



COST Action IS1405: Building Intrapartum Research Through Health –an interdisciplinary whole system approach to understanding and contextualizing physiological labour and birth (BIRTH)



Report of the 'BIRTH' Meeting in Florence



Palazzo Medici Riccardi



Core Group Meeting



CG Visiting Palazzo Vecchio



Opening at Sala Luca Giordano



Skoko, Armentano and Morano

Meeting date: 9th-11th October 2017

Venue: Palazzo Medici Riccardi & Istituto degli Innocenti, Florence

Meeting Type: Management Committee Meeting, Working Group Meeting, Workshops/ Conferences

Local Organiser Institution: Monia Lippi -Italian room in collaboration with Laura Iannuzzi (Careggi University Hospital), Nicoletta Setola (Dep of Architecture University of Florence), Sandra Morano (University of Genoa) and all the Scientific Committee team.

Attendance: The meeting was highly successful being attended by 82 participants on Monday the 9th, 75 participants on Tuesday the 10th and 55 participants on Wednesday the 11th. Participants included old and new members of the COST Action IS1405 coming from across Europe and Italian stakeholders. The organisation of this meeting encountered the support of various institutions including the Region of Tuscany, the City Council of Florence, the Careggi University Hospital, the University of Florence, The Institute of Innocents and the local College of Midwives.

The Meeting aimed to offer a meaningful time, facilitating the work and productivity of the working groups, sharing culture, tradition, communicating the aim of the Action and its state of art to a larger public, and inviting relevant stakeholders to join and engage with the project.

Proceedings opened on Monday 9th March at 09:00 in Palazzo Medici Riccardi with the meeting of the Core Group. At the end of the meeting, around lunch time, the council of Florence offered a complimentary guided tour and light lunch in Palazzo Vecchio, the town hall of the city of Florence.

After lunchtime, there was the official opening of the Meeting of this Action led by Prof. Soo Downe. Participants were hosted in the prestigious Sala Luca Giordano of Palazzo Medici Riccardi and welcomed by the President of IV Health Committee on Social and Health Politics of Florence City Council Nicola Armentano together with the Italian members of the Management Committee and Scientific Committee Laura Iannuzzi, Sandra Morano and Nicoletta Setola.

Armentano acknowledged the importance and the crucial positive impact of this Action for Global Health, Economic systems and Public Administrations, leaving then Prof. Soo Downe to chair the plenary session, explain the philosophical



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The 'Florence by night' tour



WGs at Istituto degli Innocenti



Final MC Meeting at Innocenti

underpinnings and aim of the Birth Action and let the WG leads present and state of art of the work of their groups and subgroups. This was followed by a brief presentation of the Italian Birth Activist Elena Skoko on the findings of a recent research on Obstetric Violence in Italy.

Afterwards, HM Anna Colombo, the Italian Special Advisor S&D of the EU Parliament, chaired the planned workshop on Health Economics, introducing the presentations led by the Health economists Patrick Moran (IE) and Elske van den Akker-van Marle (NL) and facilitating the related plenary discussion.

The work continued and concluded with Soo Downe discussing the state of Art and future planning of Horizon 2020 and the meeting of the B3 Babies Born Better survey and STSM groups.

A guided tour of Florence was proposed as social event in the evening of the 1st day. The tour was introduced by a traditional Florentine song and the guide told to a great number of participants the story of the city while walking through the main and inner streets of the centre, stopping at the most popular artistic areas.

The 2nd day work was hosted at the Istituto degli Innocenti, a very symbolic concerning health and social care of women and babies/orphans. Throughout the day all the 6 working groups and related sub-groups and ECI and STSM groups met to share and progress in their work. New members were welcomed by the WG chairs and vice-chairs. The meeting concluded with the meeting a plenary session including WG leads feedback and the projection of the short movie on attitude on cord clamping and donors entitles "The Blood of its Blood" presented by its director A. Garnaoui.

Two social events were then proposed for the evening: the first was a guided had and has today in safeguarding Children rights and for health care professionals, anthropologists, sociologists, historians, governors, researchers. group of 20 people. The second proposed initiative was the social dinner in a local 'Taverna' where Cost members enjoyed Tuscany food and wine and a pleasant time together.

The 11th of October represented the final day of the Action; the programme started at 09:00 with the Action's Management Committee meeting led by the Chair of the Action, Professor Soo Downe and ended as planned around 13:00 discussing goal achieved, problems and solutions and setting the path for the future steps and agenda. This meeting was acknowledged as being very productive, enjoyable and enriched by the beauty of the city and the choice of venues and social moments offered.

The Local Organiser
Monia Lippi

The Italian MC member
Laura Iannuzzi