

EUROPEAN ATLAS OF FERTILITY TREATMENT POLICIES

European Parliament,
Brussels
December 3rd 2024

EPF

About EPF

European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights (EPF) is a network of members of parliaments from across Europe who are committed to protecting the sexual and reproductive health of the world's most vulnerable people, both at home and overseas.

- Established in 2000
- Secretariat based in Brussels
- 25 Members - All Party Parliamentary Groups on Population and Development throughout the European continent



Fertility Europe

- Established in 2009
- 33 member associations
- 28 European countries
- Official patient partner of ESHRE
- Member of IFFS
- Member of European Patients' Forum



FE and EPF:

ATLAS 2021

White Paper 2023

Coalition for Fertility 2024

Expert Group



Experts:

(alphabetical order)

Dr. Carlos Calhaz-Jorge, ESHRE

Hon. Morgana Daniele, MP (Lithuania)

Neil Datta, EPF

Marta Diavolova, UNFPA

Anita Fincham, FE

Dr. Veerle Goosens, ESHRE

Nathalie Kapp, IPPF

Klaudija Kordic, FE

Dr. Cristina Magli, ESHRE

What Is the Atlas?

- “European Fertility Treatments Policies Atlas” is a comparative map that **scores 49 countries and territories** on access to equal, safe and efficient fertility treatments.
- The Atlas focuses on **23 sub-criteria grouped in 3 main criteria**:
 1. **Legal regulations on access**
 2. **Public funding/reimbursement** and
 3. **Patients' perspective**
- Established under the guidance of a **multi-stakeholder group of experts**.
- **Main Sources:** Survey on ART and IUI: legislation, regulation, funding, and registries in European countries—an update. The European IVF-Monitoring Consortium (EIM) for the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), C Calhaz-Jorge, J Smeenk, C Wyns, D De Neubourg, D P Baldani, C Bergh, I Cuevas-Saiz, Ch De Geyter, M S Kupka, K Rezabek, A Tandler-Schneider, V Goossens. Human Reproduction, Volume 39, Issue 9, September 2024, Pages 1909–1924
- The Atlas does not reflect the rates of infertility / the uptake of treatment or the performance of the programmes in the countries.

Why Atlas?

48 million couples are affected by infertility worldwide.

25 million citizens are affected by infertility in the European Union.

Basic Rights

UNFPA:

All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, and to have the information, education and means to do so.

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development



Guidelines

World Health Organisation:

- Availability, access, and quality of interventions to address infertility remain a challenge in most countries. Diagnosis and treatment of infertility is often not prioritized in national population and development policies and reproductive health strategies and are rarely covered through public health financing. [...]
- **Government policies could mitigate the many inequities in access to safe and effective fertility care. [...]**
- In addition, enabling laws and policies that **regulate third party reproduction and ART are essential to ensure universal access without discrimination** and to protect and promote the human rights of all parties involved.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/infertility>



Guidelines

European Parliament:

- Calls on the Member States to ensure that all persons of reproductive age have access to fertility treatments, regardless of their socio-economic or marital status, gender identity or sexual orientation;

Para 39 of the European Parliament Resolution on the situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women's health. (2021 'Matic report' 2020 /2215(INI))

- Notes that infertility is a medical condition recognised by World Health Organization that can have severe effects such as depression; points out that infertility is on the increase and now occurs in about 15 % of couples; calls on the Member States, therefore, to ensure the right of couples to universal access to infertility treatment

