



# Abortion in Europe

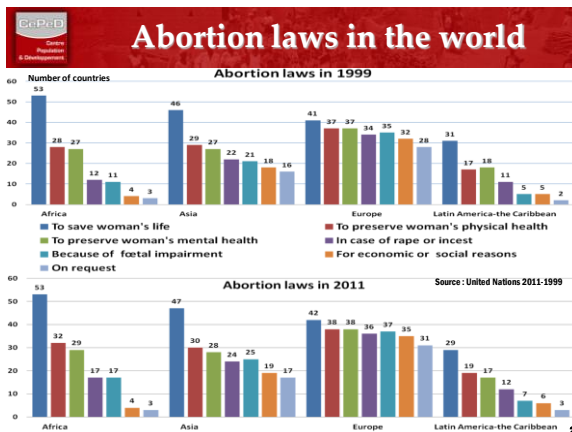
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**« Sex selection: from Asia to Europe »**

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Abortion Law in Europe in 2009	
Grounds /abortion is permitted	Countries
Totally prohibited	Malta, Holy See
(1) Only to save a woman's life	Andorra, Ireland, Monaco, San Marino
(2)=(1)+to preserve a woman's physical + mental health	Liechtenstein
(3)=(2)+in case of rape, incest and fetal impairment	Poland, Spain (legalized on request in 2010)
(4)=(2)+fetal impairment +for socio-eco. reasons	United Kingdom
(5)=(3)+for socio-eco. reasons	Finland, Iceland, Luxembourg
On request	Albania, Austria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech R., Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Moldova, Romania, Russian F., Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tadjikistan, TFYR Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine

Changes In abortion laws In Europe	
First Law*	Countries
1920-1939	USSR (1920 - R 1935, L 1955-2007), Denmark (1937 - L 1956- 1970- 1973)
1950-1959	Bulgaria (1956- 1968 & 1973- L 1990), Hungary (1957- R 1973 - L1992 ), Czechoslovakia (1957- L1986 ), - Finland, (1950-1978-1985-2001) Romania (1957 - R 1966-1972-1984 L1990)- Poland (1956- R 1991 & 1993) Moldova (1956 & 2001)
1960-1969	United Kingdom (1967-1990)
1970-1979	Croatia (1978) , Austria (1974) , France (1975-2001), Norway, (1975-1978) Italy (1978) , Luxembourg, (1978), Sweden (1974), Bosnia & Herzegovina (1977), Germany (1975- 1992) , Greece (1978-1986), Iceland (1975) Macedonia (1976), Slovenia (1977- 1991)
1980-1989	Belarus (1987), Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Portugal (84-2007), Latvia (1982- 2002), Lithuania (1987), Slovak Rep. (1986), Spain (1985-95, 2010), Turkey 1983
1990-1999	Andorra (1990), Armenia (1995), Azerbaidjan (1992), Belgium (1990), Albania (1995), Estonia (1998)
2000	Switzerland & Georgia (2000)

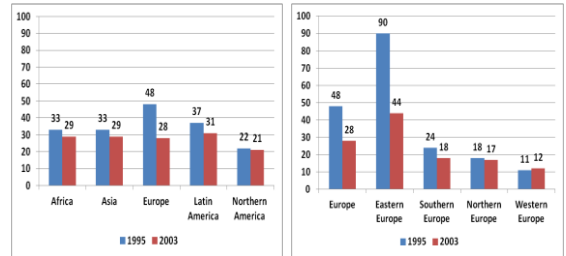
\* date of initial law - R = restriction of the law - L = more liberal law

## Access to abortion in Europe

- **Gestational limits**
  - ✓ Up to 12 weeks in most European countries
- **Authorization**
  - ✓ Parental authorization or legal representative for minors in most countries
  - ✓ Medical authorization in some countries
- **Period of reflexion**

**Conditions => abortions outside the legal system and therefore unsafe**

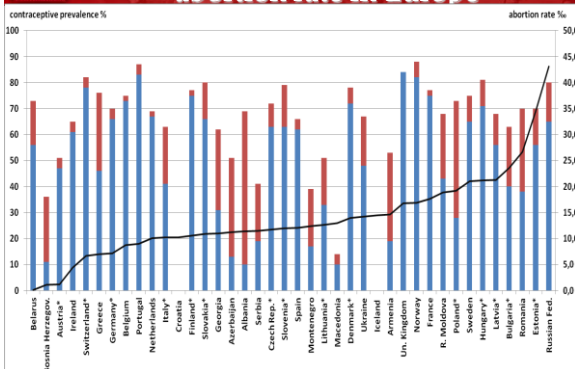
## Trends in abortion rates



Source : Singh *et al.*, 2009

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## Contraceptive prevalence & abortion rate in Europe



## To conclude

- Abortion laws are liberal in most European countries
- Abortion practice is very common in some countries
- Specific abortion regulations may lead to illegal and unsafe abortion, because practiced beyond the legal period
- Impact of selective abortion ?

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