



Research Networking Programmes

**“The European Child Cohort Network”
(EUCCONET) - 06-RNP-034 –**
May 2008 – April 2013 (EMRC/SCSS)

Final Report (2013)

- **Final Consensus (SRG-MED & SRG-SOC)**
- **SRG-SOC feedback** (meeting of 8 October 2013)
- **EUCCONET Co-chair : Dr. Heather Joshi’s note about follow up**
- **Evaluation of final report**
- **final report**
- **Initial proposal**

Final report – Final consensus (2013) EUCCONET (with SRG-SOC)

The SRG-MED was impressed by this high-quality programme that resulted in a very strong network of researchers, having funded 14 workshops, 3 international conferences together with prestigious partners (Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies), interactions with other related international societies (SLLS but also CHICOS and DOHaD) and exchange visits for young scientists. The EUCCONET management was very careful and wise in the use of funds. The SRG-MED members highly appreciated the recommendation made by the SRG-SOC members to contact Dora Costa, Director of the Working Group of Cohort Studies of the National Bureau of Economic Research in Chicago (US). They indeed strongly encourage the EUCCONET Chair and Steering Committee members to pursue their efforts in maintaining and enlarging this network through various initiatives although recognising the difficulties. They recommend future applications to COST Actions and having a close look at the new scheme of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. However, the SRG-MED has no doubt that this high-quality network will find additional funding to pursue their research and networking activities.

ESF/EMRC Research Networking Programme “The European Child Cohort Network” (EUCCONET) (06-RNP-034) - Final Report

Final Report (2013)

SRG-SOC feedback (SRG-SOC meeting, 8 October 2013, Teleconference):

Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello, SRG-SOC member and Rapporteur, submitted a review based on the final report by the chair and co-chair of EUCCONET, on a message from Heather Joshi, co-chair of EUCCONET about the follow up of the networking activities, and on an anonymous referee’s report. She concluded that EUCCONET has been a successful initiative and recommended approval the final report. The SRG-SOC was happy to follow this recommendation.

The SRG-SOC Chair, Professor Sir Roderick Floud, further mentioned that he had just attended a meeting of the Working Group of Cohort Studies (CS) of the National Bureau of Economic Research in Chicago. The Director of the Working Group Dora Costa would be interested in developing collaboration with European colleagues.

EUCCONET Chair and Co-chair’s reply was:

“We are very pleased that the report is well accepted, and we agree that it is sent to Dora Costa in the US. We would like to inform you that a sub-group of the Society for Lifecourse and Longitudinal Study (SLLS) was created in September 2013, with the view to continue the networking (without much financial means). It will bring together participants from EUCCONET and from the CHICOS project. The two contact persons for this group are Elise de la Rochebrochard at INED (roche@ined.fr) and Heather Joshi (heather.joshi@ioe.ac.uk).”

Dr. Joshi and Professor Léridon



Networking on a Shoestring

A message from Heather Joshi, Co-Chair, EUCCONET

The EUCCONET (European Child Cohort network) contribution to the establishment of SLLS was one of its achievements. EUCCONET's funding from the European Science Foundation for co-ordination and communication between child cohorts has now finished. SLLS is still going strong. The Society could play a role in maintaining momentum and nurturing future communication and activities on the cohort study front. If you are interested, please read on for some details and proposals

Not only did the ESF funding for EUCCONET (www.eucconet.com) finish earlier this year, so also did the EU funding for CHICOS (www.chicosproject.eu). The CHICOS remit included the maintenance of an international inventory of the large number of health oriented birth cohorts (www.birthcohorts.net) and the publication of a strategy for European birth cohort research (www.chicosproject.eu). CHICOS also promoted cross cohort analysis of the datasets, focused on prenatal and early-life risk factors of birth and child health outcomes. The EUCCONET network embraced not only the members of CHICOS but also more broadly-based studies which, like the UK Millennium Cohort, may have started after their cohort members were born, and included studies beyond Europe. Over the five years of operation, the Network organized 14 workshops, funded exchange visits and made contributions to three international conferences, culminating in the joint conference with SLLS in Paris 2012. These activities brought together researchers across the behavioural, developmental, and health and statistical sciences, and the professional data, survey and communications managers who are also an important part of the interdisciplinary teams who create and run these studies.

