Registries for Egg and Sperm Donors in the EU members

14 of 27 EU Member States (IE, UK, FR, BE, NL, DK, SI, BG, RO, GR, CY, LV, FI, SE) do have a Registry, National or Local, for donors, while the other remaining 13 countries (AT, CZ, DE, EE, ES, HU, IT, LT, LU, MT, PL, PT, SK) do not have any registry for donors in place.

6 of 14 EU Member States (FI, UK, NL, SI, RO, LV) having a registry for donors appear to have a National Registry for donors, 7 of 14 EU Member States have Local Registries in place, while Bulgaria has both, a Local and a National Registry for donors.

Note that in 11 of the 14 (UK, BE, NL, FR, SI, RO, BG, LV, FI29, SE, DK30) countries that have established a National or Local Registry for donors, this is under legal obligation.

In Ireland, local registries on voluntary basis exist. A number of clinics receive donor sperm from other countries. There is no local register organized by the Competent Authority but the clinics are tracking live births from these donors.

In Spain the Royal Decree for Donor Registry is currently under development (National Legislation).

For Belgium a Local Registry for donors with Legal obligation is organised by the individual centres, and is required by the law of 19.12.2008.

France has no National Registry for donors. Data related to the donors are recorded at the local level under the responsibility of the authorized centres because they must assure the traceability of the donation (it means that all the useful information is available including the conditions of the donation, the donor’s testing and other medical donor’s data). According to the French law, please note that records do not provide any identifying information.

For Slovenia, the data received were confusing. Under legal obligation a National Registry for donors should be in place. Licensed centres for donors have to report their identity in this Registry. Apparently the National Registry is in the process to be established.

Bulgaria has both, a National and a Local Registry for donors. Note that the National Registry is only for oocyte donors and organised by Competent Authority, whereas the locally each centre collects the data for sperm donors.

For Finland the National Registry for donors is organised by the Competent Authority.

Denmark has a Local Registry under legal obligation. Licensed MAR centres have a legal obligation to ensure traceability from donor no. to

Remind that in 6 EU Member States (CY, IE, LT, LU, MT, PL) no MAR-specific legislation is in place.

For RO, LV, IE, CY, LU and PL there exists a general law based on Cell and Tissue Directive for all kinds of cell and tissue transplants.

Malta however, is in the process of drafting legislation.

Analyzing the registration of the MAR-techniques, one can conclude that if the Member State has a National/Local registry established, IVF, ICSI, FET, MESA, NIVF, PGD, SD and TESE are in most countries being registered. Remind that Estonia, Greece, Poland and Slovakia do not have their own registry established yet.

France commented that PGS is forbidden in France. The law on Bioethics stipulates that PGD can only be performed in order to diagnose a severe familial genetic disease in the embryo (Law 2004-800 article L 2131-4).

In Austria, Lithuania and Latvia PGD was reported to be forbidden. For Latvia data refer to the existence of the ‘Sexual and Reproductive Law’ saying that it is not allowed to choose embryo gender (unless for genetic disease).

In 12 of 27 EU Member States (AT32, BG, DK, FI, FR, DE, GR, IT, LV, PT33, SI, SE) post-mortem use of gametes/embryos is forbidden.

15 of 27 EU Member States (BE, CY, CZ, HU, IE, LT, NL, PL, RO, ES, UK) allow post-mortem use of gametes and embryo’s, with legal restrictions in 6 of 15 EU Member States (BE34, CZ, HU35, NL, ES, UK). Legal basis when forbidden or restricted by law should be found, and be provided by the individual Member States.

Surrogacy is forbidden in 15 of 27 EU Member States. 12 EU Member States allow surrogacy and there are legal restrictions to surrogacy in 2 of those 12 countries (NL, UK).

Notes:

These 15 MAR techniques are the 15 most used techniques concerning MAR in Europe.

In Austria, postmortem use and surrogacy is forbidden by Fortpflanzungsmedizingesetz Reproduction Law 2004.

Postmortem use and surrogacy is prohibited in Portugal by Law 32/2006.
In Belgium, postmortem use is allowed, but restricted by Law of 6 July 2007.

Only if the IVF process was started before the partner died, Hungary allows post-mortem use of gametes and embryos.

Data 2009

Notice: Medically Assisted Reproduction treatments are regulated by different policies and legislations in different states or countries. Local authorities may reevaluate, alter or adjust them to new forms, expressing new policies, influenced by different cultural contexts or political influences. Due to these changes, it is highly recommended for individuals or couples wishing to pursue sub fertility treatments to check current legislation of any location they intend to visit.

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