

## WG4 report August 2016

**WG4's aim - To examine organizational characteristics, contexts, cultures and economic costs of variation in rates of interventions in childbirth in different socio-political contexts.**

WG4's 53 members are from a range of disciplines including midwifery, obstetrics, management, architecture, psychology, sociology, anthropology, epidemiology, bioethics and law.

**WG4's now has 5 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. 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.

Sara, can you provide a little update on the paper and next steps please?

**Sub-group 4 - Midwives' contribution to normal childbirth (MidCon Birth study) (work starting 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).

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**Sub-group 5 - A review of review National and local guidelines and/or protocols on oxytocin infusion for induction/augmentation of labour in Europe and worldwide**

### **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.***

The sub-group's work is being led by Ank de June (the Netherlands). The protocol has been agreed, and work contracts have been issued.

Participating countries need to be able to provide, at a minimum, data on

- a. Parity
- b. Gestational age at birth
- c. Multiple or singleton gestation
- d. Mode of birth: spontaneous, caesarean section or instrumental delivery
- e. Epidural pain relief
- f. Episiotomy

The sub-group welcomes participation from people in any country who can provide institutional, regional or country level data.

Countries that have signed a contract for participation in this study are: Spain (National data or Madrid only), Catalonia, Brazil, Ireland, the Netherlands.

Countries that are interested and may take part: United States, Germany, Norway, some others may still be thinking about it.

The next step is for all countries to send their data to the Netherlands. Anna Seijmonsbergen-Schermer is on maternity leave but hopes to start the analyses in the beginning of 2017.

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

Selection by title and abstract is complete, and full text review is in progress. Members are from Bulgaria, Chile, Ireland, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

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

During the meeting in Bergen, we received the data for all Norwegian maternity units for the years 1999-2014. We have data from Malta and from half (n=9) of the maternity units in Ireland. We hope to get data from our contacts in Denmark, Portugal and Romania.

We also received a letter of support for the study from Ana Pilar Betran, WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research.

#### **Sub-group 2 - Obstetric violence**

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

A paper on 'In-Labour Ethnography - Challenges and Possibilities When Doing Ethnography in Our Own Work Place' presented at 3<sup>rd</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology, 10-14 July 2016, Vienna, Austria. <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/webprogram/Paper74325.html>

### **Sub-group 3 - Organisation of care.**

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

The first draft of paper is almost complete.

#### ***(ii) Birth settings from and architectural perspective***

Document collection started but only a few pictures and plans were received. Wider participation from COST members is most welcome.

We are working with Liv (from Norway) on the contents of the study. A working title of the proposed paper is: *'Different birth settings – what do the spaces allow? Architectural and anthropological perspectives'*. Liv will be in Florence next November 2016, and our work will progress then.

#### ***Paper for publication in progress***

A paper titled *'The delivery scene: childbirth throughout the centuries in a multidisciplinary perspective'* is being drafted by Sandra Morano, Mariarosaria Di Tommaso and Laura Lannuzzi, and others, Donatella Lippi, Fani Vavili. The COST Action will be acknowledged.

### **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).

MidconBirth Study: Currently 20 Spanish Hospitals are participating, and 980 cases are registered. , A further 5 hospitals are waiting for Ethics Committee approval.

Presentation accepted for European Midwives Association (EMA) Conference, December 2016.

An application for funding has been to the Ministry of Health, Spain – the decision is expected in December 2016.

We have asked for expressions of support for the study from ICM and EMA. It is useful to have their expressions of support for the Ministry of Health funding application evaluation process.

MidconBirth has been presented to the ICM research award 2016 call.

#### ***Paper for publication submitted to the International Journal of Prenatal and Life Sciences***

Escuriat R, Pérez X, de Molina-Fernández I, Aguado H, White IJ, Pérez-Botella M, Canet O (2016) Women's perceived satisfaction with maternity care: cross-sectional study in public hospitals (submitted to International Journal of Prenatal and Life Sciences).

### **Sub-group 5 - A review of review National and local guidelines and/or protocols on oxytocin infusion for induction/augmentation of labour in Europe and worldwide**

The data collection template has been agreed, and data collection is in progress.

We have data from Germany (from 14 individual university hospitals), South Africa, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland (separate data for the German and Italian, and French regions) and Ireland, and we are waiting for data from Chile and Italy. We welcome participation from other countries.