At a final meeting in July 2013, convened around another topic of common interest (current developments in international access to cohort study data) the co-ordinators of both CHICOS and EUCCONET reviewed the prospects for European cohort studies in the future. A new pan-European cohort seems almost inconceivable in the current funding climate. The maintenance and continuation of existing studies and the facilitation of the development of new ones at local or national level, seems a more compelling and realistic priority, which could well be assisted by the cultivation of an infrastructure to maintain the current links.

It is proposed that SLLS take on the explicit objective of keeping these contacts alive. This could be done through the bi-monthly newsletter, the website, the conferences, the newly established Longview initiated policy group, and perhaps a new sub-committee focussing on child cohort networking, if this seems feasible. SLLS could make a special effort to invite corporate membership from cohort study teams or individuals associated with EUCCONET or CHICOS activities. The continued exchange of information would remain alert to any funding opportunities that may arise, or could be lobbied for: to financing travel to meetings, updating websites, joint research projects, or more ambitiously, the building of infrastructure to facilitate data harmonization, the production and translation of meta-data, among other possibilities as envisaged in the CHICOS final report.

Anyone who would like to take part in the proposed SLLS cohort studies network are invited to signal their interest, to me in the first instance, by the first week of September. I would also be very pleased to hear from any volunteers to take an active lead for a potential group. I plan to report your reactions and those of the CHICOS network at the Amsterdam Conference in September. I also hope that representatives of the many cohort studies that EUCCONET has brought to our previous conferences will see this year's conference as a means of maintaining contact.

The EUCCONET website will shortly be displaying the power point presentations from the last meeting (including the presentation by Martine Vrijheid on the CHICOS proposals for the future of cohort studies) and also, once approved, EUCCONET's final report to ESF. The website will remain visible through the good offices of INED, but there are no resources at present to update it and could continue as a section on the SLLS website.

For readers who are not already members of SLLS or wondering about renewing membership, please note that [SLLS membership](#) brings a number of benefits including: free, open access to read and publish in our peer reviewed journal, [Longitudinal & Life Course Studies](#), a regular newsletter of global news and events in longitudinal and life course research, and substantially reduced fees for attendance at the Society's [annual conference](#). Corporate subscriptions for research teams are available.

Heather Joshi

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ESF/EMRC Research Networking Programme “The European Child Cohort Network” (EUCCONET) (06-RNP-034) - Final Report and Review

Referee’s final report

1. RNP Objectives

This project has clearly reached the main goals. The conductors have managed to gather experts from a wide international arena. Different aspects of child cohorts over the years were taken into consideration. This fulfills the original RNP proposal.

2. RNP activities: scientific quality and impact

The scientific meetings in the form of workshops and yearly conferences were of high caliber with exposure to diverse ideas and management styles. Over 700 people attended to these events. Each workshop was carefully designed and well attended. The final conference was together with the Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies (SLLS), so this sort of collaboration was also accomplished. There were several exchange visits between European partners.

3. European added value and RNP visibility

There were close links with other related international societies such as SLLS, CHICOS and DOHaD. Also, there were participants from The US, Australia and New Zealand.

4. RNP Management and finances

From a maximum contribution of 575,000 Euros, close to 536,000 Euros were spent in a careful and meticulous way. All matched the ends, so this is money well spent.

5. Publicity and publications: scientific quality and impact

There is a website, an e-mailing list of over the 300 scientists, and links with other organisations such as the CHICOS. The journal Longitudinal and Life Course Studies provides opportunities for publications coming from the EUCCONET.

6. Future planning, recommendations and conclusions

I take this RNP as an alert for future links and projects. The main organizers have stated that would be unrealistic to have a large European joint cohort, which I am in agreement. The EUCCONET may be summarized as a harmonium.



