

CHICOS

“Developing a Child Cohort Research Strategy for Europe”

www.chicosproject.eu

A new FP7 funded project coordinated by the Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) in Barcelona, was launched in January 2010. The project aims to develop an integrated strategy for mother-child cohort research in Europe through the coordination of the most important European pregnancy, birth and child cohorts. Collaborators from cohorts in Denmark, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom are working to develop a comprehensive set of policy-relevant recommendations for cohort research in key child health areas.



Mother-child cohorts are currently collecting a wealth of information on childhood diseases and their determinants across Europe. These data are often fragmented and there is little coordination to structure and consolidate scattered research. Although cohort research carries large potential policy implications, messages are not always filtering through to policy at national and European level.

CHICOS aims to make an inventory all mother-child cohorts in Europe, evaluate existing information on outcomes and determinants from these cohorts, identify gaps in knowledge, and develop recommendations for research action at European level for the next 15 years, focussing on key areas of policy concern.

Recommendations will also be made to improve the contribution of mother-child cohort research to policy at the European level following a thorough review of the extent to which cohorts have contributed to current European child health policies, and of the needs of policy makers in this area.

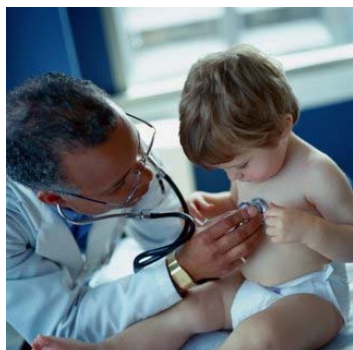
A stakeholder forum will be set up to contain representatives of key organisations associated with child health research and policy making. With this forum, we hope to develop a sustainable resource for dissemination of research results to aid policy development.

CHICOS is structured along key child health disease and deter-

minant themes where European cohorts can and should work together towards a more solid evidence base, such as asthma, obesity, social inequalities, nutrition, environmental exposures, and genetic factors. CHICOS will work closely with policy makers to ensure that guidelines across Europe in these areas are based on the best available evidence.

Child Health outcomes: perinatal outcomes, asthma, obesity, cognitive and behavioural development, injuries, infections, childhood cancer.

Child Health Determinants: social inequalities, nutrition and exercise, lifestyle exposures, environmental toxin exposures, genetic factors and biobanks, multiple risk factors.



Project Partners:

- * Fundació Centre de Recerca en Epidemiology Ambiental, Spain
 - * Syddansk Universitet, Denmark
 - * University of Crete, Greece
 - * Università Degli Studi Di Torino, Italy
 - * Erasmus Universitair Medisch Centrum, The Netherlands
 - * Nasjonalt Folkehelseinstitutt, Norway
 - * University of Bristol, United Kingdom
 - * National School of Public Health, Greece
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