

chicos partners

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project details

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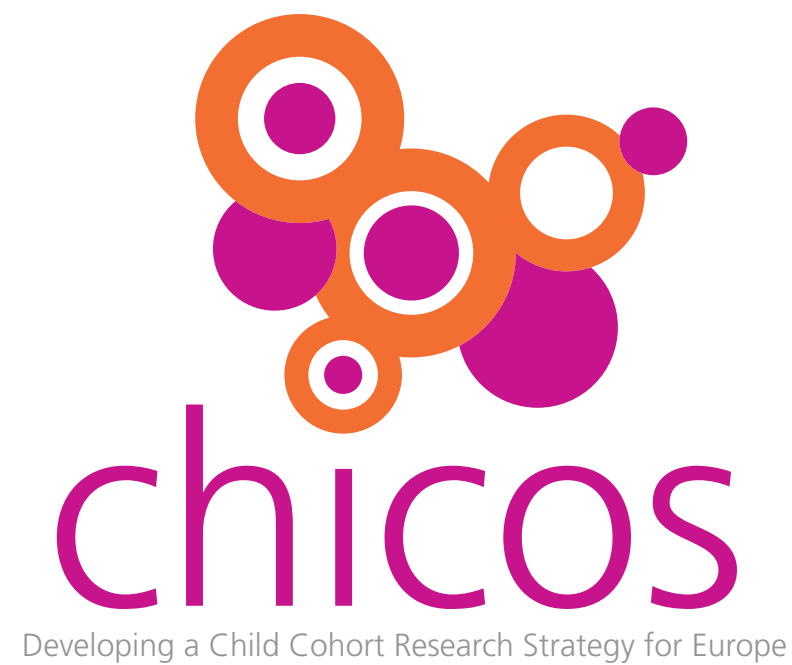
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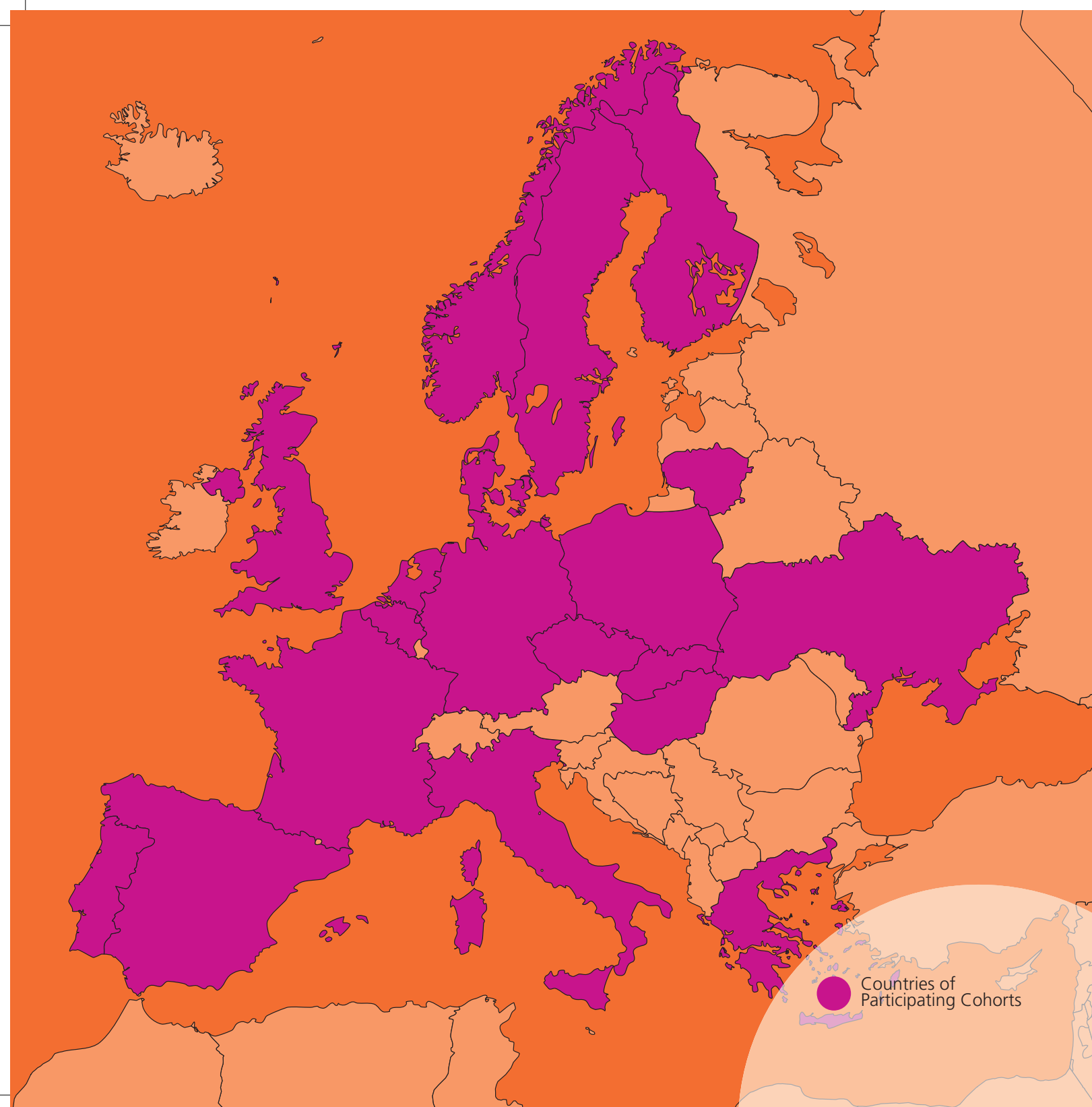
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chicos background