EUCCONET - EUROPEAN CHILD COHORT NETWORK **Final report (May 2008 – April 2013)**

June 2013

A research networking programme supported by the European Science Foundation



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0. Executive summary

EUCCONET - The European Child Cohort Network

www.euconet.com

Despite its cost, the methodological issues it raises, and time constraints for data collection and analysis, the cohort study is of strong interest for decision-makers and researchers in quest of greater understanding of human behaviour. Whereas longitudinal retrospective studies can reconstruct the past histories of individuals, they can only do so in a way that is subject to memory lapses. The *prospective* approach of cohort studies is more directly suited to the information needs on current and future trends in the population and can capture a variety of information that cannot be recalled. Longitudinal studies of children constitute a unique source of data to analyse human development in its context. They permit the study of the various factors interacting over the life course up to adulthood: family structure, social and physical environment, schooling, health and nutritional behaviour... They also clarify the impact of the experience lived during infancy on the individual's physical, psychological, social and professional development.

The ambition of the European Child Cohort Network was to bring together leaders of national or major regional child cohorts in order to compare practices, exchange experience, share questionnaires and other tools, and encourage comparative analyses. The focus of this network was on generalist cohorts which combine health and social sciences. It brought together the leaders of the large-scale general and interdisciplinary cohorts that exist in Europe, North America, and Australasia, while developing links with more specialised networks.

Over five years, the network worked towards

- (i) identifying cohort expertise in Europe;
- (ii) sharing knowledge and experience with a broad range of cohort experts, including from outside Europe, and establishing a forum for an easy accessible expertise on these issues in Europe;
- (iii) offering opportunities for deeper cross-country comparison by sharing tools and questionnaires.

With thirteen scientific seminars organised in 10 European cities, co-sponsorship of three large scientific conferences, 10 mobility grants and the participation of more than seven hundred researchers in its activities, EUCCONET played its role of animator of the generalists Child Cohort leaders, and participated to create a better interacting European community of scientists, survey and data managers.

1. RNP objectives

1.1 Objectives

The ambition of the European Child Cohorts Network was to bring together leaders of national or major regional children's cohorts in order to compare practices, exchange experience, share questionnaires and other tools, and encourage comparative analyses. The focus of this network was on generalist cohorts. It brought together the teams running the large-scale general and interdisciplinary cohorts in Europe and North America, while also developing links with more specialized networks. The activities organized within the network were to fulfill three objectives: (i) identifying cohort expertise in Europe; (ii) sharing knowledge and experience with a broad range of cohort experts, including from outside Europe, and establishing a forum for an easy accessible expertise on these issues in Europe; (iii) offering opportunities for deeper cross-country comparison.

Several child cohorts have been set up in various countries of Europe and elsewhere in the recent years, from birth or soon afterwards. The scientific value of these studies might be greatly enhanced if proper comparative analyses could be conducted on their data. It is obvious that each country has its culture, its background and its social, educational and health systems, which makes comparison exercises difficult. However, building and running a cohort involves similarities and common steps. Except for some countries, running multidisciplinary and large-scale child cohorts is rather a new experience for national research teams. This reinforces the claim for the creation of dialogue facilities to transfer knowledge and maximize the potential of convergence in methods, themes addressed and time schedule.

Some specialized thematic networks already exist and the objective of our proposal was not to replicate what had successfully been done elsewhere. The focus of this network was on large scale and generalist cohorts, and its originality lay in the inter-disciplinarity of the themes to be covered: researchers involved in these studies tend to find ways to reconcile through one survey social, health and environmental aspects of child development. The expertise and the synergies with existing cohorts and networks were brought in and were necessary to develop sound discussions on methodologies, but the European Children Cohorts Network primarily aimed at bringing together large scope cohorts and their specific working questions. The network focused on methodological aspects of data collection through cohort methods, including the tools used to collect the data.

