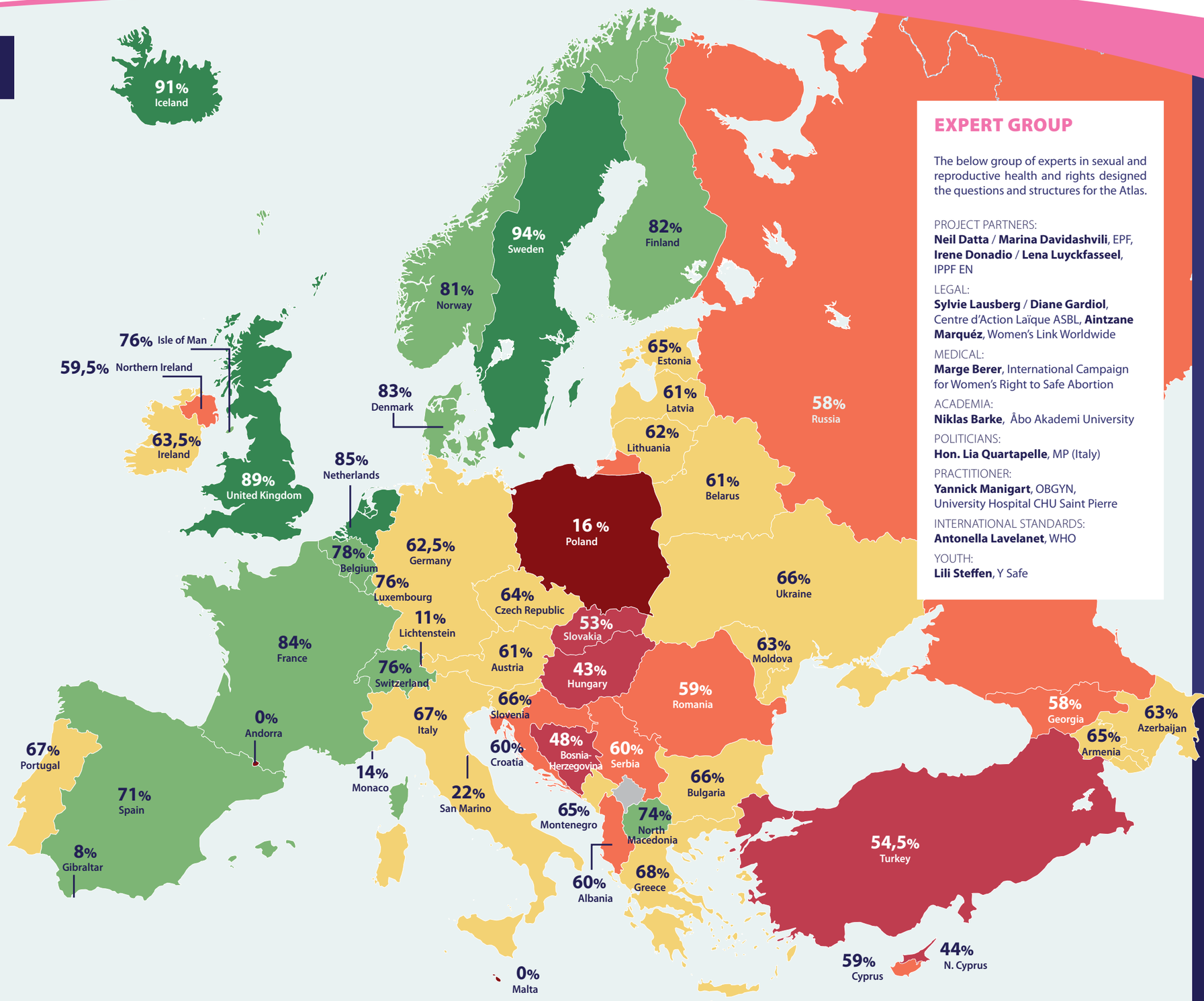
EUROPEAN ABORTION POLICIES ATLAS

SEPTEMBER 2021

RANKING POINTS SCALE

Sweden	94 %
Iceland	91 %
UK	89 %
Netherlands	85 %
France	84 %
Denmark	83 %
Finland	82 %
Norway	81 %
Belgium	78 %
Isle of Man	76 %
Luxembourg	76 %
Switzerland	76 %
N. Macedonia	74 %
Spain	71 %
Greece	68 %
Italy	67 %
Portugal	67 %
Bulgaria	66 %
Slovenia	66 %
Ukraine	66 %
Armenia	65 %
Estonia	65 %
Montenegro	65 %
Czech Repbulic	64 %
Ireland	63,5 %
Azerbaijan	63 %
Moldova	63 %
Germany	62,5 %
Lithuania	62 %
Austria	61 %
Belarus	61 %
Latvia	61 %
Albania	60 %
Croatia	60 %
Serbia	60 %
N. Ireland	59,5 %
Cyprus	59 %
Romania	59 %
Georgia	58 %
Russia	58 %
Turkey	54,5 %
Slovakia	53 %
Bosnia-Herzegovina	48 %
N. Cyprus	44 %
Hungary	43 %
San Marino	22 %
Poland	16 %
Monaco	14 %
Liechtenstein	11 %
Gibraltar	8 %
Andorra	0 %
Malta	0 %



EXPERT GROUP

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

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ABORTION POLICIES

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION:

Access to legal, safe and comprehensive abortion care, including post-abortion care, **is essential** for the attainment of the highest possible level of sexual and reproductive health.[1]

In countries where abortion is legally highly restricted, **unequal access** to safe abortion may result. In such contexts, abortions that meet **safety requirements** can become the privilege of the rich, while poor women have little choice but to resort to **unsafe providers**, which may cause disability and death.[2]

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:

