



Developing a Child Cohort Research Strategy for Europe

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.



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chicos partners

- **Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology**
Barcelona – Spain
Principal investigator: *Martine Vrijheid*
- **University of Copenhagen**
Copenhagen – Denmark
Principal investigator: *Anne-Marie Nybo Andersen*
- **University of Crete**
Heraklion Crete – Greece
Principal investigator: *Leda Chatzi*
- **University of Turin**
Turin – Italy
Principal investigator: *Franco Merletti*
- **Erasmus University Medical Center**
Rotterdam – The Netherlands
Principal investigator: *Vincent Jaddoe*
- **The Norwegian Institute of Public Health**
Oslo – Norway
Principal investigator: *Camilla Stoltenberg*
- **University of Bristol**
Bristol – UK
Principal investigator: *Patricia Lucas*
- **National School of Public Health**
Athens – Greece
Principal investigator: *Manolis Kogevinas*

project details

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Project Coordinator

Dr. Martine Vrijheid, PhD
Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL)
Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona
Tel: (34-93) 214 73 46 – Fax: (34-93) 214 73 01
Email: mvrijheid@creal.cat

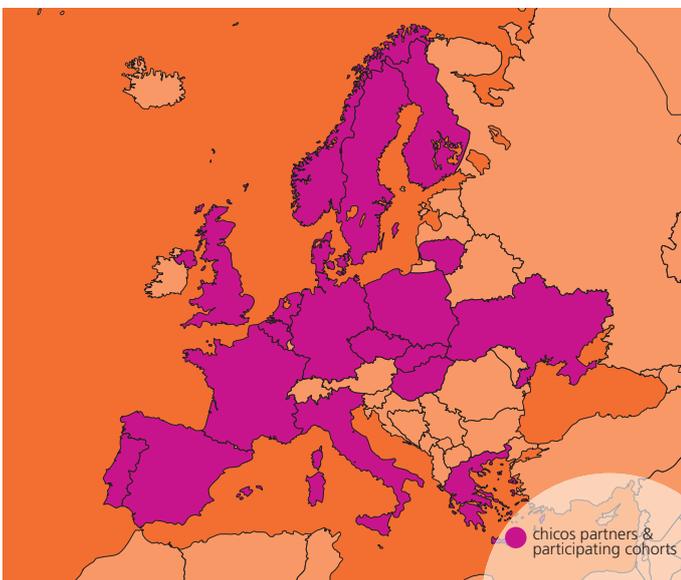
Communication & Dissemination

Prof. Franco Merletti, MD
University of Turin
Turin – Italy
Tel: (39-011) 633 43 06 – Fax: (39-011) 633 46 64
Email: franco.merletti@unito.it

Project Manager

Dr. Diana van Gent, PhD
Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL)
Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona
Tel: (34-93) 214 73 54 – Fax: (34-93) 214 73 01
Email: dvangent@creal.cat

Further information can be found at:
<http://www.chicosproject.eu/>



chicos project

e-mail: info@chicosproject.eu
www.chicosproject.eu