EUCCONET cohorts

Name	Country	Details	Website
Danish National Birth Cohort –DNBC	Denmark	This Danish cohort was set up to investigate the causes of high-risk pregnancies and identify the prenatal determinants of children's health (development of mental illness, allergies, asthma, etc.). Intended to follow mothers and their children from birth to adulthood, the project was launched in 1999 and achieved its goal of 100,000 inclusions in 2002.	Link
Aarhus Birth Cohort (DK)	Denmark	This cohort with ongoing recruitment was initiated to create a data resource for research on the fetal programming hypothesis, and on various aspects of pregnancy, birth, and neonatal care. The cohort has detailed information on obstetric	Link

		<p>characteristics and procedures, as well as on neonatal care. The cohort also contains information on lifestyle and environmental exposures of the pregnant women. Two sub-cohorts deserve mentioning: (1) Approximately 8,000 children born in the main cohort during 1990-1992 were followed by questionnaires at the age of 9-11 years. (2) The Aarhus Children's Biobank was embedded in the cohort in 2008 and more than 6,500 families (mother, father and child) has donated bio-samples, including more than 3,000 cord blood samples.</p>	
Danish Longitudinal Survey of Children – DALSC	Denmark	<p>The Danish Longitudinal Survey of Children (DALSC) was initiated in 1995 in order to provide basic representative information about the family conditions and development of Danish children. It is the first longitudinal study in Denmark which aims to monitor children from birth until adulthood, and which allows research into the relationship between living conditions in childhood and subsequent life as an adult.</p>	Link
ELFE (Etude Longitudinale Française depuis l'Enfance)	France	<p>Elfe is the first longitudinal study of its kind in France, tracking children from birth to adulthood. It will examine every aspect of these children's lives from the perspectives of health, social sciences and environmental health. Covering the whole of metropolitan France, it was launched in April 2011, in the wake of a pilot survey of 500 families that began in 2007. The Elfe study involves 400 researchers from more than 60 research teams, investigating more than 90 research topics.</p>	Link
National Education Panel Study – NEPS	Germany	<p>Launched in 2009-2010, this longitudinal study comprises several cohorts of children and adolescents, as well as an adult cohort, representing a total of 60,000 participants recruited between 2009 and 2012. The project's aim is to study the influence of education on the participants' life courses. The youngest participants will be followed from their entry into nursery school to the completion of their education.</p>	Link
Growing up in Ireland	Ireland	<p>This survey also has two cohorts. The first is made up of 8,000 children aged 9 years at inclusion in 2007, while the second comprises 11,000 children aged 9 months in 2008. The study is focusing on the social sciences (children's cultural, social and economic environment, their development and</p>	Link

		wellbeing over time) and is intended to enhance the provision of services for children and families in Ireland.	
Generation R	The Netherlands	Nearly 10,000 pregnant women joined the Generation R study between April 2002 and January 2006. By following their children from before birth to adulthood, the study will help policymakers come up with new strategies to improve the health of pregnant women and their future children, and the healthcare they receive. Four main areas of research are being explored: growth and physical development, behavioral and cognitive development, childhood diseases, and health and healthcare.	Link
MoBa	Norway	Between 1999 and 2008, nearly 100,000 mothers and children agreed to take part in this study. Its aim is to analyse the impact of exposure to environmental risk factors on the health of pregnant women and that of their unborn children, and to understand the links between certain types of exposure and the onset of particular diseases (allergies, respiratory disease, congenital malformations, cardiovascular disease, etc.).	Link
Millennium Cohort Study – MCS	United-Kingdom	This is the United Kingdom’s fourth multidisciplinary cohort study. It aims to follow 19,000 British children born in 2000 and 2001 until they reach adulthood. It covers a very broad range of topics, including parental involvement in education, and children’s psychomotor development, health and social environment.	Link
Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children – ALSPAC	United-Kingdom	Between 1991 and 1992, 14,000 pregnant women were invited to take part in a study designed to follow the health and development of their future children until adulthood. All from the Bath and Bristol area, the participating families have supplied a huge amount of genetic and environmental data over the years to boost research on health problems.	Link
Born in Bradford – BiB	United-Kingdom	Launched in 2007, this study is following 13,500 children born in the city of Bradford, from the prenatal period to adulthood. Its objective is to explain why children born in this city are more frequently affected by health problems than children in the rest of England. For this reason, scientific, social and environmental data are being collected with a view to improving living conditions in the area.	Link

