



LIETUVOS SVEIKATOS
MOKSLŲ UNIVERSITETAS

Regulation of assisted reproduction in Baltic countries: Lithuania



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ART in Lithuania. The beginning...

- **1993** – collaboration between Vilnius Women's clinic and Royal London Hospital.

Bogdanskiene G., Masiliuniene J., Mehta J.G. and Grudzinskas J.G. Travel IVF: technology transfer to Lithuania. Hum.Reprod. Vol.9. Sup. 4., p135. 1994.

ART in Lithuania. The beginning...

First private IVF units - 1998.

Motina ir vaikas

IVF clinic of dr. G. Bogdanskienė



Vaisingumo klinika (2000), Baltijos Amerikos klinika, Northway center, clinic "Jolsana".

First public IVF unit – fertility center "Santara" (2016).



The monumental Hill of Crosses

The attempts of ART legislation

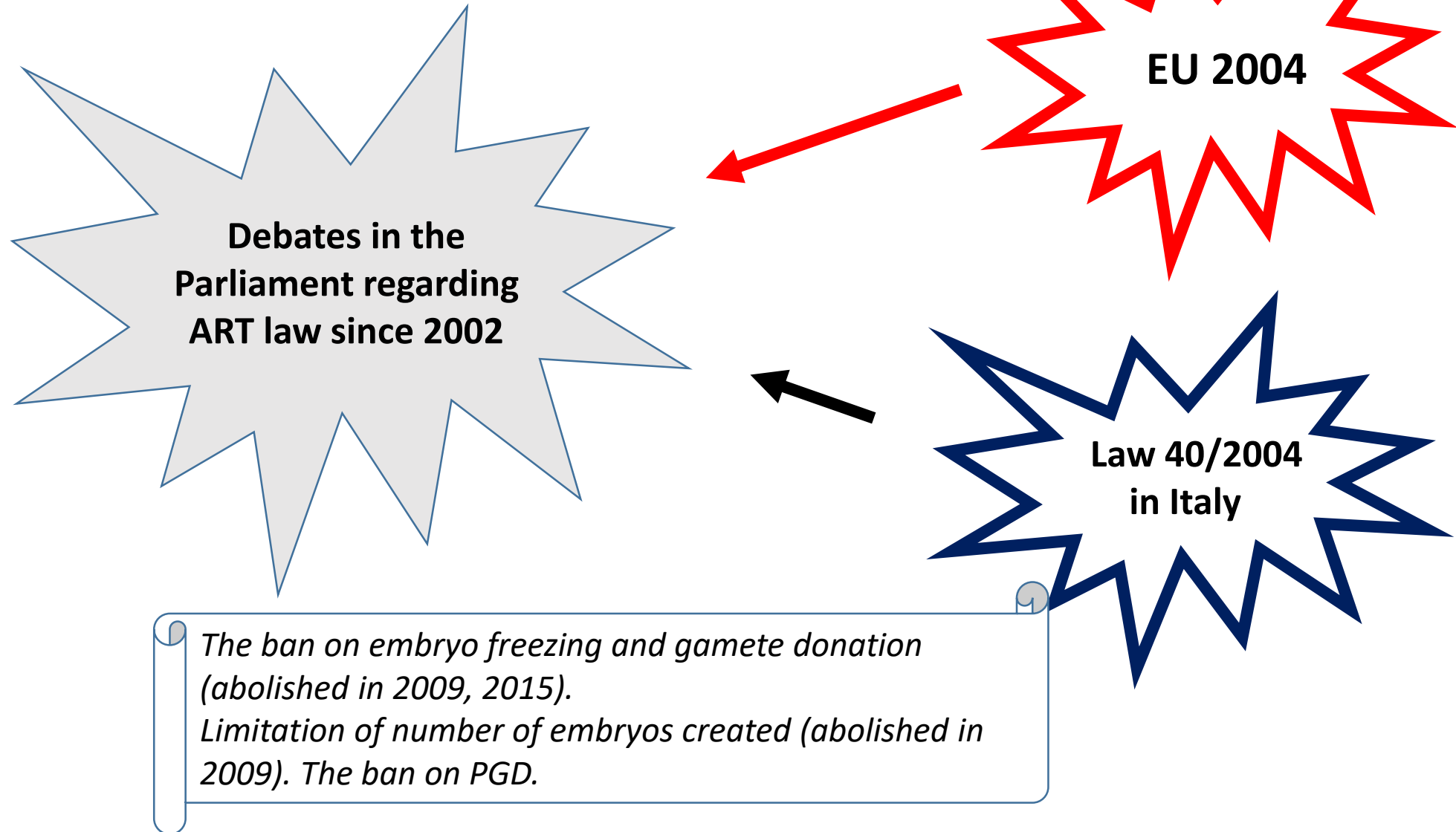
First debates in the
Parliament regarding
ART law in 2002

Catholic Church

*The movement
Pro life*



The attempts of ART legislation



The law of ART. The final decision (2015-2016)



Patients organization



*The ART legislation with
the ban on embryo
freezing and limitation of
the number of created
embryos (06.2016)*

VETO



>10 000 signatures on the petition

**The new law
14.09.2016**



<https://www.eshre.eu/Press-Room/ESHRE-News.aspx>

15 September 2016

ESHRE congratulates Lithuania on new ART legislation

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite's veto of restrictive regulations in reproductive medicine was supported by the Lithuanian Parliament on Saturday 10th September 2016. The vote also introduced a new ART legislation, which **opens the access to fertility treatment for Lithuanian families.**

ESHRE had formally expressed its support to Lithuanian medical specialists and to the President in her veto. As proposed, the changes to Lithuania's regulation of IVF and other fertility treatments would have applied restrictions likely to limit access to treatments and even jeopardised patient safety. The new legislation passed along with the veto now allows state-funded IVF, the freezing of embryos, PGD for the identification and prevention of genetic defects in the embryos of at-risk couples and gamete donation.



The regulation of ART in Lithuania. The new legislation.

- The number of embryos created *in vitro* is not limited.
- The freezing of the embryos is allowed.
- Egg and sperm donation is allowed.
- The program of embryo donation since 2018.
- PGD for the identification and prevention of genetic defects in the embryos of at-risk couples.



The regulation of ART in Lithuania. The new legislation.

- New licensing of ART units and clinics.
- State-funded IVF.
- Reimbursement of two treatment cycles for women up to 42 (2 fresh, or fresh and frozen (IVF, ICSI, TESA/ICSI)).
- Full reimbursement of follitropin alfa and chorionic gonadotropin for ovarian stimulation; reimbursement of GnRH antagonist (cetorelix) is coming up.
- No reimbursement for the freezing and storing of embryos, gametes and reproductive tissues.



The new legislation of ART. The main „tricks“.

- ART only for married couples or couples with agreement of legal partnership.
- Egg and sperm donation should be voluntary and free.
- PGD is limited only to known or suspected genetic defects related to severe disability. PGS is not allowed.
- Unused frozen embryos can not be destroyed and should be stored „forever“.



Despite limitations the new ART legislation opens new avenues to modern infertility treatment in Lithuania.

The new law provides better accessibility, efficiency and safety of ART treatment and encourages the introduction standards of higher quality in everyday practice.