Member States should **decriminalise abortion**, as well as to **remove and combat obstacles** to legal abortion, and recalls that they have a **responsibility to ensure** that women have access to the rights conferred on them by law[3].

COUNCIL OF EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY:

The lawfulness of abortion does not have an effect on a **woman's need for an abortion**, but only on her access to a safe abortion.

Advances in medical practice in general, and the advent of safe and effective technologies and skills to perform induced abortion in particular, could **eliminate unsafe abortions** and related **deaths entirely**, providing **universal access** to these services is available[4].

[1] https://www.who.int/health-topics/abortion#tab=tab_1
[2] *Safe abortion: technical and policy guidance for health systems*, Second edition
[3] *EP Resolution resolution on the situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women's health* (2020/2215(INI) of 24 June 2021
[4] PACE Resolution 1607 (2008). *Access to safe and legal abortion in Europe*, para 4

SAFE ABORTION METHODS APPROVED BY WHO

METHODS UP TO 12–14 WEEKS SINCE THE LMP:

Manual or electric vacuum aspiration, or medical methods using a combination of mifepristone followed by misoprostol

METHODS AFTER 12–14 WEEKS SINCE THE LMP:

- **Surgical method**: D&E, using vacuum aspiration and forceps.
- **Medical method**: for abortions after 12 weeks since the LMP is mifepristone followed by repeated doses of misoprostol

WHO recommends that individuals in the first trimester (**up to 12 weeks pregnant**) can **self-administer** mifepristone and misoprostol medication without direct supervision of a health-care provider.

