European standards of newborn care: Paving the way for a healthier population

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Key messages

1. Premature birth = high risk of death or life long illness.

2. Inequality of health care and care provision in Europe results in terrible, life long consequences for babies.

3. European doctors and nurses need training according to agreed professional standards.

4. European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR) and European Foundation for the Care Newborn Infants (EFCNI) strive to harmonise neonatal training and care throughout Europe.
EACH BABY COUNTS – PROGRESS BEING MADE, MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE!
Only marginal gains in survival of premature infants, despite many improvements in perinatal care

Europe 2018: Premature babies still face an unacceptably high risk of death!

Ancel PY et al. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2015; 169: 230-238
PREMATURE BIRTH: LARGE VARIATION IN OUTCOMES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF EUROPE
Preterm infants do not have equal chances throughout Europe

Variation in quality of care leads to differing outcomes, affecting:

- Intellectual development
- Eye disease, including blindness
- Lung disease (“chronic lung disease”)
- Feeding disorders / growth impairment
European wide variations in care – Infants’ outcomes should not be a “National Lottery”!

Data extracted from
Bonamy E et al. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 2018;0:F1–F10
DOCTORS AND NURSES ARE NOT BEING TRAINED ACCORDING TO AGREED EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS!
Addressing disparities in European National Neonatal Training

- **1998**: The *European Union of Medical Specialists* (UEMS) mandates ESPR to develop a European Neonatal Training Curriculum.
- **Objective**: Provide overarching advice to the national neonatal training programmes.
- **1999**: The UEMS Paediatric Section and *European Board of Neonatology* (EBN = ESPR’s educational arm) publish the 1st EU Curriculum and Syllabus for Training in Neonatology.
- **2018**: Publication of the 3rd edition.

ESPR & EFCNI COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE NEWBORN CARE IN EUROPE
Synergistic actions

- Implement cutting-edge research in Europe
- Share knowledge through a growing international network
- Organise bi-annual congresses and workshops
- Develop newborn standards of care
- Promote uniform implementation of these standards
- Offer opportunities for training and continued education

… for the benefit of infants and their families!
ESPR & EFCNI – each baby counts!

1. **Significant illness** and **risk of death** for premature babies despite improvements in perinatal care
2. Premature infants do not have the same chance of intact survival in different areas of Europe
3. Doctors and nurses around Europe are not trained in a standardised way
4. ESPR and EFCNI are working hard to harmonise neonatal training and care throughout Europe

For this, we need your ongoing support!
Thank you!