Growing up in Scotland	United-Kingdom	Made up of two cohorts, this Scottish study is following 8,000 children born between 2002 and 2005 from infancy through to their teens. The information collected will be used to improve the quality of public services for children and their families. Dominated by the social sciences, the study is primarily interested in family socio-demographics, education, childcare systems and children's socialization.	Link
INMA (Infancia y medio ambiente)	Spain	INMA - Childhood and Environment is a research network of several Spanish groups that created a project with the aim to study the paper of the more relevant environmental pollutants in the air, water and diet during the pregnancy and beginning of life, and their effects in the growth and development.	Link

Non-European Cohorts

Name	Country	Details	Website
Growing up in Australia	Australia	More than 10,000 children are taking part in this Australian cohort study, launched in 2004. Divided into two separate cohorts, they are followed either from their first birthday or from the age of 4-5 years. The aim is to measure the impact of the country's unique social, cultural and economic environment on the next generation, charting the children's progress and pinpointing the factors that influence it.	Link
National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)	Canada	It was in 1994 that Canada launched this longitudinal study of children. The researchers hope that by tracking 23,000 children aged 0-11 years until they reached adulthood, they will be able to understand the factors that influence children's development and wellbeing over the long term. The family and social environments in which the children live, their language development and their academic performance are just some of the issues being tackled.	Link
Quebec Longitudinal Study of Child Development (QLSCD)	Canada	Divided into two phases, the main aim of this study was to identify the factors that contribute to the social adjustment and academic performance of young Quebecers. In Phase 1, conducted between 1998 and 2002, a cohort of 2,120 infants was followed from the age of 5 months to 4 years. It allowed researchers to observe the impact of particular environments (family, childcare, etc.) on children's wellbeing. In Phase 2, which took place between 2003 and 2010, 1,500	Link

		children were tracked from kindergarten to second grade, in order to evaluate their academic performance.	
Growing up in New Zealand	New-Zealand	<i>Growing Up in New Zealand</i> is a longitudinal study that provides an up-to-date, population relevant picture of what it is like to be a child growing up in New Zealand in the 21st century. Approximately 7,000 children and their families are taking part in a study that aims to provide a complete picture of the pathways that lead to successful and equitable child development, therefore improving outcomes for all children - now and into the future.	Link
National Longitudinal Survey of Youth – NLSY	USA	The National Longitudinal Surveys are longitudinal studies whose main objective is to analyse the labour market activities of different generations of young people living in the United States, examining problems in training and employment. A nationally representative sample of 12,700 young men and women aged 14-21 years was formed in 1979, with a second survey involving 9,000 participants aged 12-16 years was set up in 1997, based on the same model. The children of the female members of the 1979 cohort have also been followed.	Link
Panel Study of Income Dynamics – PSID	USA	The study began in 1968 with a nationally representative sample of over 18,000 individuals living in 5,000 families in the United States. Information on these individuals and their descendants has been collected continuously, including data covering employment, income, wealth, expenditures, health, marriage, childbearing, child development, philanthropy, education, and numerous other topics.	Link
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study	USA	This cohort consists of 14,000 children born in the United States in 2001, with oversamples of ethnic minorities, twins and children born with low or very low birth weight. Its research is focused primarily on education, children’s health and development, and childcare systems.	Link
Young Lives	Ethiopia, India, Peru, Vietnam	Young Lives is an international study of childhood poverty, involving 12,000 children in 4 countries over 15 years. It is led by a team in the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford in association with research and policy partners in the 4 study countries: Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam.	Link

The European Child Cohort Network's objectives have been to

- Enhance the visibility and the synergy between children cohorts and among the different European teams involved in them.
- Identify the best expertise in Europe on cohort methodology. Links between large-scale and generalist cohorts must be strengthened, but the objective is also to call on the experience of limited-scale, regional cohorts, or very specific epidemiology and medical cohorts which may have already encountered similar methodology issues.
- Initiate new and in-depth collaborations between scientific teams which could lead to
- Promote comparative analysis, using common questionnaire modules, develops standardized questionnaires, and identify potential issues where comparative analysis could be undertaken.