(Source: Safe abortion: technical and policy guidance for health systems, Second edition - WHO recommendations on self-care interventions Self-management of medical abortion)

EUROPEAN ABORTION POLICIES ATLAS

	Albania	Andorra	Armenia	Austria	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Belgium	Bosn.- Herziv.*	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czechi Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Georgia	Germany	Gibraltar	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland	Isle of Man	Italy	Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Moldova	Monaco	Montenegro	Netherlands	N. Cyprus	N. Ireland	N. Macedonia	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Russia	San Marino	Serbia	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Swizerland	Turkey	Ukraine	UK (E, S & W)	Perfect score
LEGAL STATUS OF ABORTION CARE *(TOTAL SCORE)*	**12**	**0**	**12**	**9**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**9**	**12**	**12**	**9**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**9**	**3**	**9**	**9**	**15**	**9**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**6**	**12**	**12**	**0**	**12**	**3**	**12**	**15**	**9**	**9**	**12**	**12**	**2**	**9**	**9**	**12**	**3**	**12**	**12**	**9**	**12**	**15**	**9**	**9**	**12**	**15**	**15**
Stand alone abortion law legalising abortion/policy or part of the general health law: progressive law (15 pt)/regular law (12 pt)/regressive law (9 pt)	12		12		12	12	12	9	12	12		12	12	12	12	12	12			9	9	15	9	12	12	12		12	12		12		12	15	9	9	12	12				12		12	12	9	12	15		9	12	15	15
In penal/criminal code: de-penalised; allowing abortion under certain grounds (6 pt)/many grounds (9 pt)		0		9							9							9		9																		9										9				
In penal/criminal code: penalised; under all circumstances (6 pt)/allowed under restrictive conditions (0-3pt)																			3							6			0		3						2		9		3										
ACCESS *(TOTAL SCORE)*	**31**	**0**	**30**	**35**	**29**	**30**	**37**	**22**	**32**	**32**	**28**	**27**	**41**	**31**	**38**	**38**	**26**	**32**	**3**	**35**	**23**	**44**	**32**	**36**	**37**	**21**	**3**	**32**	**36**	**0**	**29**	**4**	**34**	**41**	**20**	**28,5**	**33**	**40**	**7**	**33**	**30**	**32**	**19**	**29**	**28**	**33**	**35**	**44**	**36**	**30**	**32**	**43**	**45**
Abortion is widely available; i.e. on request; up to nr weeks since LMP:																																																				
18-24 week (10 pt); 13-18 weeks (8 pt); 10-12 weeks (6 pt); 0-10 weeks (4 pt)	6		6	8	6	6	8	4	6	4	6	6	6	6	6	8	6	8		6	6	10	6	8	6	6		6	8		6		4	10	4	6	6	6	0	4	8	6	6	4	6	4	8	10	6	4	6	10	10
Additionally, abortion is available on request up to specific limit and beyond this limit for the following reasons:																																																				
Economic or social reasons (3 pt)	3		3		3	3							3		3		3					3		3	3		3			3		3	3			3	3									3			3	3	3
Medical reasons; ie. Impairment of foetus or threat woman's health/life, mental health (2pt)	2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Criminal grounds (rape/incest) (1pt)	1		1		1			1	1	1	1		1		1		1			1	1	1		1		1	1	1		1	1	1				1	1	1	1		1		1	1			1		1	1	1	1
Certain motivations are prohibited (such a sex selection): Yes (0 pt)/ No (-1 pt)																																																				
If yes: specific the limit:																																																			
Above 18 weeks or no limit in exceptional circumstances (4pt); 18 weeks (3 pt); 12 weeks (2 pt); 4-12 weeks (1 pt)	4		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	0	4	4		4	1	4	4	4	2	4	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Eligibility of women in accessing abortion services:																																																			
No restriction (5 pt); if not specified, we assume there is no restriction	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5		5		5	5		5			5	5		5		5	5	5	2,5	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Restricted to nationals/residents; ie. not accessible to non-residents (2 pt) or non-nationals/residents can access abortion but with conditions (3 pt)												2	3								2			2																														
Additional unnecessary mandatory medical procedures:																																																			
No additional requirement to access safe abortion (4 pt) - deduct for each restriction	4		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		4	4		4		4	4	2	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Compulsory interaction between woman and foetus; ultrasound prior to abortion* (-1 pt)																																																				
