

WG4 report April 2016

WG4 welcomed three new international members since our last report in December 2015: Karin Minne and Antoniette DuPreez, participants from South Africa, and Elena Ateva, a human rights lawyer. Members are from a range of disciplines including midwifery, obstetrics, management, architecture, psychology, sociology, anthropology, epidemiology, bioethics and law.

WG4's now has 4 sub-groups (sub-group 4's work will start work later in 2016).

Sub-group 1. Variations in intervention rates between countries – influencing factors and mode of birth outcomes.

This sub-group aims to explore the variation in intervention rates within and between countries, identify the factors associated with caesarean section in each country and each country's laws and guidelines on caesarean section (for maternal request). The group will attempt to distil a core dataset that can be used for comparisons.

Sub-group 2. Obstetric violence

This subgroup will map the social, cultural and historical debate on obstetric violence in order to present a broad and coherent interdisciplinary perspective. The work will raise social awareness and trigger a political debate on violation of human rights in childbirth.

Sub-group 3. Organisation of care.

This sub-group aims to explore the elements of organisational culture that impact on intrapartum intervention rates.

Sub-group 4 - Midwives' contribution to normal childbirth (MidCon Birth study) (work commencing later this year).

Midwives' contribution to normal childbirth care: Cross-sectional study in public hospitals in Catalonia (ISRCTN14062994 DOI 10.1186/ISRCTN14062994) (September 2015-December 2017).

Update on work of sub-groups:

Sub-group 1 - Variations in intervention rates between countries – influencing factors and mode of birth outcomes

(i) A review of data from different national, regional (and hospital) datasets and identification of a core data set that can be compared.

- Planning in progress

(ii) The prevalence of maternal request for caesarean section: a systematic review and meta-analysis

- The search terms have been agreed, and the search and selection will start mid-Feb 2016.

(iii) An analysis of caesarean sections according to Robson's groups

- Planning in progress

Sub-group 2 - Obstetric violence

(i) The social, cultural and historic origins of obstetric violence

- Paper submitted for publication – *‘Moving beyond disrespect and abuse - addressing the structural dimensions of obstetric violence’*.
- Presentation on *‘In-Labour Ethnography - Challenges and Possibilities When Doing Ethnography in Our Own Work Place’* planned at 3rd ISA Forum of Sociology, 10-14 July 2016, Vienna, Austria.
<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/webprogram/Paper74325.html>
- Seminar on *‘The Hidden Side of Obstetric Violence’* planned for week commencing 15 February 2016 in Copenhagen (*pdf attached*)
- Seminar on *‘Birth in Chile: from custom to evidence’* held on 12 January 2016. The seminar focused on *‘Intervention rates across Chile’* (led by Professor Lorena Binfa) and on *‘Non-medical factors influencing the rise of caesarean sections’* (led by Michelle Sadler and Gonzalo Leiva). The seminar was framed in the COST IS1405 Action as an activity of WG4.

Sub-group 3 - Organisation of care.

(i) Elements of organisational culture that impact on intrapartum intervention rates

- Paper in progress

(ii) Configuration of space in relation to intrapartum interventions

- Planning in progress

Sub-group 4 - Midwives’ contribution to normal childbirth (MidCon Birth study)

Midwives’ contribution to normal childbirth care: Cross-sectional study in public hospitals in Catalonia (ISRCTN14062994 DOI 10.1186/ISRCTN14062994) (September 2015-December 2017).

Ramon (Escuriel Peiro) has started a multicentre study to investigate midwives’ contribution to childbirth care in the north-east region of Spain (Catalonia). This first phase is funded, and Ramon, Fatima León and Dolores Ruiz are planning to apply for additional funding (from the Ministry of Health) to extend this study to different regions of Spain. As part of WG4 work, participation will be sought from other COST countries.

This project will gather outcome data on low-obstetric risk women whose labour and birth is assisted by midwives.

First phase:

- Public hospitals in Catalonia. Currently 12 hospitals
- Funding source: Council of Nurses of Catalonia.
- Variables: 30 variables including process, structure and outcomes information. Bologna score will be used for comparison.

Second phase:

- Hospitals and different settings for low-risk births across Europe (currently 5 hospitals from Spain)
- Funding source: pending application for the Spanish Ministry of health (April 2016)