



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Croatia
Title:	Accessibility of legally induced abortion in Croatia – empirical survey
Date:	6 July 2020
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Access to abortion
Grounds of discrimination:	Sex
Field of application:	Goods and services, Other field
Source:	Policy development

Content

Development: A survey on accessibility of legally induced abortions in the Croatian medical facilities authorised to conduct such procedures, reveals that difficulties in accessing abortions persist in many of them. It is particularly alarming that it is extremely difficult to obtain even the initial information about the availability of such procedure.

Key points of analysis: In the period from 14 to 23 April 2020, activists gathered under the Platform for Reproductive Justice (<https://www.reproduktivna-pravda.hr/#>) have contacted anonymously various medical institutions asking about the availability of abortions. There are currently 30 medical institutions in Croatia authorised to perform abortions at the request of the patient, out of which 28 public (5 clinical hospital centres, 2 clinical hospitals, 16 general hospitals, 5 general county hospitals) and 2 private hospitals (special hospitals).

8 out of 29 hospitals interviewed have declared that they do not perform abortions, despite the fact that they are authorised by the Ministry of Health. Even in hospitals that do perform such procedures, activists report extreme difficulties in obtaining reliable information, mostly because they were relayed from one contact to another and it took a lot of time and effort to get any information. In most hospitals, the questions about abortion were met by disparagements and dissuasion by the medical workers contacted. Due to conscientious objection, around 60 % of specialised medical workers refuse to perform abortions. In addition, the cost of performing this procedure varies substantially from hospital to hospital (from HRK 1 870 to 4 000 (EUR 247 to 526)). Non-surgical abortion is performed in only 9 facilities, at the average price of HRK 1500 (EUR 200).

Internet link source: Survey on the accessibility of abortion in authorised medical institutions in Croatia, available at <https://voxfeminae.net/vijesti/pobacaj-sve-skuplji-i-sve-teze-dostupan/>.