1.2 Achievements

Cohort studies are large infrastructures that require a great deal of input. Researchers from studies are grateful to EUCCONET for creating opportunities to meet their European counterparts to help resolve the issues they face on a daily basis. Many of the workshops have been focused on the methodology of longitudinal studies rather than on the analysis of the collected data. This was not anticipated in the original plan, but it represents a real response to the lack of such initiatives in this matter. Personnel involved in the logistics of a cohort study are rarely involved in international meetings where common experience can be shared, and the growing success of network activities shows that the need thereof was real. Upon giving this opportunity to learn from other's experience, the cohorts will be better developed to last and to address the needs of the researchers who will later analyse the data collected.

EUCCONET was very keen on giving wide opportunities to cohort managers to propose seminar topics according to the issues they identified as important and relevant for exchange of practices. A "bottom up" approach was a key dimension in the programming initiative of the network.

Especially in the field of Data Management the network has brought a great improvement. The very first workshop, which set out to specify the network's objectives, identified the need for shared experience on the matters of data management and database administration, which led to the creation of an Interest Group of Data Managers, gathering the people in charge of dealing with the huge amount of data collected by the studies. The first workshop of the Data Management Group was held in 2010, and network formed a plan for a yearly workshop on Data issues for the data specialists. The network thus created a forum for them to discuss common problems, and this forum will last long after the end of the ESF funding.

The network has always welcomed new studies that brought in more expertise to be shared with other cohorts. Many activities have been organised to foster the exchange of expertise and encourage international collaborative projects.

The achievements of the network have been to increase awareness and knowledge, by providing a forum for discussion and an easy access to world-class expertise in the field. It created and consolidated a scientific community working on a very specific field and producing data. It also participated in the convergence of cohort studies in Europe and in promoting the comparability of data at European level on a policy-relevant issue: child development.

2. RNP activities: scientific quality and impact

With activities ranging from scientific workshops, conferences and exchanges visits, EUCCONET fulfilled its objectives of the animation of the Birth and Child Cohort European communities.

2.1 Scientific workshops

EUCCONET gave the priority to the organization of scientific workshops, bringing together 30 to 50 persons around a specific issue related to cohort management or research. Thirteen scientific workshops were held in 10 different cities in 8 separate countries, between February 2009 and December 2012, organized by fifteen different teams and bringing more than 700 participants to exchange and engage in a comparative reflection process. In accordance with EUCCONET's objectives, workshops addressed methodological aspects related to cohort management, as well as attempts of substantive thematic comparisons.

EUCCONET participated to co-fund three scientific conferences, in partnership with the SLLS, which provided a forum for some of the research on cohort studies to be reported.

Scientific programming of the network was organized through open calls within the network which were discussed by the steering committee members. The first workshop of Paris dedicated a full day to the network organization and played an important role in the project orientations. On that occasion, partners were introduced and addressed the issue of the communication strategy of the network, particularly as regards the creation of a EUCCONET website and the collaboration with other European cohort networks and projects. In the afternoon, partners were invited to express their views and expectations for the network in an open discussion chaired by both EUCCONET Steering Committee chairs Heather Joshi and Henri Leridon. The discussion was based on a survey which was conducted in 2008 among key partners of the network. The survey proposed several themes for each of which people were supposed to report if they would like to participate in a working group and/or whether they would like to attend to a meeting on the subject. Themes which gathered the most interest were discussed and by the end of the day eight interest groups and their leaders were identified to organise further activities in 2009 and 2010. The outcomes of this day's discussions were later approved by the EUCCONET Steering Committee which met alongside the workshop.

