

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

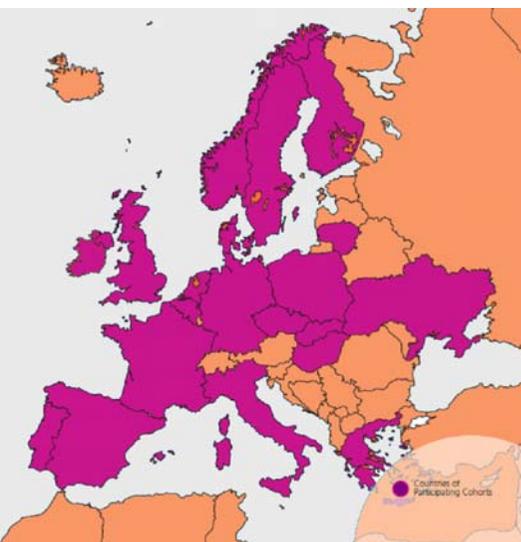
CONCLUSIONS

- 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

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