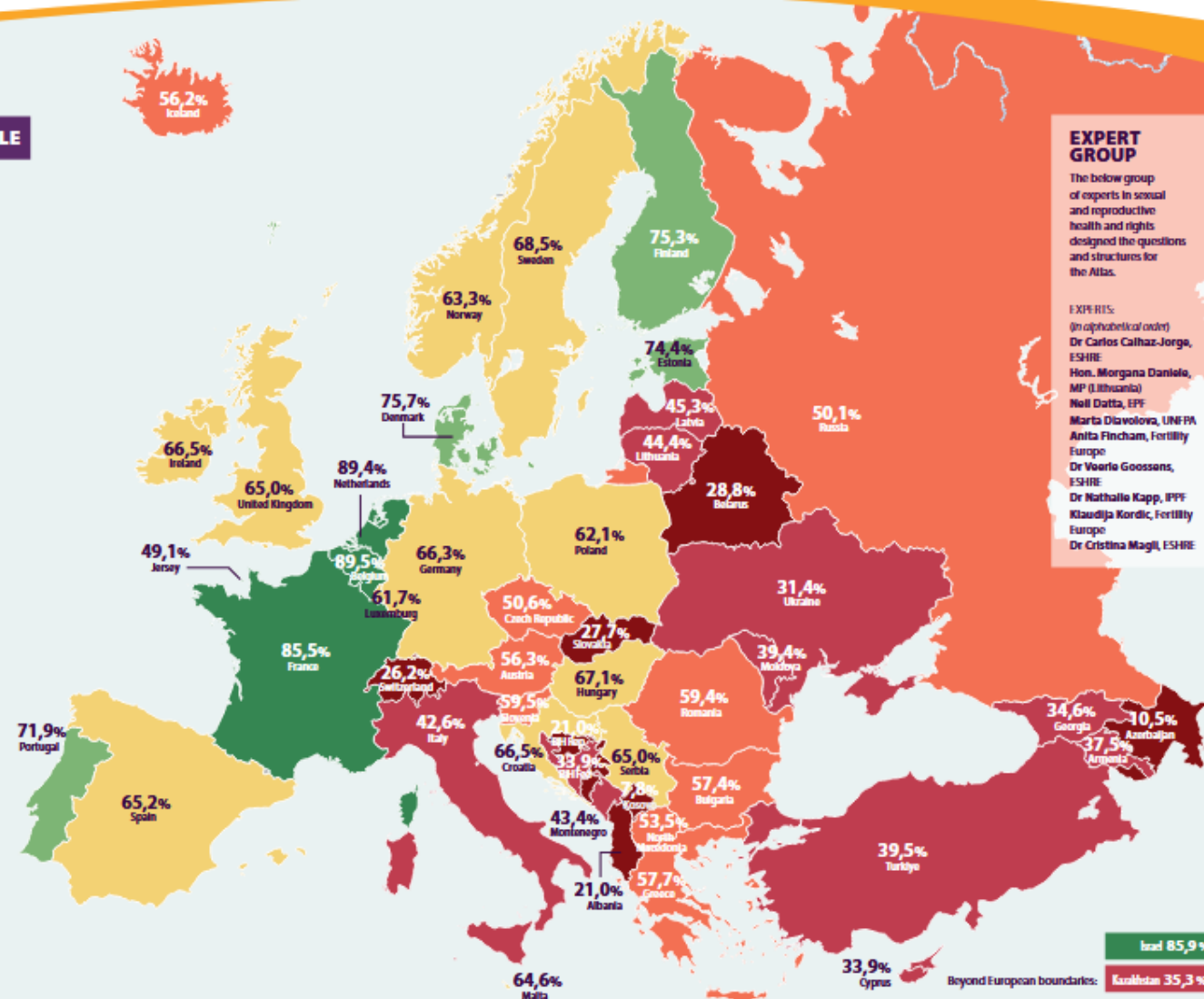
Para 26 of the European Parliament resolution on the demographic future of Europe (2007/2156 (INI))



