

The Rough Guide to insemination:  
reproductive tourism for insemination due  
to different regulations.

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ESHRE campus Genk, 13-15 December 2009



# Cross-border movements

Three parts should be distinguished:

## **1. Recipients cross borders**

French lesbians

## **2. Sperm cross borders**

Cryos exports 80% of its 20.000 donations to 400 clinics  
in 60 countries

## **3. Donors cross borders**

Canadians go to Australia (gives a new meaning to travel expenses!)

Caucasians go to India

Swedes go to Denmark

almost 20% of the UK sperm donors are from overseas

## Canada - United States

In 2008, Canada had 33 donors. Total population: 33.5 million

Number of sperm banks has diminished

- before 2004 because of more stringent requirements for donor screening and semen processing
- after 2004 because the Assisted Human Reproduction Act forbade payment of donors above expenses

Now transition period: import sperm from paid donors in the US and Europe!

Patients going to US	Canada	Europe	India	Latin America	Australia / New Zealand
Donor insemination	88	44	3	73	7

Hughes, 2009

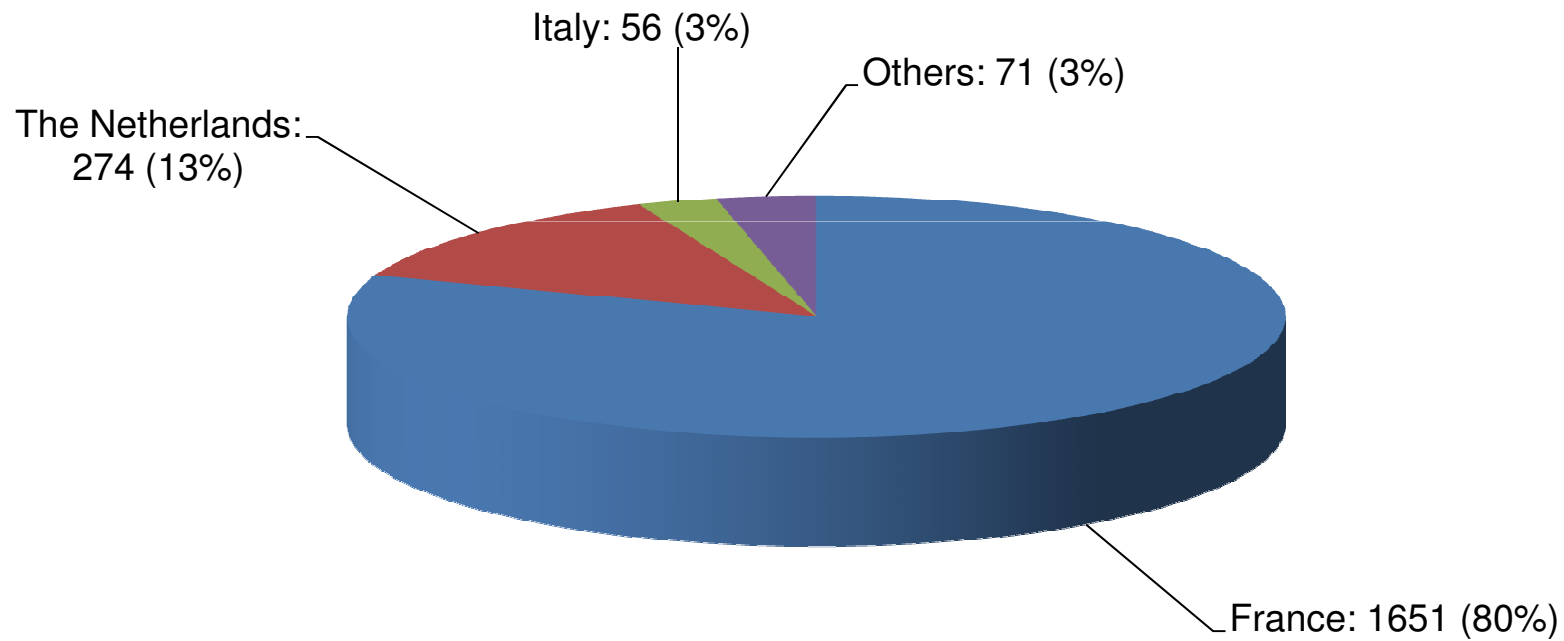


## Number of foreign patients per type of treatment between 2003 and 2007 in Belgium

Type of treatment	Mean number of cycles per patient	Number of patients				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Sperm donation</b>	<b>4,0</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>764</b>
Oocyte donation	1,6	185	152	153	136	120
Embryo donation	1,9	11	15	18	13	17
IUI partner	3,3	34	46	45	48	58
IVF own gametes	2,4	94	131	237	264	251
ICSI ejaculated sperm	2,3	385	426	550	645	640
ICSI non-ejaculated sperm	2,1	131	126	146	122	125
PGD	1,9	99	104	131	166	141
All treatments		1456	1491	1853	2119	2117

