Dear Euro-Peristat Scientific Committee members and data providers,

This is a quick update on our work together and next steps.

First, we are very pleased to welcome Mélanie Durox, who joins our team as the project manager. Mélanie will be working part time on the project. Many of you met Mélanie at our meeting in April just before she left on maternity leave.

Other points covered in this newsletter are an update of our continuing publications and analyses in progress. Results of our analyses on maternal and neonatal morbidity have been accepted as part of a BRIDGE Health workshop at EUPHA in Vienna and these are described below. If you are coming to EUPHA please let us know!

Finally, we are getting ready to start the data collection exercise in November. There will be multiple options for providing data.

With very best wishes, Jennifer,

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1. Mélanie Durox joins our team

After obtaining her master’s degree in biology and food engineering, Mélanie worked in a neonatal intensive care unit on procedures for breastfeeding infants born very preterm.

She joined the EPOPé team (1153 Inserm unit) in 2010. Since then, she has worked on a French cohort study of very preterm infants born in 2011 (EPIPAGE 2) as project coordinator. She organizes the data collection from parents and healthcare professionals.

She will be working part time on the Euro-Peristat project. She will be in charge of administrative issues and coordinating the data collection exercise (see below).

She will also be in charge of updating the website – so if you have suggestions or ideas, please get in touch with Mélanie (melanie.durox@inserm.fr).

2. Website and Newsletter

Our next newsletter will go out on Dec. 1st. To add people to the list of recipients, please send their names and emails to Mélanie, with Marie in copy.

The newsletter will feature a description of the national reports available from our website (http://www.europeristat.com/reports/national-perinatal-health-reports.html). The website includes an impressive number of reports and constitutes a useful resource for people interested in perinatal health in Europe. Thank you to all who contributed! Please let us know if you would like to make any updates or additions at any time.

3. Publications and update on writing groups

We are pleased that Marie Delnord’s latest paper on very preterm births has appeared in the BJOB.


Marie has also just submitted a paper on changes in the gestational age distribution. Other manuscripts that are almost finished or in progress are on terminations of pregnancy (Béatrice Blondel is leading the writing group), Apgar (Ayesha Siddiqui and Jennifer Zeitlin are leading this group), Stillbirths <28 weeks (Lucy Smith). Sophie Alexander and Jennifer also wrote a commentary for the BJOB about some new recommendations on stillbirth from Canada (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27781349). Other projects are analyses on perinatal mortality (Ashna Mohangoo), those on normal birth and migration (Alison Macfarlane and Nirupa) and maternal morbidity (Anne Chantry, see point 3 below).
We are also analyzing the birthweight data we received from 14 countries. The first focus is on whether Intergrowth 21st neonatal references apply to Europe. Some results will be circulated soon.

Finally, we are compiling a list of all the publications that Euro-Peristat data have been used for – either by our group or others who have used the data. The list has over 50 articles on it (see attached word document). Could you look through and let us know if there are any more that you know of?

4. Collaborations and ancillary projects

Our collaborations have continued with the Prebic epidemiology working group which is jointly coordinated by Siobhan Dolan and Michael Kramer. There is a possibility that the non-European participants in this group (US, Canada and Japan) would be interested in collecting Euro-Peristat core indicators in the next data collection exercise. We are meeting in December to discuss this.

Jennifer attended a meeting of the COST network “Building Intrapartum Research Through Health - an interdisciplinary whole system approach to understanding and contextualising physiological labour and birth (BIRTH)” coordinated by Soo Downe. The meeting took place and made it possible to meet with Rumyana Kolarova our new SC member. There is a website for the COST collaboration (https://eubirthresearch.eu/); please look through and don’t hesitate to contact them for more information.

5. EUPHA workshops

We will be presenting at the European Public Health conference in Vienna 9-12 Nov, 2016.

The workshop entitled: “Making mothers and children count: health information, health and quality of life » will explore both the overall strategic questions for making maternal and child health information more available at the EU level and for national research and monitoring. The workshop will address what information is needed, for whom, about whom, and where, and illustrate state-of-the-art work on filling the gaps, and making data accessible.

Jennifer will present results from two on-going studies to validate Euro-Peristat indicators of severe acute maternal morbidity (SAMM) and neonatal morbidity. While data are collected in routine sources to compute the Euro Peristat indicators of maternal and newborn morbidity, further harmonisation work is needed before these data can be used for surveillance and evaluation in a European health information system.

Programme details below:
5.H. - Workshop: Making mothers and children count : health information, health and quality of life
Chairperson(s): Anthony Staines - Ireland
Invisibility: The Health Information gaps affecting women, children and adolescents in Europe
J. Frederik Frøen - Norway
Linking Health and Administrative Data for Maternal, Child and Young Adult Health
Anita Burgun - France
The availability of individual-level data on child health in European birth cohorts
Maribel Casas - Spain
6. BRIDGE-Health project for DG-SANCO

The BRIDGE Health project had a steering committee meeting in Brussels in October which Jennifer attended to present Euro-Peristat activities over the last period. The project has developed a concept paper which is intended to provide the scientific content for an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Collaboration), although it is still in the project stage and many details are not yet clear.

In addition to the EUPHA workshops (see point 4) BRIDGE Health is organizing a precongress workshop. See: https://ephconference.eu/2016-pre-conference-programme-252.

7. Data collection will begin in November

We will start collecting 2014 data on the Core Euro-Peristat indicators in November. We expect to have the documents and protocol ready by the 21st of November.

Data collection will entail a mix of aggregate data (using excel sheets from the Euro-Peristat Core data collection instrument) and profile tables (not individual-level data, but data grouped across the core variables).

Our deadline for returning the completed instruments will be mid-February, although we hope that some countries are able to return them earlier than this date.

Ashna Mohangoo-Hindori with the TNO team are in the process of updating the core indicator sheet for this purpose and we have already pretested the profile data form using data from France and Finland.

Because we do not have time for a joint training and discussion session, we will be setting up meetings in early December to discuss the process with those that would like further information.

Please save a bit of time in at the end of November to go through these documents and in December and January to fill them in.