SW1 - Workshop on Consent and Network Objectives, 17-18 February 2009

Organiser : Henri Leridon, Claudine Pirus, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques

The first EUCCONET meeting addressed two issues: the programming and functioning of the network as well as a first content-oriented seminar on the issue of obtaining cohort participants' consent. This section focuses on the scientific activity related to this event.

Identified issue :

The issue of Consent is of prime importance for cohort studies, since the participants' consent is an obvious prerequisite to starting a cohort study in the first place. In the case of child cohorts, the issues around consent raise specific questions: Who should give the consent: one or both parents? Should children be at some point asked for their personal consent? And more generally, the issues of the form and content of the consent, and how to communicate with the families were also addressed. Several European cohort representatives presented the way they secure consent in their studies. Notably, the failure of the Swiss project, SESAM illustrated the obstacles that can be met while planning to create a cohort. This workshop was very timely for the French organisers of the meeting which were still in a preparatory phase to the launch of the first cohort wave.

Conclusions:

The round of discussion recognised that different ways of securing consent depend greatly on the study design but also on the rules that can be imposed on the researchers by the Ethical Committees and/or the State. It is very important to be aware of the legal context surrounding all cohort related issues and also of all the necessary procedures. This workshop helped all participants realize the many possible ways to secure consent but most of all apprehend differently their local situation as regards rules and authorizations.

Along with securing the initial consent, the importance of communicating with the participating families all along the study has clearly been underlined. Special material should be developed for children and parents so as to explain the objectives and the functioning of the study, and also to ensure their continuing involvement in it. The material can present the results of the study, which helps people realize to what they contributed, but also prepare them to the coming of a next stage of interviews.

Since the topic of consent is closely intertwined with the one of communicating with the participants, it also raises the issue of adapting to the local context. Nowadays cities and countries are multicultural and if the study wants to be representative of the population, it should take care to include immigrant communities. This may require sets of documentation in different languages or the interviewers to follow specific training for intercultural communication.

This represents expense lines which have to be thought of at the very beginning of the study design. The session was also an occasion for the participants to discuss the issue of whether or not to include the fathers, and whether it should be the biological and/or caring father, but mostly the answer to this question obviously depend on the research focus of the study.

SW2 - "The role of fathers in Child Cohorts", 24th February 2010

Organiser : Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Harald Werneck, Department of Developmental Psychology and Psychological Assessment, University of Vienna

Identified issue:

At the early stage of children's development, most cohort studies interview the parents in order to have information on the child's environment and behaviour. In most cases mothers are more involved in the study than fathers – a finding, which raises the issue of fathers' role in cohort studies. Since they are likely to bring in another view of their child than mothers', it seems highly desirable to get fathers involved. But seeking to add fathers' perspective is not easily done, particularly in the context of increasingly fragile family structures. Given considerable rates of separation and divorce, it raises the question whether the biological father or the everyday-caring father should be taken into account. The answer to this question depends at least partly on whether the focus is on genetic resemblance or children's day-to-day social environment and exposure. How should fathers be included in the studies? How should cohort studies deal with a couple's break-up, new unions and non-resident fathers, etc.? The aim of this workshop was to try to find answers to these questions. Specific problems connected with the role of fathers in child cohorts were defined, possible solutions discussed; experiences and knowledge on how to handle these questions in praxis were shared and considered. So the workshop helped create a scientific community working in the specific field of the role of fathers in child cohorts. Systematic reports from relevant cohort studies were the main basis of the workshop, with, in addition, inputs from invited guest speakers.

Conclusions:

All presentations triggered interesting discussions on the place that fathers should be given in cohort studies. Of course the primary objective of each study will determine to what extent fathers will have to be included or not. Studies which have a greater psychological and sociological focus will be more prone to require a participation of fathers in order to observe the evolution of family dynamics and determine the impact of father behaviour on the children's development. Whereas studies which focus on health issues and biological development will not consider the father to have to play a big role in the study, apart from giving some biological samples or making measurements at some point. The funding of the study comes also into question when one considers including fathers in a cohort study. For example the Education Department of the Scottish Government, which finances the

Growing Up in Scotland study, apparently does not find particular interest in including fathers for their specific research purposes.

