

CHICOS set out to **develop an integrated strategy for birth cohort research in Europe for the next 15 years through coordination of the most important European birth cohorts**. It was launched in January 2010 and reached its official conclusion on February 2013

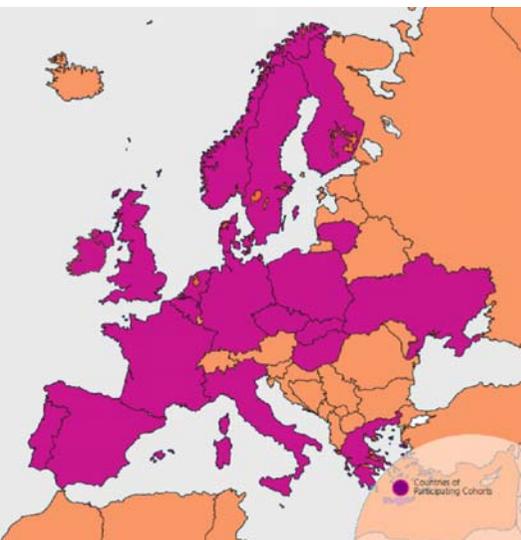
## CONCLUSIONS

- More than 70 birth cohorts across Europe are prospectively studying more than 500,000 mothers, fathers and children
- Considering existing European birth cohorts, CHICOS found a lack of data from minority groups, Southern and Eastern European countries, and older children and adolescents
- CHICOS proved that pooling cohort data across countries is possible and valuable, but has also highlighted substantial practical obstacles in international collaborative initiatives
- Harmonizing existing data collections, improving the use of existing resources, filling data gaps, and increasing availability of registry data that can be combined with cohort data have also proved extremely beneficial

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**CHICOS recommends establishing a collaborative European Birth Cohort, using data from existing and new cohorts.** It should include support for:

- Establishing the infrastructure for a European-wide database platform – this should include a core database platform, data sharing and data harmonisation rules, biobank access guidelines, exchange of methodology and expertise
- Including groups of the population that are underrepresented in birth cohort research today
- Continuing follow-up of existing European cohorts to obtain information on health and disease in older children, adolescents, and adulthood
- Combining data from birth cohorts, routine registries, and other data sources
- Integrating knowledge translation and public and policy engagement



**Countries of birth cohorts included in CHICOS overview**

### Partners

Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL), Spain  
 University of Copenhagen, Denmark  
 University of Crete, Greece  
 University of Turin, Italy  
 Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
 The Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway  
 University of Bristol, United Kingdom  
 National School of Public Health, Greece

### Project coordinator

Dr Martine Vrijheid

Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL)  
 Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona  
 C. Doctor Aiguader 88 – 08003 Barcelona – Spain  
 email: [mvrijheid@creal.cat](mailto:mvrijheid@creal.cat)