

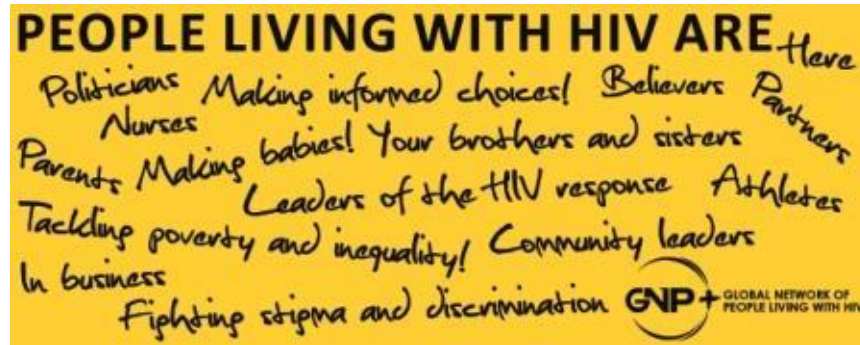
PEOPLE
LIVING
WITH
HIV
ARE...

Stigma across Europe

Legal and Regulatory Barriers to testing and treatment

Julian Hows

Global Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (GNP+)



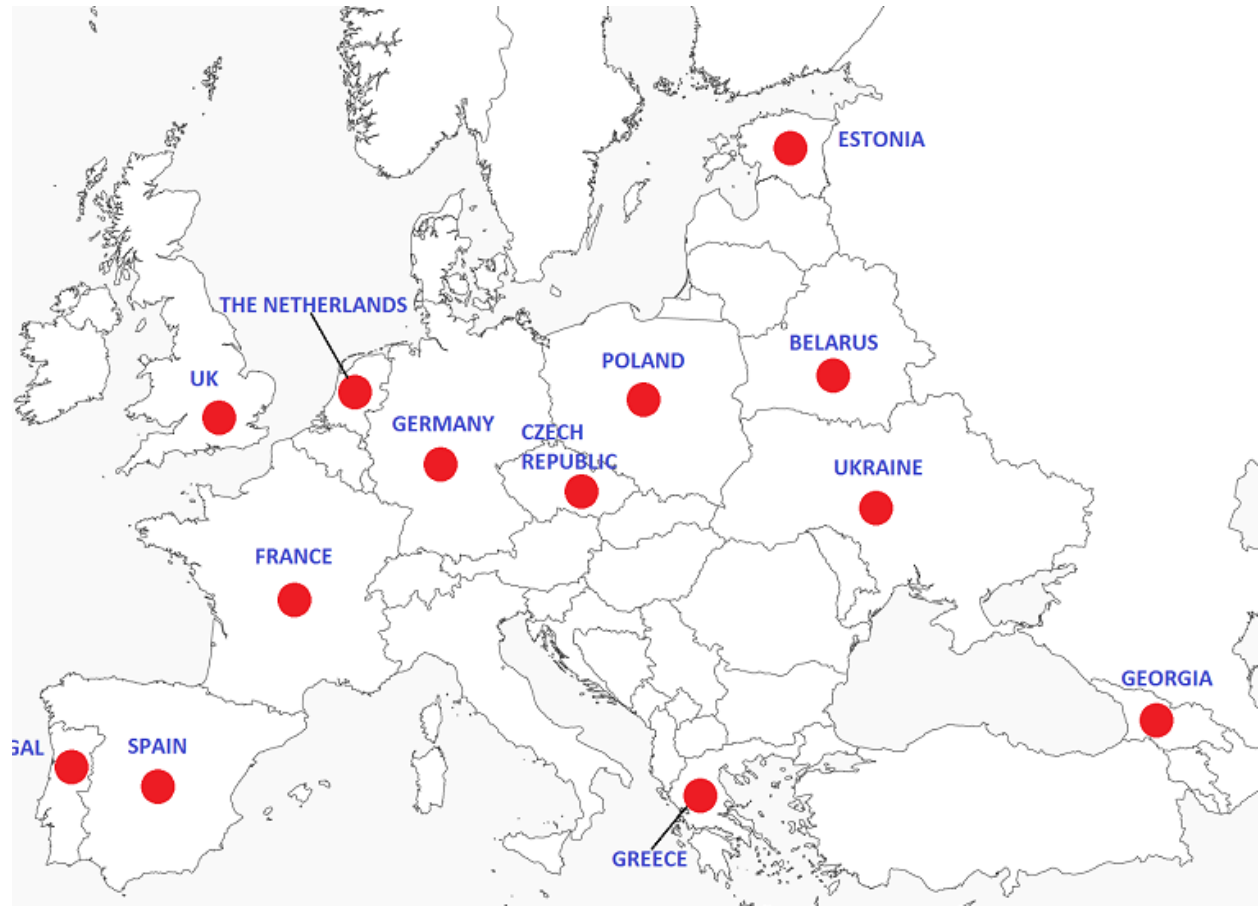
What is OptTEST?

