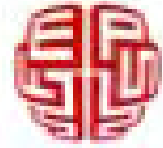


Book Presentation

ABORTION IN THE EU: ACTORS, ISSUES AND DISCOURSES

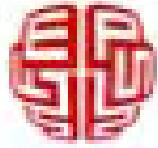


Presentation by **Laeticia Thissen**
FEPS Senior Policy Analyst for Gender Equality



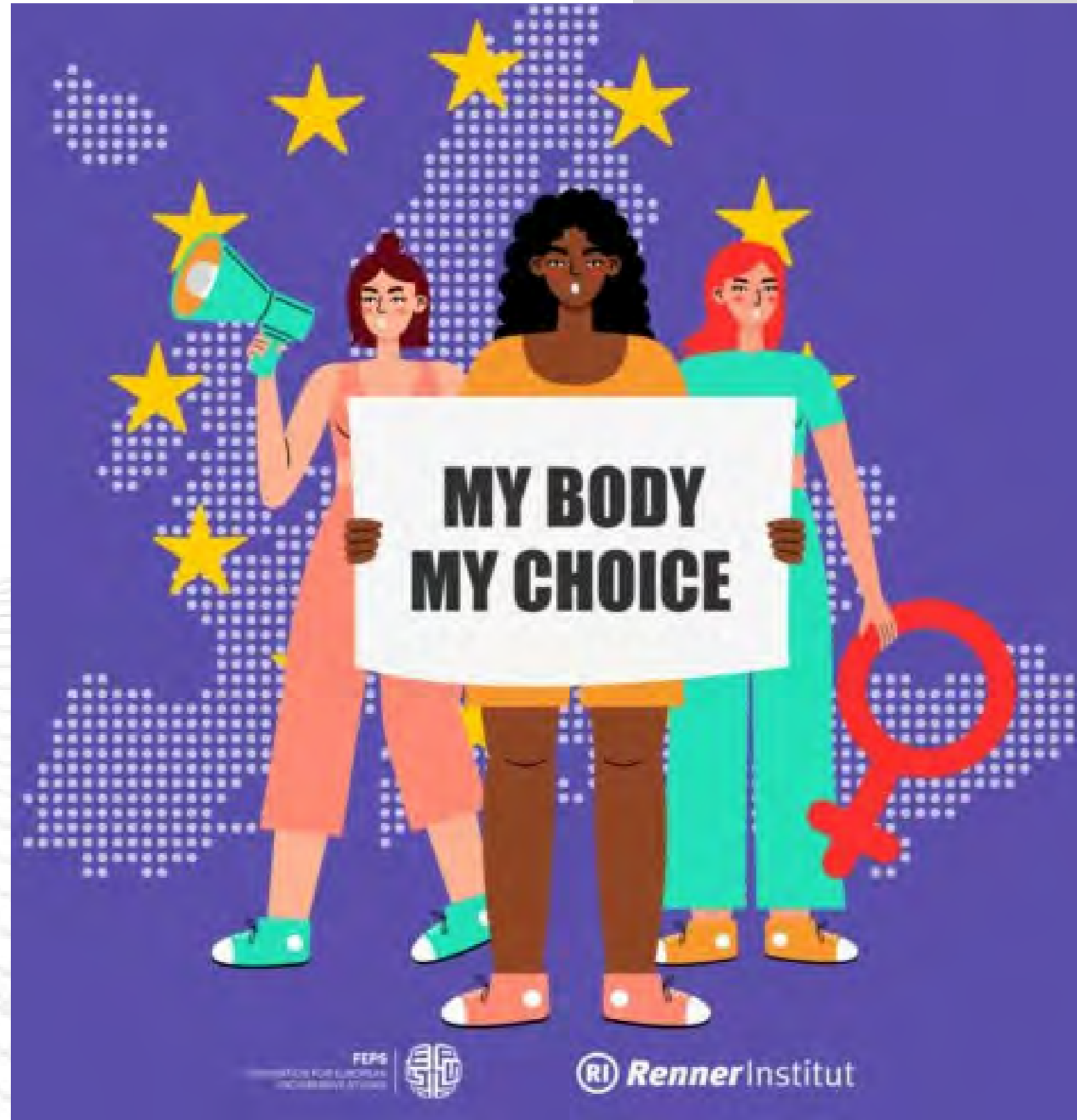
OUTLINE

- 01 ABOUT FEPS**
- 02 INTRODUCTION**
- 03 KEY MESSAGES**
- 04 NATIONAL ABORTION REGIMES**
- 05 ACTORS**
- 06 ISSUES**
- 07 DISCOURSES**
- 08 CONCLUSIONS**