For more information, please visit epfweb.org

RANKING SCALE

Belgium	89.5%
Netherlands	89.4%
Israel	85.9%
France	85.5%
Denmark	75.7%
Finland	75.3%
Estonia	74.4%
Portugal	71.9%
Sweden	68.5%
Hungary	67.1%
Croatia	66.5%
Ireland	66.5%
Germany	66.3%
Spain	65.2%
United Kingdom	65.0%
Serbia	65.0%
Malta	64.6%
Norway	63.3%
Poland	62.1%
Luxembourg	61.7%
Slovenia	59.5%
Romania	59.4%
Greece	57.7%
Bulgaria	57.4%
Austria	56.3%
Iceland	56.2%
North Macedonia	53.5%
Czech Republic	50.6%
Russia	50.1%
Jersey	49.1%
Latvia	45.3%
Lithuania	44.4%
Montenegro	43.4%
Italy	42.6%
Turkey	39.5%
Moldova	39.4%
Armenia	37.5%
Kazakhstan	35.3%
Georgia	34.6%
North Macedonia	33.9%
Cyprus	33.9%
Ukraine	31.4%
Ireland	28.8%
Slovakia	27.7%
Switzerland	26.2%
North Macedonia	21.0%
Albania	21.0%
Azerbaijan	10.5%
Kosovo	7.8%



The below group of experts in sexual and reproductive health and rights designed the questions and structures for the Atlas.

EXPERTS:
(in alphabetical order)
Dr Carlos Calhaz-Jorge, ESHRE
Hon. Morgana Daniels, MP (Ireland), EPP
Neli Datta, EPP
Maria Diavolova, UNEP
Anita Fincham, Fertility Europe
Dr Waerle Goossens, ESHRE
Dr Nathalie Kapp, IPPF
Klaudija Kordic, Fertility Europe
Dr Cristina Maoli, ESHRE

In the European Union alone 25 million citizens face infertility

WE CALL ON POLICY MAKERS TO:

- 1. Recognise** the right to try to have a child as a universal right across Europe;
- 2. Ensure** equal access to safe and efficient fertility treatments;
- 3. Provide** public funding for all lines of fertility treatments;
- 4. Engage** the public sector in providing better information about fertility and infertility;
- 5. Implement** communication campaigns to remove the stigma associated with infertility.



**Infertility affects
1 in 6 couples
worldwide**

**JOIN OUR CALL
TO ACTION AT**



**VISIT ATLAS
2024 AT**



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Notes that infertility is a medical condition recognised by World Health Organization that can have severe effects such as depression; points out that infertility is on the increase and now occurs in about 15 % of couples; calls on the Member States, therefore, to ensure the right of couples to universal access to infertility treatment¹.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Government policies could mitigate the many inequities in access to safe and effective fertility care.

* <https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/dvdt0006>



Key Findings (1)

Out of 49 countries analysed



Legal Situation:

- 42 countries have ART law (Assisted Reproduction Technology)
- 36 countries have national registers of ART activity
- 22 countries have donor register

Treatments:

- 49 countries (all) provide IVF / ICSI with own gametes to heterosexual couples
- 45 countries provide IVF / ICSI with sperm donation to heterosexual couples
- 21 countries provide IVF / ICSI with sperm donation to female couples
- 37 countries provide IVF / ICSI with sperm donation to single women
- 41 countries provide IVF / ICSI with egg donation to heterosexual couples
- 16 countries provide IVF / ICSI with egg donation to female couples
- 6 countries provide IVF / ICSI with egg donation to male couples
- 28 countries provide IVF / ICSI with egg donation to single women

Key Findings (2)

Out of 49 countries analysed



Patients' perspective:

- In 19 countries patient association gets consulted on public policies
- 10 countries offer funded psychological support for MAR treatment
- Only in 4 countries there is a state organised fertility education programme (France, Germany, Latvia and UK)
- 16 countries reporting additional issues with access to treatments

Best rated countries

Belgium -89,5%

- ✓ • Dedicated ART law
- ✓ • National registers
- ✓ • Access to treatment
- ✓ • Access to Genetic testing of embryos
- ⚡ • Non-anonymous donation
- ✓ • Full funding 4 IUIs, 6 IVF/ICSI
- ⚡ • Psychological support
- ✓ • Policymakers consult patients
- ✗ • State organises and funds fertility education