Compulsory dissuasive counselling (-1 pt) and/or compulsory waiting period (-1 pt) and/or compulsory additional medical tests; eg. HIV, STI (-1 pt)																																																			
Administrative obstacles; rating legally accessible abortions:																																																			
None (5 pt) - deduct for each restriction	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5		0	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Consent/approval from more than one medical practitioner for regular abortions (-1 pt)																																																				
Third party authorisation; judicial or parental for minors (-1 pt) and/or provide legal proof of rape/incest; police or judicial proof (-1 pt)																																																			
Spousal consent (-2 pt) and/or Other; e.g medical certificate in case of rape (-1pt)																																			-2														-2			
National health system coverage:																																																			
Covered as any other medical services by national health insurance (10 pt)							10						10		10	10				10		10	10	10	10			10					10		10		10		10					10	10	10	10	10		10	
Covered differently:																																																			
Greater coverage, (10 pt + up to 5 points for each additional coverage; women without health insurance/non residents)																																						1									1				11
Less coverage:																																																			
Only certain types of abortion procedures are covered (6 pt) and/or only certain situations allow for coverage (5 pt)				5					5	5		5		5				5			5				5		5			5		5				5							5	5				5		
Coverage only for certain groups, ie. vulnerable women (3 pt)	3		3	3		3			3	3	3							3														3								3												
No coverage at all under any circumstance (0 pt)					0			0									0														0						0			0											
CLINICAL CARE AND SERVICE DELIVERY *(TOTAL SCORE)*	**17**	**0**	**20**	**14**	**19**	**16**	**22**	**14**	**19**	**13**	**19**	**22**	**23**	**19**	**27**	**24**	**17**	**16**	**2**	**21**	**14**	**25**	**15,5**	**21**	**14**	**16**	**2**	**15**	**21**	**0**	**19**	**7**	**16**	**19**	**15**	**19**	**19**	**19**	**10**	**19**	**17**	**16**	**0**	**19**	**13**	**21**	**19**	**25**	**21**	**15,5**	**19**	**21**	**30**
Methods available:																																																			
Surgical abortion (3 pt) and/or medical abortion (3 pt)	3		6	6	6	6	6	3	6	6	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6		6	6	6	4,5	6	6	6		3	6		6		3	6	3	6	6	6	3	6	6	6		6	3	6	6	6	6	4,5	6	6	6
Who can provide abortions services?																																																			
Mid-level provider; midwife/nurse (2 pt) and/or doctor; specialty not specified (2 pt)				2			2				2		2		2	4						2	2	4			2		2		2	2	4		2		2					2		2	2		4	4
Specialist; OBGYN (2 pt)	2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Self-management of medical abortion in a home setting (partially or completely); 12 weeks/partially (2 pt); less than 12 weeks (1 pt)			2	1	1		1		1	1			1	2	1	1		1		1		1	1		1			1			1		1		1	1	2		1	1			1		1	1	1	0	1	1	2
Information provision on family planning:																																																			
Provision of info on family planning in the context of abortion care (2 pt)	2		2		2	2	2	2	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2		2	2		2	2			2		2		2		2	2	2		2	0	2		2		2	2	2	2		2	2	2
Women seeking abortion and abortion providers enjoy legal protection from anti-abortion activists:																																																			
N/A (ie. not necessary as no anti-abortion activism in the country effectively limits womens access to abortion care (4 pt)	4				4			4			4	4	4	4	4					4		4						4					4				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4		0	0		4
There is anti-abortion activism in the country (starting point is 0), has the central gov't; ie. not local gov'ts, taken action on the following:		0	0	2		0	2		0	0							2	0	2	0				0	0		0		0	0		0			0	0	0												0		
Buffer zones (1 pt)																								1	1																												
Other harassment (1 pt)																	1							1	1																											
Privacy; names and addresses of abortion providers made public and social media targeting in abortion setting (1 pt)																									1																											