Birth cohorts have been established in a number of European countries with the shared purpose to examine early determinants of health by following participants from the intrauterine period, throughout childhood and adolescence, into adulthood. Some are large general cohorts with multiple aims, whilst others are smaller and more focused on specific exposures or specific diseases. In total, such cohorts study more than 350,000 children and their parents across Europe and they form an important resource for child health and life-course research. However, data are, by nature, non-uniform across cohorts and improved coordination at European level is needed to take full advantage of this important infrastructure of existing cohorts. Although cohort research carries large potential policy implications, messages are not always filtering through to policy at national and European level.



chicos aim

Chicos, funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and coordinated by the Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) in Barcelona, was launched in January 2010 with the overall aim to develop an integrated strategy for mother-child cohort research in Europe. This will be achieved through the collaboration and coordination of important European mother-child cohorts.

what will chicos do?

work package 1

description of mother-child cohorts and registries in Europe

will create an inventory of European mother-child cohorts and registries, including a searchable web-based database.

work package 2

research priorities for childhood diseases

will evaluate existing information on child health outcomes from mother-child cohorts, evaluate links to routine registries, identify gaps in knowledge, and make recommendations for research action at European level for the next 15 years.

Key child health outcomes: perinatal outcomes; respiratory health; obesity, vascular and metabolic health; neuro-cognitive and behavioural development; accidents and injuries; infectious diseases; childhood cancer.

work package 3

research priorities for child health determinants

will evaluate existing information on major child health determinants and on determinant-outcome relationships from mother-child cohorts, evaluate links to routine registries, identify gaps in knowledge, and develop recommendations for research action at European level for the next 15 years.

Key child health determinants: social and cultural conditions; nutrition and physical activity; life-style and substance exposures; environmental contaminant exposures ; biological and genetic factors; multiple determinants.

work package 4

improving the contribution of mother-child cohorts to European child health policy

will develop recommendations to improve the contribution of mother-child cohort research to policy at the European level.

work package 5

dissemination and workshop organization

will ensure efficient communication within the project as well as with stakeholders outside the project (scientists, public health community, policy makers, general public) in order to raise awareness about the ongoing project as well as its results at all levels.

work package 6

management

is responsible for the overall management of the project.