introducing FEPS

The screenshot shows the FEPS website homepage. At the top, there is a red header with the FEPS logo and name on the left, social media icons (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Facebook Messenger, Email) in the center, and a search bar on the right. Below the header is a dark navigation bar with menu items: ABOUT, MEMBERS, THEMES, PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS, OUTREACH, TRAINING, and PROGRESSIVE POST. The main content area features three featured items: a 'MAGAZINE' section with a 'Contents' table of contents, a 'BOOK' section for 'EUROPE AND THE WAR IN UKRAINE: FROM RUSSIAN AGGRESSION TO A NEW EASTERN POLICY', and a '#Care4Care' graphic showing a family with a person in a wheelchair. Below these are two columns: 'About' and 'Our topics'. The 'About' section contains a paragraph about FEPS as a think tank and its mission, followed by another paragraph about its network of 74 member organizations. The 'Our topics' section consists of a 2x5 grid of colored boxes with icons and labels: Economy (blue), Digital (light blue), Environment (green), World (dark green), Gender Equality (purple), Social (red), Migration (dark red), Democracy (orange), Emergency (light red), and Next Left (red). At the bottom of the 'About' section, there are social media icons and a 'More' link. The 'Publications' section header is partially visible at the bottom.



gender
equality

300

days away

29 out of 1,000

women aged 15-44
in Europe

10<24

weeks

5

abortion
regimes

5

AUTHORISATION REGIMES

1

Easy access

Few restrictive conditions.
e.g. Denmark, Finland, Sweden, NL

2

Partial or total decriminalisation

certain criteria but standards of
access remain high
e.g. BE, FR, LU

3

Restricted access

de facto obstructed
e.g. Austria, Germany, Cyprus,
Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal

4

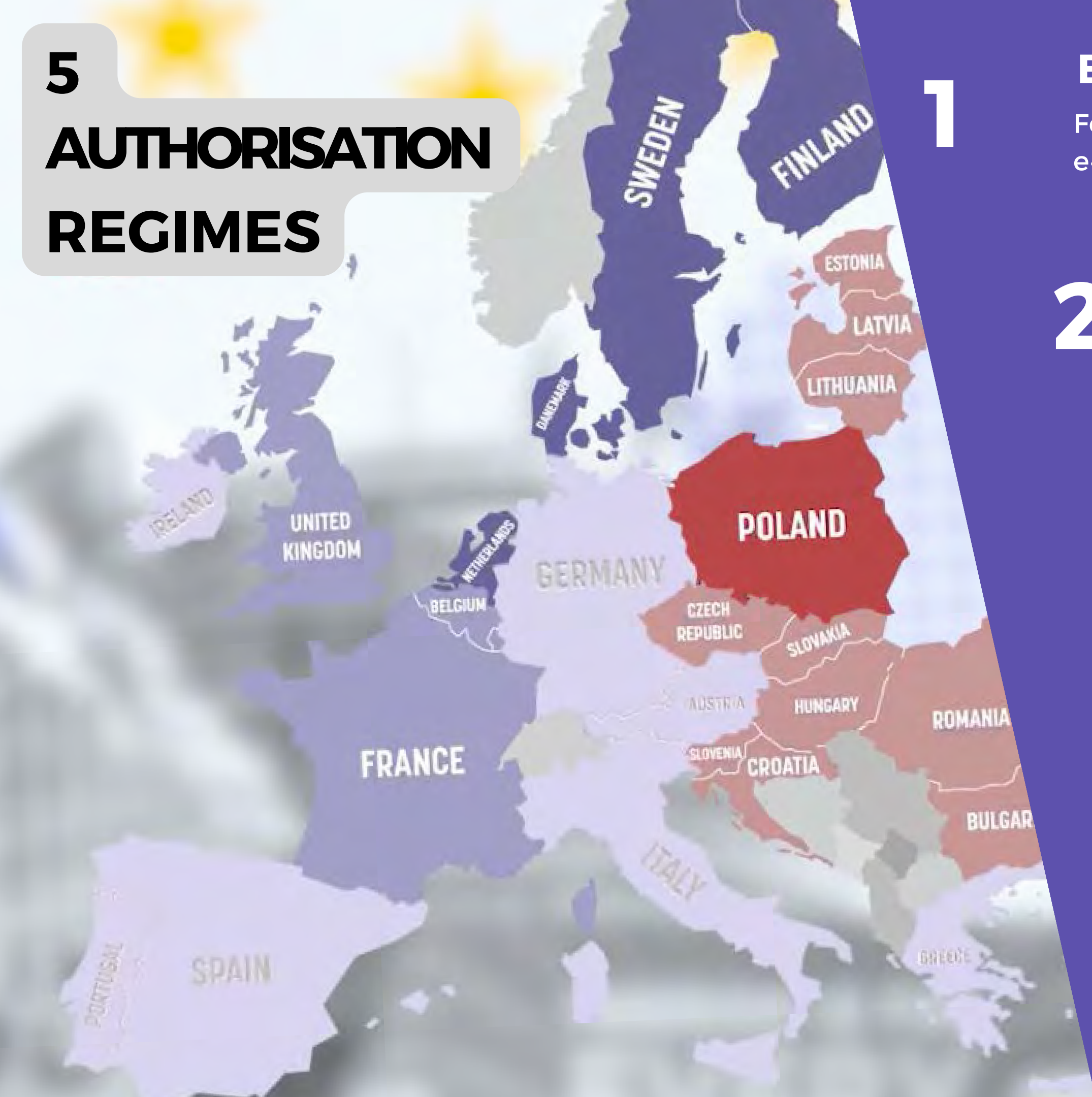
Permitted but hampered

restrictive procedures
e.g. BG, CR, ES, HU, LT, LT, RO, SK, SL

5

Prohibited access

imposing very restrictive conditions
e.g. Poland, Malta



ABORTION IN THE NETHERLANDS



**MY BODY
MY CHOICE**

An authorisation regime that provides easy access to abortion on request with few restrictive conditions (e.g. time limits).

- The law is very freely interpreted.
- **Almost no illegal abortions.**
- Most abortions are performed in licensed clinics.
- The woman's state of distress must be established.



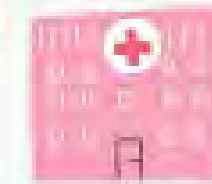
CRIMINAL SANCTIONS

Yes, but not for the woman.



CONSCIENCE CLAUSE

Yes, with an obligation to inform the woman.



WAITING PERIOD

Five days unless there is a serious risk to the woman.



CONDITIONS

In hospitals and licensed clinics, and by a doctor only. Must ensure the woman's free choice.



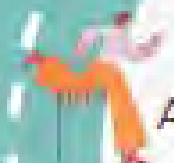
PARENTAL CONSENT

Not applicable.



MEDICAL ABORTION

Available since January 2000.



COST TO THE WOMAN

Reimbursed for residents paid for by non-residents.



LEGISLATION

Law of 1981. Decree of 1984. The criminal code defines killing a viable foetus as infanticide.



TIME LIMIT

No time limit.

In practice, 20 to 22 weeks on social grounds. the legal viability of the foetus is 24 weeks.



FEPS
FONDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESS STUDIES



RI RennerInstitut

Design : Monique-Communisat

ABORTION IN AUSTRIA



**MY BODY
MY CHOICE**

An authorisation regime that permits abortion, but where access is hampered (sometimes severely) by restrictive procedures.

- Difficult to obtain outside the main urban centres.
- Misuse of the conscience clause.
- 3 provinces don't offer abortion in public hospitals.

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS

Applicable.

COST TO THE WOMAN

Free of charge on medical grounds. Otherwise, very expensive.

CONDITIONS

< 3 months: interview.
> 3 months: medical opinion. Abortion must be performed in a public hospital by a doctor.

CONSCIENCE CLAUSE

Applicable, but its use is prohibited if there is imminent danger of death to the woman.

PARENTAL CONSENT

needed until 13 years old.

WAITING PERIOD

Not applicable.

MEDICAL ABORTION

Available since December 1999.