Penalties for those who infringe women's legal access to abortion or abortion providers (1 pt)							1									1								1																											
Conscientious Objection (CO):																																																	*				
Not allowed for abortion/OBGYN (10 pt)															10													10																				10				10	
Allowed generally in medicine; also applicable to abortion (8 pt)										8		8										8											8		8		8							8	8	8		8		8		
No legal grounds for Conscientious objection (8 pt)			8		8				8		8						8															8														8					
Specific legal provisions to allow CO in field of abortion/SRHR (6 pt)	6			6		6	6	6					6	6		6		6	6	6	6		6	6	6	6			6			6		6		6			6	6						6				6		
Applies to potential abortion providers only (OBGYN, midwives, doctors, nurses): yes (0 pt)						0	0	0		0		0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0				0		
Applies to all potentially involved; ie. administrative staff, pharmacists (-1 pt)																																																			
Applies to whole facilities; ie. entire hospital, administrative units (-1 pt)																																																		
CO unregulated (-1 pt) or CO regulated/adequately enforced by government (0 pt)							0	0					0				0							0	0	0									0				0							0					
Obligation to inform the patient in a timely fashion about CO: yes (0 pt)/no (2 pt)				-2	-2		0	-2		-2				-2			0		-2	-2	0	0		-2	0	0	0			-2			0			-2	0	0	0	0	0			0		0				0		
Obligation to provide a referral: yes (0 pt)/ no (-1 pt)							0					0	0				0	0			0	0		0	0	0				0			0			0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0				0		
INFORMATION AND ON-LINE INFORMATION *(TOTAL SCORE)*	**0**	**0**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**5**	**10**	**3**	**5,5**	**0**	**3**	**-3**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**4**	**7**	**0**	**3**	**7**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**10**	**0**	**3**	**10**	**10**	**-3**	**6**	**3**	**-2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**5**	**10**	**10**	**0**	**3**	**10**	**10**
Government and public authorities provide authoritative, accurate info, easily (on-line) accessible to the public (4 pt)							4						4		2	4		4				4	4	4	1	4			4				4			4	4		3					2	4	4				4	4	
Abortion providers and NGOs are legally allowed to provide all sorts of info (3 pt)			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1,5	3	3		3	4	3	3	3		3	3		3		3	3		3	4	3		3	1		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Government and public authorities take action against abortion disinformation (3 pt)							0						3			3																	3				3	3							3	3				3	3	
Government is actively opposing abortions (-3pt)																			-3		-3																	-3			-3		-3	-3					-3				0
OVERALL TOTAL	**60**	**0**	**65**	**61**	**63**	**61**	**78**	**48**	**66**	**60**	**59**	**64**	**83**	**65**	**82**	**84**	**58**	**62,5**	**8**	**68**	**43**	**91**	**63,5**	**76**	**67**	**56**	**11**	**62**	**76**	**0**	**63**	**14**	**65**	**85**	**44**	**59,5**	**74**	**81**	**16**	**67**	**59**	**58**	**22**	**60**	**53**	**66**	**71**	**94**	**76**	**54,5**	**66**	**89**	**100**

Albania Andorra Armenia Austria Azerbaijan Belarus Belgium Bosn.- Herziv.* Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czechi Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Georgia Germany Gibraltar Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Isle of Man Italy Latvia Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Moldova Monaco Montenegro Netherlands N. Cyprus N. Ireland N. Macedonia Norway Poland Portugal Romania Russia San Marino Serbia Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Swizerland Turkey Ukraine UK (E, S & W) Perfect score

FOR EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT & EQUALITY

European Network

Who is behind the Atlas?

This initiative is powered by the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF) and International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN). 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 sexual and reproductive health and rights (see overleaf) who designed the questions and structures. The scope and the content of the European Contraception Atlas is the sole responsibility of EPF and IPPF EN.

Data extracted as of September 2021. *Scored according the law of Republika Srpska.