- OptTEST aims to:
 - help reduce the number of undiagnosed people with HIV infection in the European region
 - promote timely treatment and care
- It has a particular emphasis on priority regions and groups throughout Europe.
- It will by mid 2017 provide:
 - tools and assessment methods to analyse and effectively respond to late presentation for HIV care and treatment
 - methodology/advocacy resources to document strategies to address HIV related stigma, and legal and regulatory barriers
 - presentations/publications: conferences and policy meetings

Find out more on www.opttest.eu

Partners





Main work:

- Compilation of data from PLHIV stigma index countries in the region
 - Estonia, Poland, Portugal, Germany, Greece

To inform good practice on how PLHIV communities do (and can) can get people into testing and help then continue on treatment

- Looking at the legal and regulatory barriers that get in the way of accessing testing and accessing care on a continuous basis

For the particular work that GNP+ is leading on we have expanded with separate funding so that

- Belarus and Ukraine can be involved in work arising from their stigma index results
- We can see the legal and regulatory barriers in ALL 53 countries of the WHO region

For this presentation I will be concentrating on the Legal and regulatory barriers work

A community based treatment cascade model:

<http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/AIDS%20conference/1281400-HIV-leaflet-LR.pdf>

PLHIV Stigma Index Results in selected European Countries Late testing, Late treatment:

http://newsite.hiveurope.eu/Portals/0/HIVStigma_Report.pdf

And the implementations of the index in these countries that can be found at

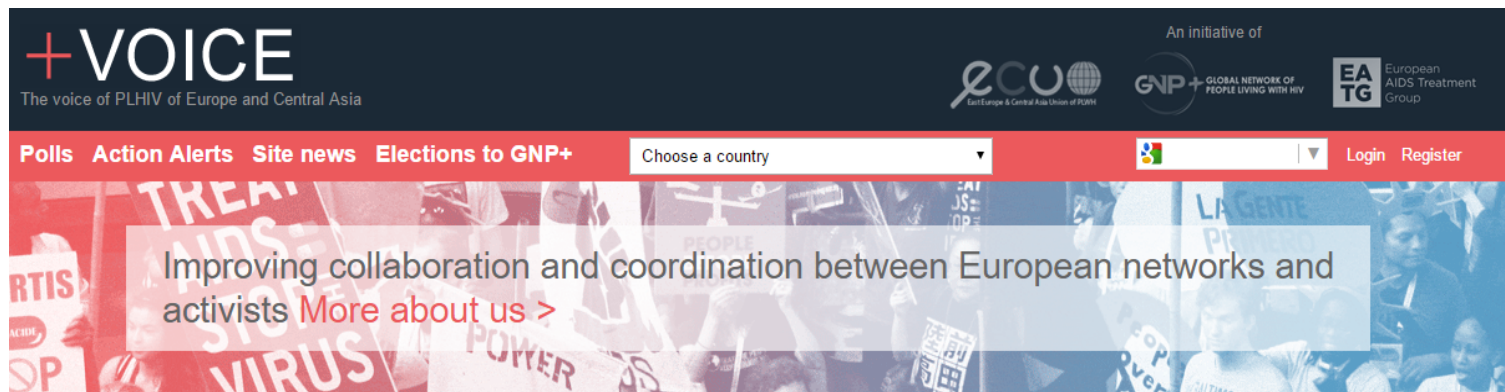
www.stigmaindex.org

Legal and regulatory barriers

We have looked at 53 countries – and the first data is in ...

The data will be accessible and searchable from several websites , including ...

<http://www.peoplewithhiveurope.org/en>



This portal site is an initiative of several regional and national community based organisations'. If you are an organisation in the region that would like to be a collaborating partner please [contact us](#). The aim is to allow for improved communication between European networks and activists to improve collaboration, coordination, and reduce duplication

A grant from ViiV healthcare made the site possible

Legal and regulatory barriers

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



- The site covers 53 countries of the WHO Europe region
- The site is intended to be updated on an iterative basis
- The data was collected via a survey going out to multiple sources in each country **and gathering information from already published data**

This was then consolidated into a 'data' set for each country
31 data sets are now available

Countries currently uploaded

[Armenia](#)

[Austria](#)

[Belgium](#)

[Croatia](#)

[Czech Republic](#)

[Denmark](#)

[Estonia](#)

[Finland](#)

[Georgia](#)

[Germany](#)

[Greece](#)

[Iceland](#)

