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June 2012 Project update

Dear Euro-Peristat members,

This message is an update on our project and the activities planned for the next 6 months.

First, a big thank you to all for helping with the data collection process, which began in May with the core indicators. The recommended indicators will be sent out tomorrow. This step was delayed because of the large number of modifications that were made to the data collection instrument. Consequently, we will be pushing back the deadline for their submission to the 15th of August. The deadline for submitting the core indicators is still the 30th of June.

We also need to begin organizing our next meeting in Malta on the 7th of November. Marie Delnord will be contacting you in a separate message with information about this meeting. We are looking forward to discussing the preliminary results of the data collection exercise!

Other news:

The format and the content of our website have been modified. In particular, we added a “country team” page. For those countries that have not yet sent in their country team information, we used the scientific committee member’s name.

1. Please review the country team page (in “Our Network”) and send updates or modifications.
2. Please spend some time looking through the modified site - we welcome all comments for improving it.
3. Documents about the project (including the contract, minutes and photographs from our meetings, and a powerpoint presentation about Euro-Peristat) are on the member’s section of the site. The login details have changed, please use: “member” and the password is “!Peristat”
4. We would like to add more reports to the national reports section of the website (under “Publications”.) If you send us links or pdfs of reports we will put them up!

The Euro-Peristat article on monitoring maternal health was published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. It can be downloaded from our site.

We submitted our end of first year technical report to the European Commission on the 31st of May. This report describes the project activities during the first year. The report is available in the member's section of the website (see 1c).

Finally, we would like to welcome a new scientific committee member, Mihai Horga from Romania. Dr. Horga is a senior advisor at the East European Institute for Reproductive Health. We are looking forward to getting to know him and learning more about perinatal health in Romania.

With very best wishes,

Jennifer

January 2013 Project update

Dear Euro-Peristat group,

Here are some updates and information about the project and other matters.

1) Writing groups. As discussed in Malta, we have drafted a preliminary list of writing groups for further analysis of Euro-Peristat indicators. Could you please send us your comments on this list as well as the 3 topics which interest you the most (see response sheet). We have an executive board (EB) meeting on February 8th and would like to update and finalize this list as well as organize our work for the production of the report and other analyses. Your responses by the 30th of January would be greatly appreciated.

2) The Birthcompass project: As presented by Alison Macfarlane at our meeting in Malta, Euro-Peristat is collaborating with the Cost Collaboration in a submission to DG-Research on the use of obstetrical interventions in Europe. The project focuses on 5 intrapartum interventions: induction, c-section, episiotomy, antibiotic use, oxytocin use. Of these 5, 3 are collected by Euro-Peristat. Euro-Peristat's contribution would be to use our indicators to document variations in the rates of the intrapartum interventions, and associated factors, with a focus on structural and policy components, in Euro-Peristat countries. Countries in Euro-Peristat would be invited to participate project (along the lines of the preterm birth study). We would aim to collect data on these interventions by key clinical risk factors (in line with our discussion of Robson's categories in Malta!) and also to assess regional and unit variation in intervention rates. If the Birthcompass project is successful, we would receive funding to organize 2 Euro-Peristat meetings. Funds are also being budgeted to cover the costs of these additional analyses. We would also develop a questionnaire to assess guidelines and other structural or policy factors that may affect intervention rates. These questionnaires would be sent to a few people in each country with knowledge about obstetrical guidelines/policies and organisation of obstetrical care. Alison Macfarlane and I have been coordinating with the Birthcompass team and will send out a description of the project and a copy of the workpackage involving Euro-Peristat shortly.

3) Publications on the website: We are pleased to inform you of the acceptance of Nick Lack's article which analyzes different methods for presenting indicator data in the European Journal of Public Health. The paper can be accessed through the project website

<http://www.europeristat.com/> (it is in free access, just click on the title in the banner of the website or go to our publications' page). Note that all Euro-Peristat publications are on the website. Also, if you have any national health reports that you would like to reference on the site, please send us a link or a pdf and we will add them on (<http://www.europeristat.com/reports/national-perinatal-health-reports.html>). For those who already post reports on the site, please let us know if we need to update the link or the pdf file.