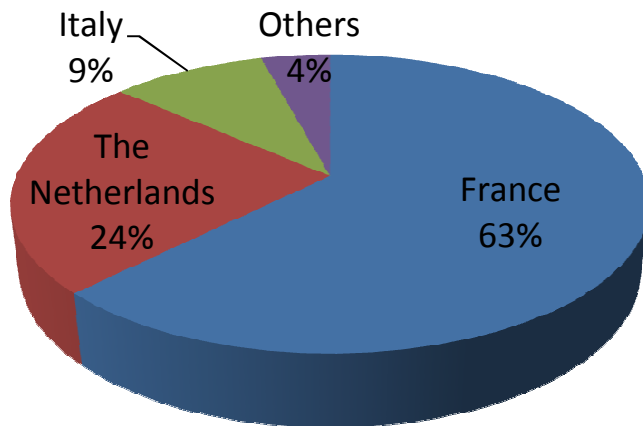
Pennings et al., 2009

## Foreign patients coming to Belgium from 2005 to 2007 for sperm donation

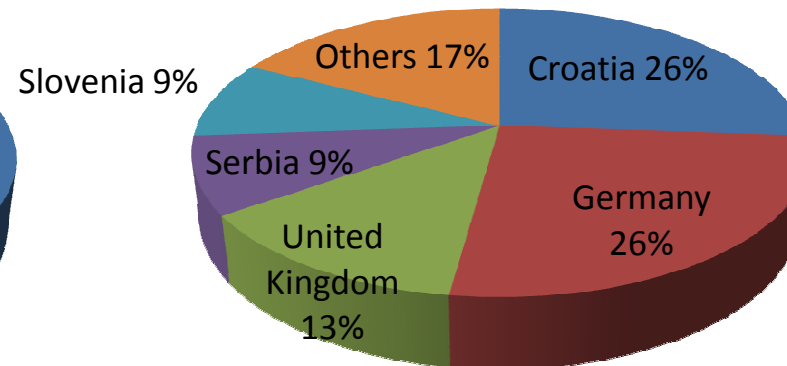


# Country of origin of patients going abroad for sperm donation

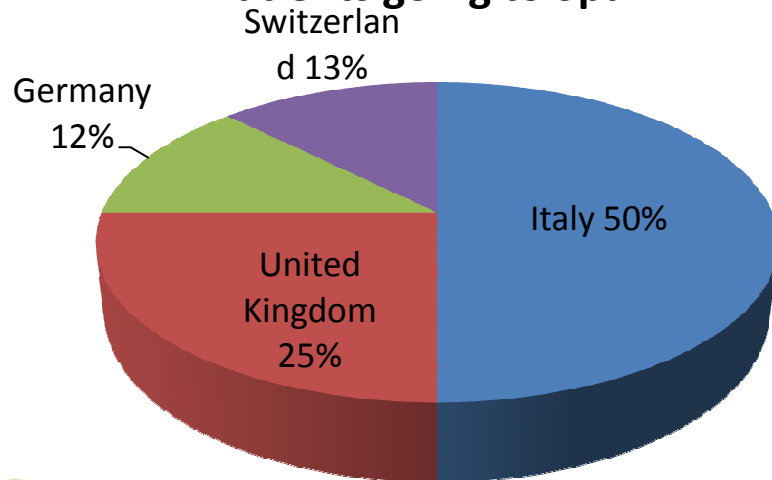
## Patients going to Belgium



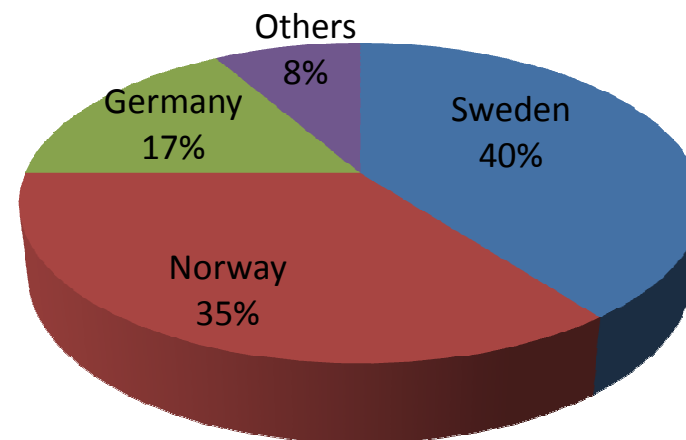
## Patients going to the Czech Republic



## Patients going to Spain

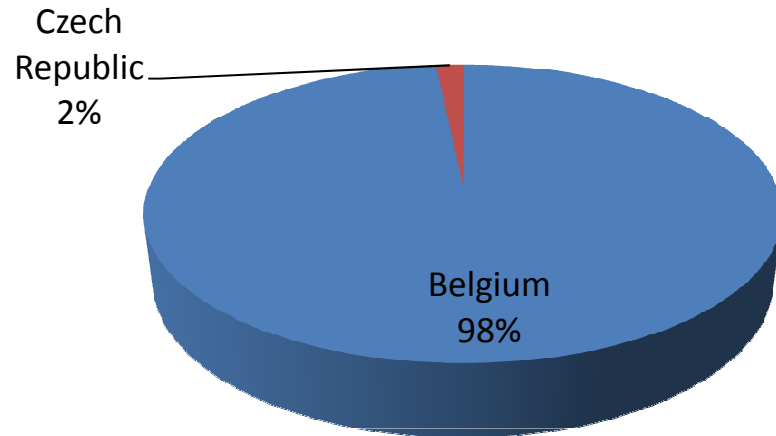


