

## Sterilization Laws and Government Funding for Family Planning Services in EU Countries

Data from 2006

<i>Country</i>	<i>Government Support for Family Planning Services</i>	<i>Description of Government Support</i>	<i>Sterilization Laws</i>	<i>Age, Consent, and Parity Requirements for Sterilization</i>
<i>Austria</i>	Indirect Support	Subsidizes abortions for medical reasons	Legal	25+ years for contraception; <25 for health reasons
<i>Belgium</i>	Indirect Support	Not Available	Unclear/practiced	Not Applicable
<i>Cyprus</i>	Indirect Support	Subsidizes Cyprus Family Planning Association	Unclear	Not Applicable
<i>Czech Republic</i>	Direct Support	Not Available	Legal	35+ years with 3+ children; <35 with 4+ children*
<i>Denmark</i>	Direct Support	Ministry of Health Distributes information on contraception through FPA	Legal	25+ years for contraception; <25 if pregnancy would threaten health, committee must consent to sterilization for non-contraceptive reasons*
<i>Estonia</i>	Indirect Support	Not Available	Not Available	Not Applicable
<i>Finland</i>	Direct Support	Not Available	Legal	30+ years age or 3+ children for contraception, 1 doctor must consent; because no other method of contraception, 2 doctors must consent; for eugenic reasons, National Board of Health must consent; spouse must be informed*
<i>France</i>	Indirect Support	Social Security covers 70% of legal abortion cost	Legal	4 month waiting period required
<i>Greece</i>	Direct Support	Not Available	Unclear	Not Applicable
<i>Germany</i>	Indirect Support	Free of charge: counseling information on reproductive health issues; contraception for teens; legal abortion for low-income individuals	Legal	None
<i>Hungary</i>	Direct Support	Free abortion for all reasons unless it is by request	Legal	40+ years; 35+ with 3+ children; 30+ with 4+ children
<i>Ireland</i>	Direct Support	Not Available	Unclear	Not Applicable
<i>Italy</i>	Indirect Support	Not Available	Legal	None
<i>Latvia</i>	Indirect Support	Not Available	Not Available	Not Applicable
<i>Lithuania</i>	Indirect Support	Not Available	Not Available	Not Applicable
<i>Luxembourg</i>	No Support	Not Available	Legal	None
<i>Malta</i>	Indirect Support	Not Available	Unclear	Not Applicable
<i>Netherlands</i>	Indirect Support	Free of charge abortions in hospital and clinics	Legal	None
<i>Poland</i>	Direct Support	Free of charge legal abortion	Unclear/illegal	Not Applicable
<i>Portugal</i>	Direct Support	Free of charge prescriptive methods of contraception	Legal	25+ years for contraception; <25 for therapeutic reasons
<i>Slovakia</i>	Indirect Support	Free of charge: contraception (excluding condoms); abortion before 8 weeks; all abortions for medical reasons, regardless of gestation	Legal	Married with 3+ children for contraception
<i>Slovenia</i>	Direct Support	Free of charge contraceptive information and supplies	Legal	35+ years for contraception*
<i>Spain</i>	Direct Support	Not Available	Legal	None
<i>Sweden</i>	Direct Support	Free of charge: family planning services;	Legal	25+ years for contraception; 18-25 for eugenic, health (women

		contraception; abortion upon request		only) or sex change reasons*
<i>UK</i>	Direct Support	Free of charge family planning services, including sterilization	Legal	None

*\*A Health Committee must approve sterilization for health, eugenic, and/or socioeconomic reasons*

**References:**

EngenderHealth. *Contraceptive Sterilization: Global Issues and Trends*. New York City: Engender Health, 2002.

United Nations Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Abortion Policies: A Global Review*. New York City: United Nations, 2002.