LEGISLATION

Federal law of 1974. Abortion falls under the criminal code.

TIME LIMIT

3 months on request. In practice, up to 16 weeks. Can be extended on medical grounds and for patients aged < 14.

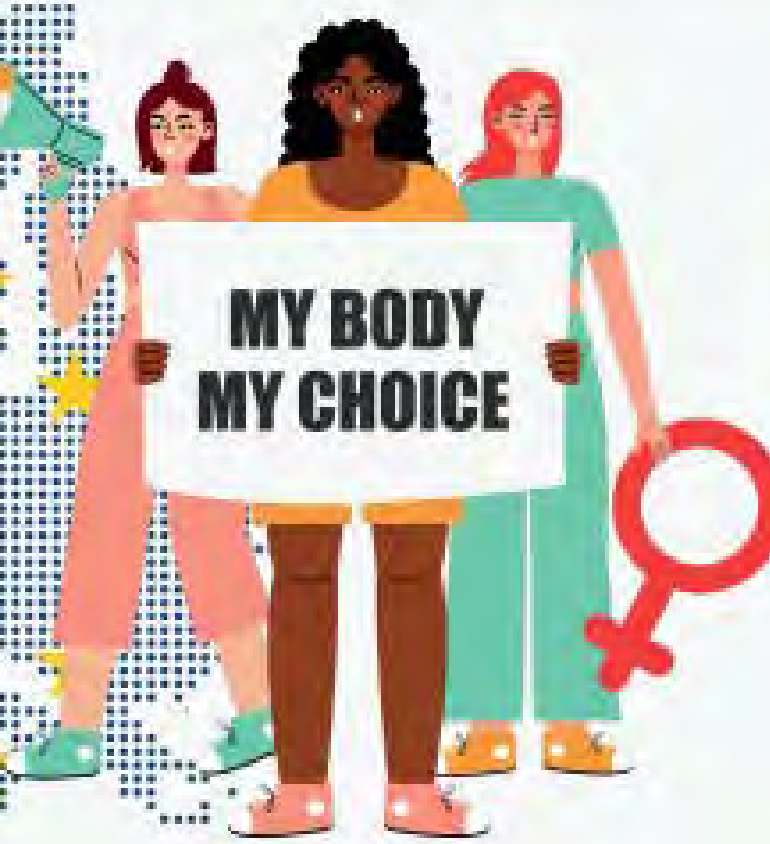


FEPS
FÖHRSCHULE FÜR POLITIKWISSENSCHAFT UND SOZIOLOGIE

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ABORTION IN POLAND



**MY BODY
MY CHOICE**

A regime that prohibits abortion by imposing very restrictive conditions on its access and making it extremely difficult in practice.



- **Extremely restrictive** application of the law.
- Very frequent use of the **conscience clause**.
- The **morning-after pill has not been authorised since June 2017**, except on medical prescription.
- A bill was tabled to **ban all abortions**.

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS

Applicable.

COST TO THE WOMAN

Free if legal (very rare cases).

CONSCIENCE CLAUSE

Applicable. Its use is prohibited if the woman's life is in danger. Obligation to refer the woman to another professional.

PARENTAL CONSENT

needed until 18 years old.

MEDICAL ABORTION

Not applicable.

LEGISLATION

Since **1993**, abortion has been prohibited.

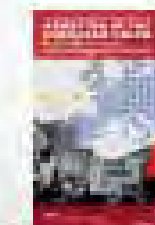
Since **1997**, it is prohibited except in cases of rape or incest certified by a prosecutor, malformation of the foetus, or a health risk for the woman. Abortion falls under of the **criminal code**.

The Constitutional Court's ruling of 22 October **2020** prohibits abortion for foetal malformation.

DATE

TIME LIMIT

12 weeks in the case of rape certified by the public prosecutor. Can be extended on medical grounds (requiring the opinion of two doctors other than the one performing the procedure).



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ACTORS

Abortion supporters
vs.
Abortion opponents



ISSUES



DISCOURSES



Conclusions

Social citizenship

remains a question in relation to reproductive freedom

Links & tensions

between human rights and citizenship rights around abortion

Avoid confusion

between right to abortion vs. right to safe and legal abortion

Thank you!

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More about FEPS work here:



<https://feps-europe.eu/>