## Patients going to Denmark

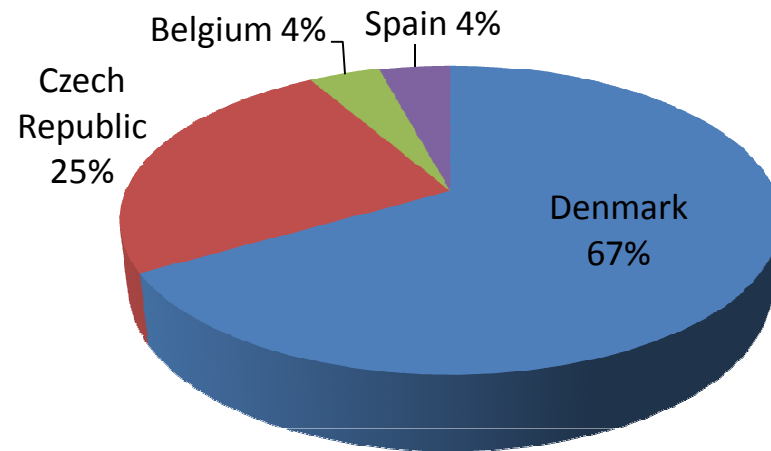


# Destination of patients for sperm donation

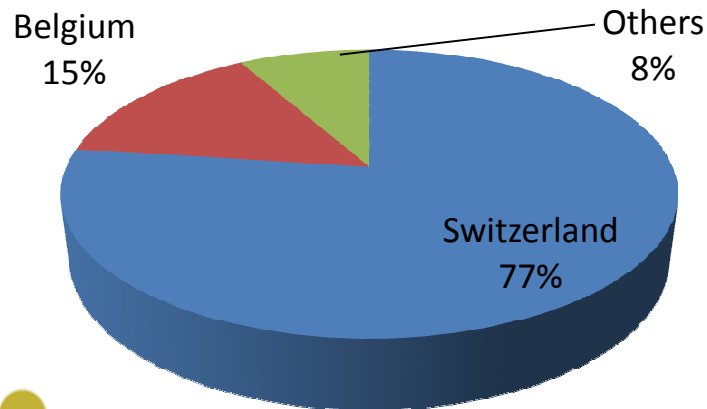
## Destination of patients from France



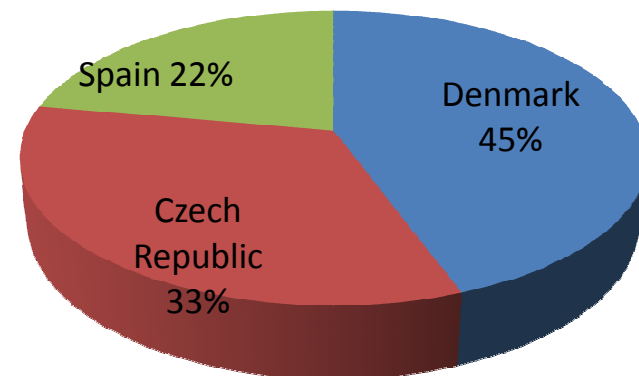
## Destination of patients from Germany



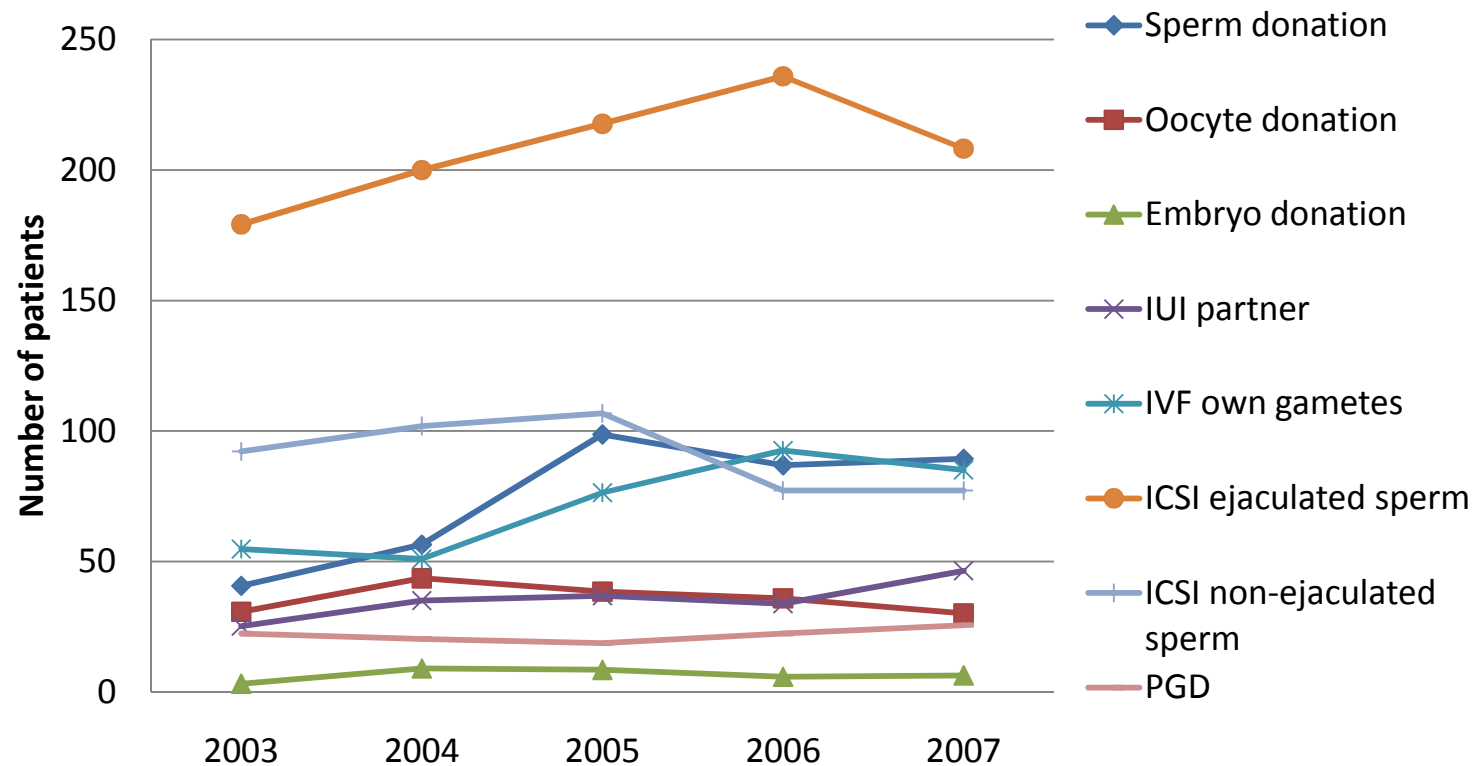
## Destination of patients from Italy



## Destination of patients from the UK



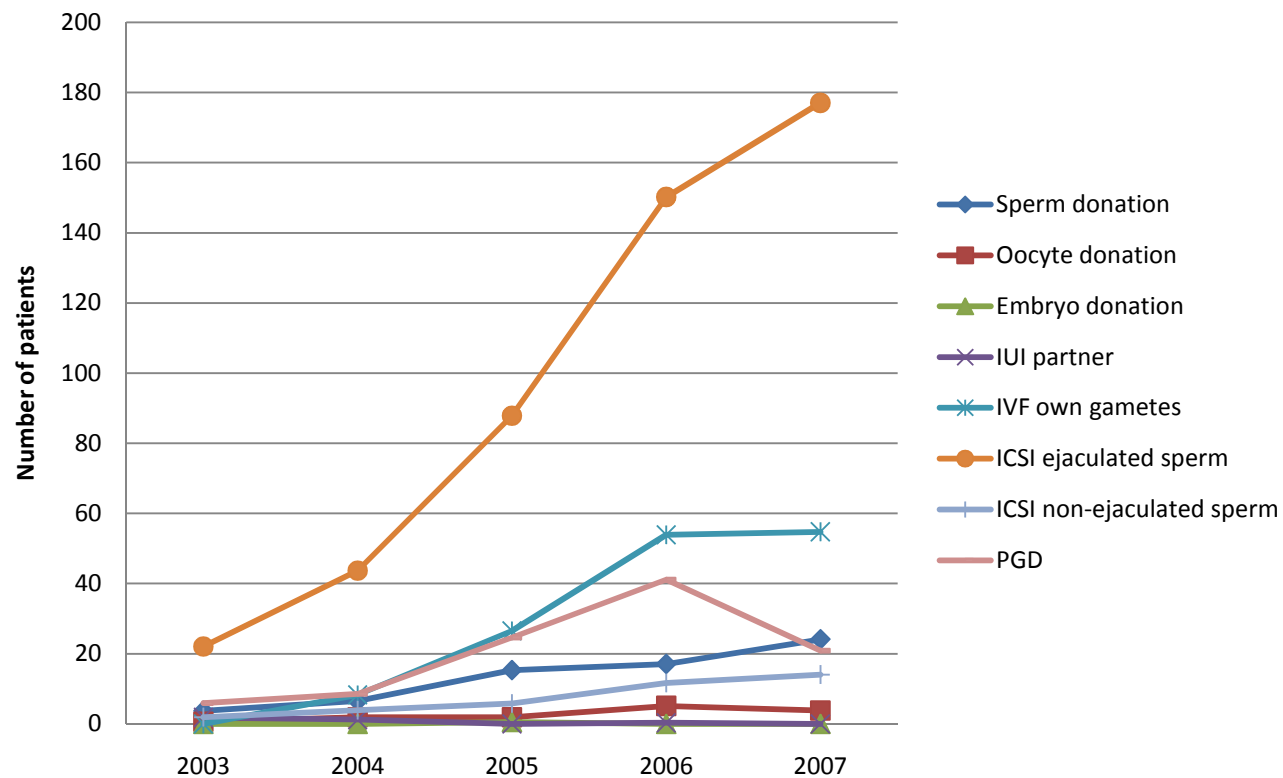
## Evolution in time of Dutch patients coming to Belgium per treatment type



June 2004: Law 'Donor data': abolishment of donor anonymity



# Italian patients coming to Belgium



June 2004: Law 40 on ART: prohibition of all gamete donation

## Conclusions

- There is a strong correlation between restrictive laws or guidelines on sperm donation and the number of patients leaving a country. These restrictions may be focused on
  - the donors (altruistic, identifiable etc.) frequently resulting in scarcity and long waiting lists
  - the recipients (single, lesbian etc.)
  - may be a downright prohibition.
- Restrictions on import of sperm will lead to more travelling by patients.
- Greater efforts to recruit donors in each country could reduce the need to look for sperm abroad either by patients going there or by clinics importing sperm.