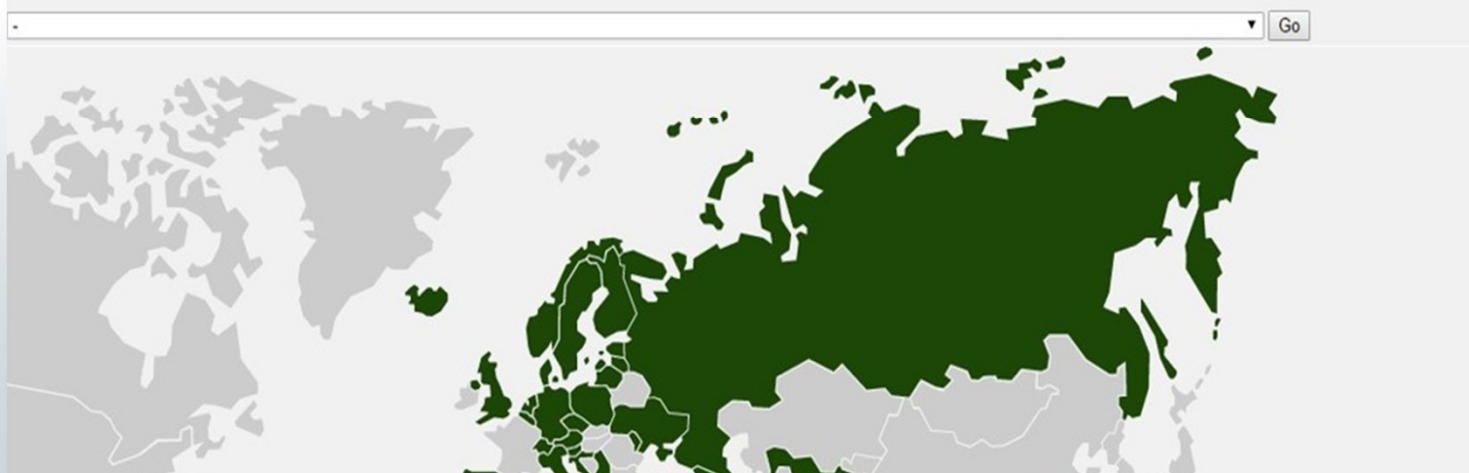
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What is it? ...



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

-



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

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As well as selections made across countries



	National policy	Who can administer HIV tests?	Which groups can legally do HIV testing?				Free HIV testing		HIV testing restrictions	Which groups?	
	National policy/strategy or official recommendations on HIV testing?	Restrictions on who can legally administer HIV tests?	Specialist clinic staff (doctor and/nurse) only	Any doctor/nurse (not necessarily in a specialist clinic)	NGO with clinical supervision	NGO without clinical supervision	HIV testing free to all who want it?	Is free HIV testing available?	HIV testing access restricted for some groups/populations?	Men who have sex with men	People who inject drugs
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Armenia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes in certain places	Yes in certain places	No		
Austria	No	Yes		Yes			Yes in certain places	Across whole country	No		
Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes in certain places	Yes in certain places	No		
Croatia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes in certain places	Across whole country	No		
Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes in certain places	Don't know	No		
Denmark	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes for all	Across whole country	No		

Selected data (or the dull full data set) can be downloaded into excel

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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
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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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Findings....



A picture has emerged of restrictive practices and regulations 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.

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Acknowledgements ...



The 600 plus respondents to the survey, working at all levels of the response, across the region Details of these organisations and individuals, where they allowed us to share their details, can be found on the country pages



The PLHIV and community based organisations who have been our main in-country partners in Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Ukraine



who cross checked and validated responses, carried out primary data collection where we had been unable to find respondents. Thanks to Maka Gogia of the Georgian Harm Reduction Network, Bryan Texiera, and Miran Solinc who did this .



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Next Steps...

OptTest as a project ends in September 2017 ...we hope the database will continue 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>