The Netherlands -89,4%

- ✓ • Dedicated ART law
- ✓ • National registers
- ✓ • Access to treatment
- ✓ • Access to Genetic testing of embryos
- ✓ • Non-anonymous donation
- ⚡ • Full funding 4 IUIs, 6 IVF/ICSI
- ✗ • Psychological support
- ✓ • Policymakers consult patients
- ✗ • State organises and funds fertility education

Great improvement - POLAND

41



19

Funding

- 6 IVF/ICSI cycles including gamete donation cycles
- Also for second, third ... child

Psychological support

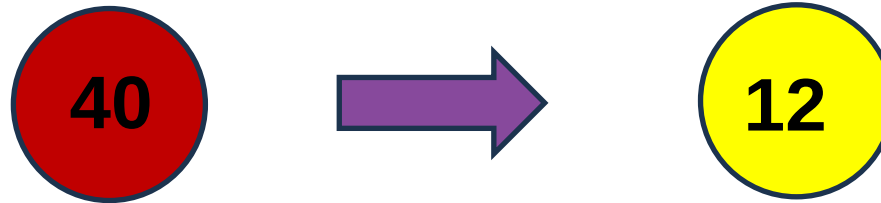
Policymakers consulting patients' association

Still to do !!!

- Access for single women and same sex couples
- Non-anonymous donation
- Removing mandatory embryo donation
- Fertility education at schools



Great improvement - IRELAND



Funding

- Up to 3 IUI and 1 IVF/ICSI cycle

Register of donor treatments and donors

Non-anonymous donation

Policymakers consulting patients' associations



PLANS for 2025

- **legal framework** – finalising legislation, MAR register
- **funding eligibility criteria**
more cycles,
with donation
single women, same sex couples
- **More fertility hubs**
- **Public funding for NISIG (patients' association)**



Policy Change since 2021

- **Bulgaria** - new ART law (2023)
 - **Greece** – allowing non-anonymous gamete donation (mix system)
 - **France** - fertility education and funding for non-medical egg freezing (2023)
 - **Denmark** - funding for the second child (2024)
 - **Germany** – government-initiated review of the MAR law (consultations)
 - **Finland** - MAR funding extension (2025-...)
 - **Romania** - MAR funding in (2025-...)
 - **Slovenia** – ruling of the Constitutional Court on excluding single women and same sex couples to be unruly
 - **Jersey** – 3 IVF cycles for those meeting amended criteria (2025)
- 