[Italy](#)

[Latvia](#)

[Lithuania](#)

[Moldova, Republic of](#)

[Netherlands](#)

[Norway](#)

[Poland](#)

[Portugal](#)

[Russian Federation](#)

[Serbia](#)

[Slovenia](#)

[Spain](#)

[Sweden](#)

[Switzerland](#)

[Turkey](#)

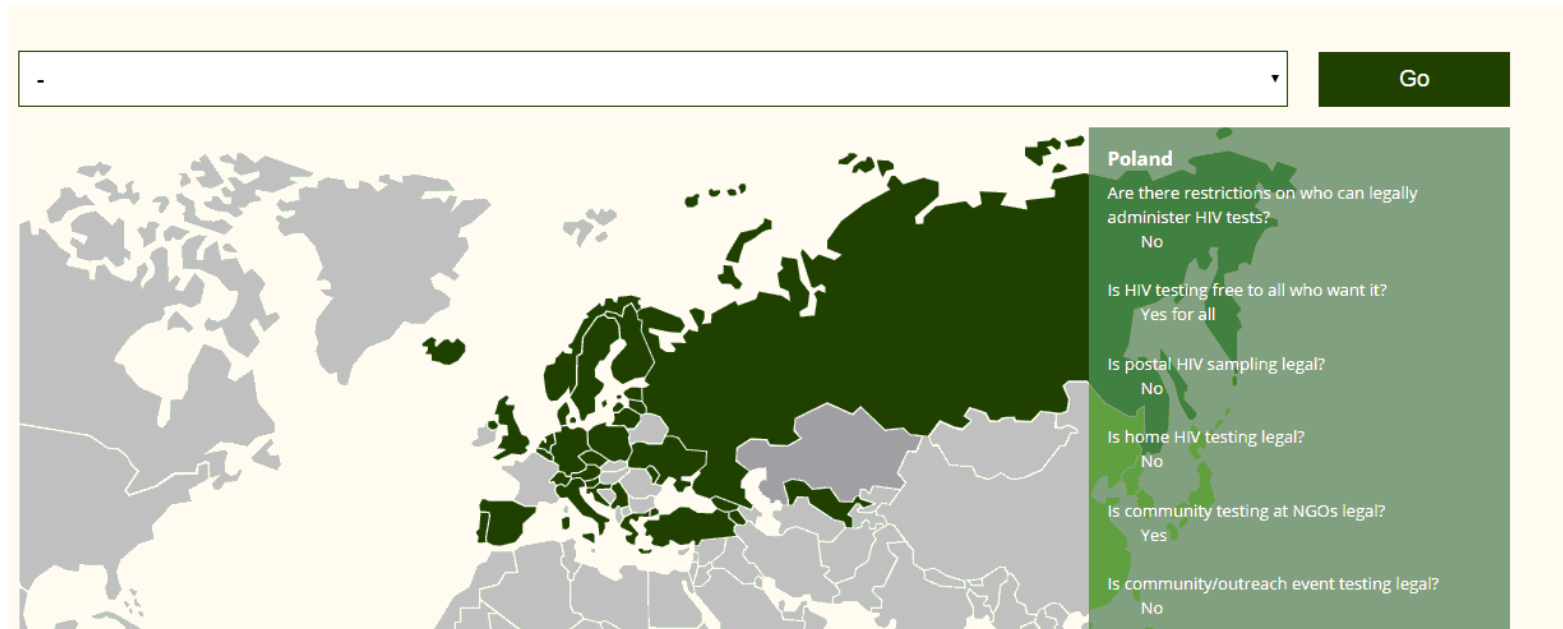
[Ukraine](#)

[United Kingdom](#)

[Uzbekistan](#)

How the data is searchable

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



How the data are 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 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	Per wh inji dri
	<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		

And each of the full data sets can also be accessed

Snapshot of 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 is a link to show all of the data sources used for each of the categories of information ...

Initial Findings

A picture is emerging of restrictive practices and regulations including:

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

Next Steps

- We will continue to refine and update the data as well as the site itself to make it more user friendly
- Please do use the feedback page if you wish to comment on the data – or give us better information and help us fill in the gaps

To do this please access the site at

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

And use the contact form at the bottom of each page

***We hope to have fully populated the site – and it be able to generate full reports and analysis for any user by Dec 1st 2106
The site will be updated on an iterative basis***

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all those who have provided information so far, Lisa Power the consultant working on this, OptTest partners and others who have also contributed and whose data we are using.

Most importantly, looking at some of the real challenges and barriers that exist, thanks to all those activists, agencies, health providers and workers who are working very hard to make access for all a reality, rather than just another slogan.



Julian Hows
GNP+
jhow@gnppplus.net