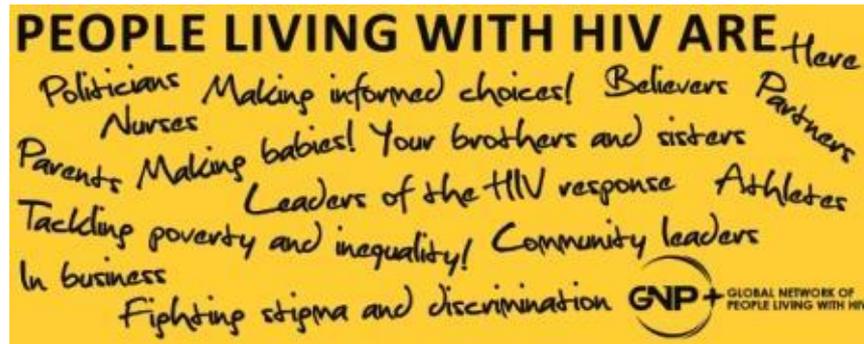# Stigma across Europe
Legal and Regulatory Barriers to testing and treatment

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June 20 2017

The EU HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and TB Civil Society Forum

formerly The EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

Legal and regulatory barriers

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

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.

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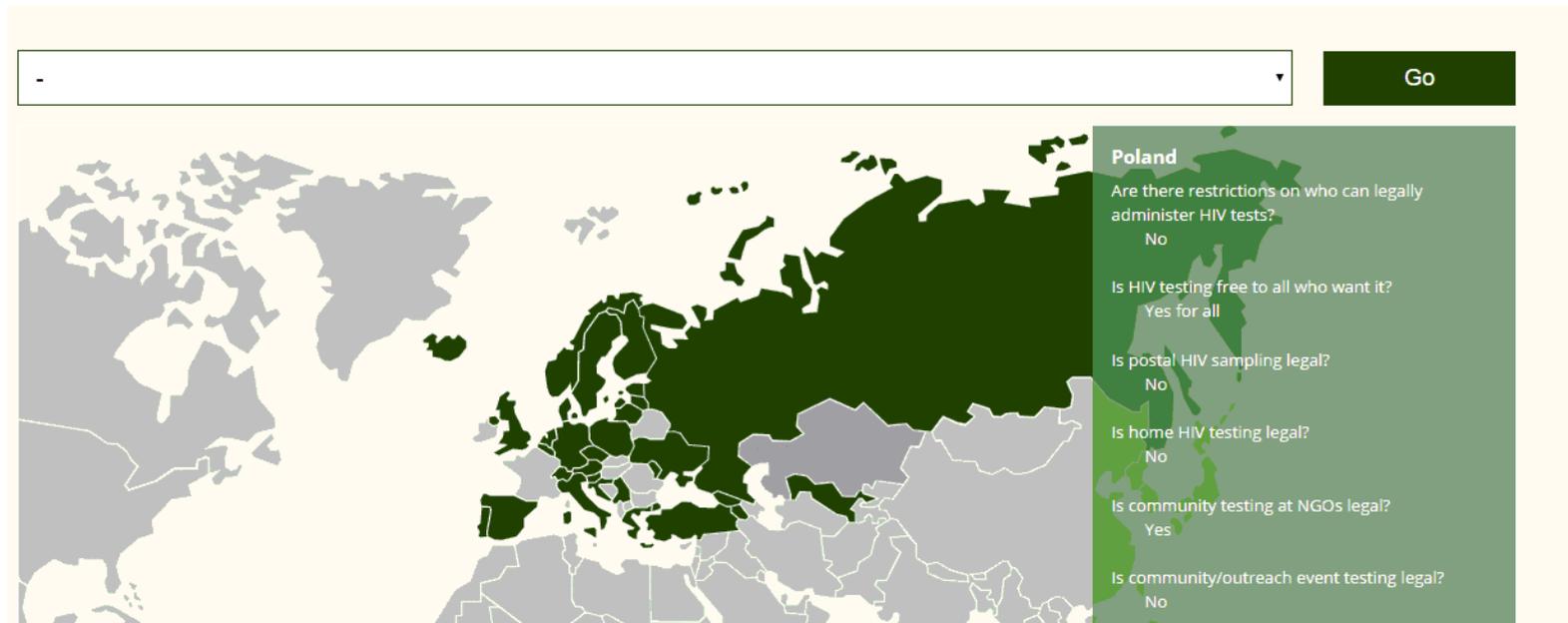
- The site covers 53 countries of the WHO Europe region
- Thanks to all those who contributed – the data is up and live and has gone through several refinements
- The site is being updated on an iterative basis
- As of PARIS (IAC) it will also have some tools and resources linked to it

How the data is searchable

Each of the countries has a pop-up showing some top line information

How the data is searchable (2)

As well as being able to make selections across the data ….

	National policy	Who can administer HIV tests?	Which groups can legally do HIV testing?				Free HIV testing		HIV testing restrictions	Which grou	
	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	Pe wh inj dru
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		

And each of the full data sets can also be accessed ….

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 hte 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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A picture is emerging of restrictive practices and regulations including:

- Lack of access and use of proven new testing technologies and settings
- 'Questiónable' restrictions on who can administer tests
- Possibly unecessary 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.

Potential Next Steps

Suggested to use the the existing format, methodology and procees to extend the scope of the scan to cover HEPC but

- Would this be useful or is it already being done by someone else
- Have we got the right questions – or are there others?
- Should the format be used but a separate stand alone(but linked) site be better
- Are others interested formation of a small working group to look at the use, feasabilty, ...

If interested please contact jhows@gnpplus.net

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GNP+ GLOBAL NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

Co-funded by the 2nd Health Programme of the European Union

Acknowledgements

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