Perfect Country

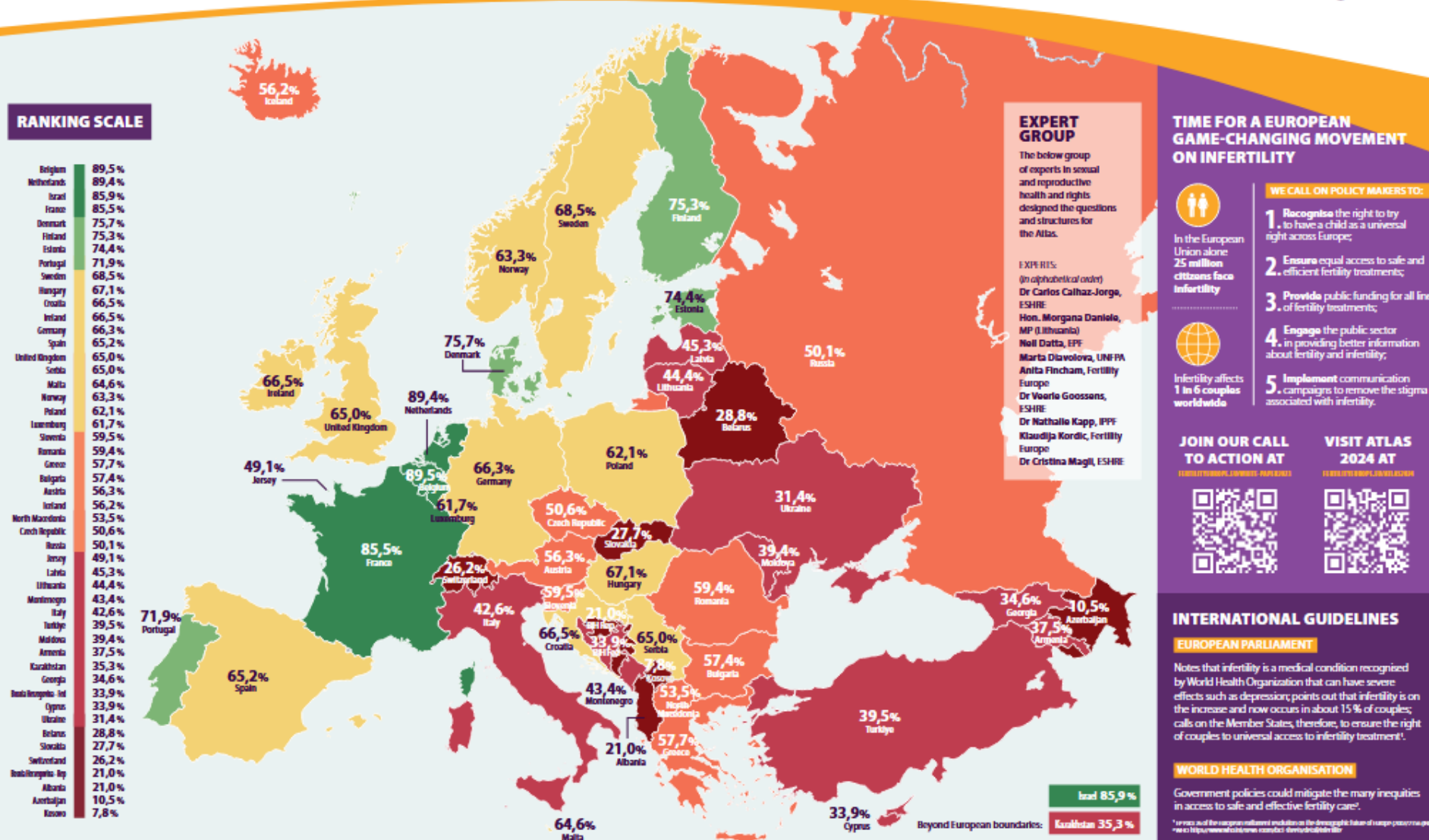


- Dedicated ART law
- National registers of treatments and donors
- Access to treatment and donor treatments to all who need it
- Access to genetic testing of embryos for serious diseases
- Non-anonymous/ID release donation
- Full funding for treatment - 4 IUIs, 6 IVF/ICSI
- Psychological support is part of funded fertility treatment
- Policymakers consult patients' association on regulations
- State organises and funds fertility education
- **?!?** (no other specific regulations affecting access)

EUROPEAN ATLAS OF FERTILITY TREATMENT POLICIES

For more information, please visit epfweb.org

2024



Thank you for your contributions and cooperation:

- **Expert Group**
- **National partners**
- **The European IVF-monitoring Consortium (EIM) for the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)**
- **MEP Merja KYLLÖNEN and MEP Joanna SCHEURING-WIELGUS!**

[EPF Website : https://www.epfweb.org/](https://www.epfweb.org/)

[Fertility Europe Website : https://fertilityeurope.eu/](https://fertilityeurope.eu/)



Who is behind the Atlas?



This initiative is powered by the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF) and Fertility Europe (FE).

We are grateful to the numerous national organisations and country experts who contributed to gathering the data presented in the Atlas.

The Atlas was produced in partnership with a group of experts in reproductive health and rights who designed the questions and structures.

The scope and the content of the European Fertility Treatment Policies Atlas is the sole responsibility of EPF and FE.