



Objectives

- To advance scientific knowledge about ways of improving maternity care provision and outcomes for mothers, babies and families across Europe by understanding what works, for who, in what circumstances, and by identifying and learning from the best.

Once the Action is complete, it will:

- catalyse and develop new ways of measuring the processes and outcomes of childbirth
- be catalytic for the development and testing of innovative tools and techniques for dynamic knowledge transfer
- actively integrate service users, strategists and policy makers to systematically address the issue of maternity care provision for migrant women across Europe

Action IS0907 2010-2011 Childbirth Cultures, concerns and consequences (iResearch4Birth: iR4B)

Participating countries: BE, CH, DE, DK, EL, HR, FI, IE, IS, LT, NL, NO, PT, SE, UK
Chair of the Action: Prof Soo Downe, UK, sdowne@ucl.ac.uk
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Working Group 1: Organisational systems design

Systematic reviews have been undertaken and are being written up as papers and as a logistic model of care design pathways. A new sub group has been established to address fetal screening and ante natal issues.

Working Group 2: Outcomes measurement

Systematic reviews have been undertaken and will be written up as papers.

Working Group 3: Impact on migrant women

The working group is completing review work and drafting papers. Other local projects have been undertaken in member countries.

Working Group 4: Techniques for identifying the best in complex systems

Two systematic reviews have been undertaken looking at salutogenic theory and complex systems in maternity care.

Working Group 5: Building innovative knowledge transfer

Literature reviews on tools and techniques for knowledge transfer have been undertaken. These will form the basis of a knowledge transfer plan. A new sub group has been established relating to communities of practice.

Early stage researchers

A new group has been set up to support and develop the skills of early stage researchers within the action.

Main Achievements

- The WG's and other active groups for the Action have been successfully set up. The first scoping meeting for the community of practice work took place in June 2011. As well as an expansion in membership from COST countries, China, South Africa and Australia have joined the Action
- The website is in beta format, and it is planned to be launched by the beginning of year two. This includes a range of new tools and platforms for remote collaborative working.
- Short and medium term workplans have been set up for each WG. All WG's have designed at least one systematic review. Most will complete these by the autumn of 2011. One WG already has publications in draft.
- Five workshops have been run. Four short term scientific missions have been run. There is a detailed workplan for year two