4) The Child Health Meeting: The organizing committee for the Child Health Meeting in Dublin which will take place on the 30-31st of May 2013. has issued a call for proposals. The call will end on 28 February 2013. Information and templates for poster abstract submission can be found on the meeting website <http://child2025.eu/> and must be submitted via childhealthmeeting2013@gmail.com. Two kinds of submission are sought (1) a conventional abstract reporting the results of a study of interest in child public health. This may be carried out in one, or more countries. (2) a description of a European study. This is study of interest to child public health, however funded, covering more than one European country. The Euro-Peristat project will already be presented at the meeting, but if you have other projects to share, please consider submitting an abstract. We are hoping to hold a Euro-Peristat meeting on the 29th of May and to encourage our members to join the 30-31st May meeting. At our EB meeting on the 8th of February, we aim to finalize the budgetary and logistical questions about organizing this meeting.

We will be in touch very soon with updated core tables and other information.

With very best wishes,

Jennifer and Marie

September 2013 project update

Dear Euro-Peristat SC members and data providers,

We hope you had a restful summer. We are excited about our on-going work and are hoping to make significant progress over the next few months. The following is an update about some of our accomplishments and activities:

Accomplishments/activities since our Dublin meeting

- ⑦ A **corrected version of the report** is now available on the website (<http://www.europeristat.com/reports/european-perinatal-health-report-2010.html>). The attached errata document details the changes that were made and allows you to print the new pages. These can then be inserted into your print version. The document is also available on our website. The main changes were to add neonatal mortality data from Spain, place of birth data from Finland, and to update data for some of the other indicators. Cyprus and Malta have been added to the maps. These changes do not alter conclusions in the text. We also apologize for the omission of Rita Gaidelyte (Lithuania), from the list of data providers in Appendix AI and for mistakenly truncating the list of contributors from SCPE, the full list is now provided in Appendix AII.
- ⑦⑦ An editorial about the report has been published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. Thanks go to Marina Cuttini who is an editor at JECH for making the necessary contacts and pushing to produce this editorial. For the 2008 report, we also wrote an editorial for the journal. <http://jech.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/jech-2013-203291>

- ?? A Portuguese group wrote a paper about the Euro-Peristat indicators for the European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproduction. We were asked to provide a response to this article (we are attaching both the article and the response). The article is not very good, but it gives the project some extra exposure and allows us to promote the new report.
- ?? The report was also included in the BJOG news section (see attached).
- ?? The results of the mortality analyses from the report were/will be presented at several conferences. The abstract was prepared and submitted by Ashna.
 - o Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology (SPER) conference in Boston, June 17-18, 2013
 - o European Congress of Epidemiology (EuroEPI) in Aarhus, August 11-14, 2013
 - o 54th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Research- ESPR in Porto, October 10-14, 2013
 - o European Public Health Conference, 'Health in Europe, are we there yet? Learning from the past, building the future', EUPHA in Brussels, November 13-16 2013
- ? Finally, in France and the Netherlands, editorials have been written about the report for national journals. We will be putting these on the website when they are published. Please let us know if you have any material to add from your countries.

Th The report continues to be downloaded from our site. As of today, 3053 copies of the report have been downloaded

Next steps

1. _ Finalise the full output tables and put them on the website. You will be contacted very soon about this.
2. _ Analyse the Euro-Peristat data following the priority themes decided in Dublin. We have asked all analysis group coordinators to send an update, with the objectives of the analysis and some preliminary tables, to their groups by the end of October;
3. _ Evaluate the report – for the last report we carried out an on-line survey of key stakeholders to get their opinions about the report. 100 people responded to the survey in 2009. We will be using the list of stakeholders that you provided for the dissemination process. A copy of the survey and list of stakeholders will be sent out shortly for comments.
4. _ Continue the maternal morbidity and record linkage studies. More on this soon!

We are also pleased to welcome, Caroline Prunet, a statistician at Inserm, to our team. She will be assisting us with these tasks, so you may be receiving emails from her (caroline.prunet@inserm.fr) about the tables and the analyses.

Next meeting

The project officially ends in April 2014, but we agreed in Dublin to hold a meeting in Florence at the **XXIV European Congress of Perinatal Medicine, June 4th-7th 2014**. We may have some limited travel funds for those participants who cannot find local funding. Please keep this next date in your calendars. We will need to decide if our meeting will precede or follow this conference. The international confederation of midwives ICM, has a congress in Prague from the 1st to the 5th of June, so there have been some requests to hold our meeting after the European Association of Perinatal Medicine (EAPM) meeting, so that members can attend both. We will be consulting you shortly about this meeting.

Kind regards,

December 2013 update

Dear Euro-Peristat scientific committee members and data providers,

Before the year ends, we would like to give you an update of work completed and in progress in the project, as well as some of the on-going discussions about the future of the project.

1. The detailed output tables

We are still aiming to put the detailed output tables on our website, but the checking process has been slower than we hoped and we took some time out from this activity to compare our results to Eurostat's data (see point 4, below).

With the last minute changes to the report, we have been making sure that all the data were modified in the original data collection files which you provided. Some of you have been contacted about this, others may still be contacted.

Our current calendar for the website tables is as follows:

- (1) December and first 2 weeks of January: TNO will rerun all the output files from the updated data collection tables. Here at INSERM, we will check them against our current files – this will allow us to make sure that all files are consistent and that all last minute changes to the report were included in the original data collection sheets and the output tables.
- (2) 15th of January to the 31st January: we will send the files back to the SC members for endorsement of the output tables that will be uploaded to the website.
- (3) 1st Feb-15th February – any final modifications are made to tables
- (4) 15th of February – date planned for posting web tables.

If you know of people who would like access to data before this date, please have them contact us directly. We will consider providing detailed tables if these have already been corrected.

2. News about the European Research Infrastructure Consortium on Health Information (ERIC-HI). – (see “Synergy finding ERIC on health information.doc”, attached)

We were contacted by DG-SANCO to participate in a meeting about creating an ERIC-HI in Brussels in November. Jennifer participated in this meeting at which it was decided that the group should organize further meetings to assess the feasibility of creating an ERIC-HI.

About 10 projects were invited to this meeting. A working document was drawn up to describe the projects by Anke Joas from the BiPRO institute in Munich based on questionnaires which were distributed to all the projects (see document for more information, attached to this update).

This initiative is not very clear – ERICs need to be financed by MS, and the MS don't yet understand what is being asked of them. It is possible to request funding from the Commission (DG-RESEARCH) to create the ERIC. The call for proposals will be in the fall of 2014, but what will be funded remains very vague. A follow-up meeting is planned on the 10th December which Mika Gissler is able to attend for the Euro-Peristat project.

More information on the ERIC can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=eric5

If you have further information (or insight) about the ERICs, please share with the group.

3. We need to finalize the people included in the “Euro-Peristat Group” for publications and the acknowledgements (see “authorship guidelines.doc”)

Euro-Peristat Group: We want a final list of people who will be listed under the group author. The attached document includes the current list of SC members. Please see if you need to add anyone else for your country.

In order to fulfill authorship guidelines (also included with the list), the person must have contributed to the design and conception of the project. In other words, they should be people who have participated in the project by attending meetings, commenting on data collection instruments or papers, etc. Providing data is not enough. The number should be limited (in most cases one or two people).

Acknowledgements: Please see “authorship guidelines.docx”. The draft list of acknowledgements was taken from the appendix to the report – this list should include all people who provided data.

4. Euro-Peristat and Eurostat comparisons (also with the OECD):

As part of our project, we aimed to compare Euro-Peristat with Eurostat data. The OECD, which relies on Eurostat data, has also approached us because they get their data on European countries from Eurostat.

We have created an excel sheet for fetal, neonatal and infant mortality. Most of you have been contacted to explain discrepancies between these data sources. The preliminary results of this analysis are:

- Countries provide data to Eurostat on fetal deaths using different cutoff points – some provide « late » fetal deaths and some provide « all fetal deaths » - by comparing with Euro-Peristat, we can distinguish between these two situations.
- For neonatal and infant mortality, most countries appear to use a 22 week gestational age cutoff (or 500 grams) as requested by Euro-Peristat, because the data are very similar. Some countries, however, provide all neonatal deaths including those with a GA<22 weeks and this leads to higher rates for Eurostat
- Other small differences between our data and Eurostat come primarily from the use of different data sources and cohort vs. annual neonatal or infant mortality.

We are still finalizing this report which will be circulated to you in January after we have heard back from everybody about their data. We will be sharing these results with Eurostat in March 2014.

5. Other points and next steps

We will be fielding our evaluation survey starting on the 9th December to our current stakeholders. Thank you to everyone who has commented on the survey. There is still a little time to comment on the content and to give us feedback on people to contact (before the 6th of December, please). The survey will be made available from our website.

We have also contacted some of you about the maternal morbidity project, which will start in January. We only wrote to the people who previously expressed interest and sent in a questionnaire

to Anne Chantry (anne.chantry@inserm.fr). If you would like more information or did not receive an email about this, please contact Marie and Anne.

Finally, the project's Executive Board will be meeting on the 21st of January, 2014. We will send out another update after this meeting. A primary purpose of the meeting in January is to review the progress of the writing groups and articles. Most of the writing group coordinators have started working on tables for their papers, so you should be contacted soon by the group leaders.

With very best wishes,

Jennifer, Marie and Ashna