When one wants to look at household and family dynamics, observe different parenting experiences and perceptions towards the child, and determine the impact of the child's environment on his/her outcome or development, the implication of the father principally, or in fact of any other direct care giver, is preferable. Studies which have been working with fathers have had very significant results concerning their impact on the child, which should encourage for more research on this area. All the more so since a great discrepancy exists between research on mother/child interaction and research on father/child interaction.

The potential benefit of including fathers in a cohort study is no longer contested, but it proves very complicated. Family structures have been changing a lot in the past decades, parents are more and more breaking up and constructing new relationships and this makes it difficult to define which partner should then be included in the study: the biological father or the day-to-day caregiver. Some studies decide to include anyone living with the child even part time, be it a grand-parent, same-sex partner, adoptive or foster parent etc, while other will focus primarily on the biological father. New study designs will offer the possibility to have reports from both the resident partner and the non-resident parent. As always the protocol depends on the research objectives to be attained.

One problem which arises though is how the analyse should take into account these multiple reports on the child, since every case is different and does not necessarily allow for comparison, and the anonymity required in cohort studies would not allow for case studies. Another issue is also how to deal with different reports from the parents, which one should be taken into account.

There we have to make a distinction between the questionnaires that concern the child's day-to-day life (tv time, bed time, hours of play...) and the questionnaires that deal with parenting styles and perceptions of the child's development. On very factual issues, it would be appropriate to suggest that parents get together and see which one of them would be best designated to answer each question. We know for example that fathers will mostly be more precise in responding queries on the household's income and budget management. Double reports should be avoided unless the child partly lives in a different household where different rules apply. However different reports on the perception of the child development can be revealing in the way each parent feels about and behaves with the child. Mothers mostly worry more and therefore will be more protective and intrusive. Fathers on the other hand while seeming more aloof, will maybe give more space to the child to express him/herself. These are all parenting feelings and behaviours that are worth being studied and compared, in relation to each other to see the differences between mothers and fathers in the feeling of being parent, and also in relation to the children to see the impact of the parents' behaviour on their development. Evidence also shows that there is a relationship between a child's temperament development and the quality of the parental partnership.

The protocol used to collect the data also comes to mind when investigating the role fathers should have in a cohort study. Proxy data always proves to be uncertain, and therefore if data should be collected on fathers, they should be directly contacted. But still discussion remains between the validity of self-completed questionnaires as opposed to assisted completion and face to face interviews, which also allows for observation reports from the interviewers who can be trained for this purpose. But of course this kind of data collection is very fund and time consuming, also in the phase of analysis. The different modes of data collection and their validity is a big issue for cohort studies, suggested for further discussion in another specialised workshop.

The major issue is still to actually get the fathers to participate. Most studies that want to include fathers always have very low response rate, so the reflection should be on how to recruit them and keep them in the sample. Face-to-face and telephone interviews come to be more successful as regards fathers, and when possible financial incentive also helps. It always gets back to how a study should communicate with sample members to keep them interested in the study and show them the importance of their participation on the research results. This particular theme of limiting attrition, tracking cohort members and communicating with families is also the subject of another specialised EUCCONET Workshop.

SW3 - Data Management Workshop, Bristol, 9-10 March 2010

Organiser : Andrew Boyd, University of Bristol

Identified issue:

Cohort studies are complex projects that generate vast amounts of data over long periods of time. These data need to be organised and secured in a way which enables the long-term follow up of the study families, archiving of data and the provision of data for complex research purposes. The challenges faced by data teams in cohort studies across Europe are similar, however these staff are potentially less likely to meet and interact with their peers as they are often administrative or contract based rather than researchers.

The call for establishing a 'Data Management Interest group' came out of the meeting of the EUCCONET steering group in Paris in February 2009. The group debated which topic areas would benefit from the establishment of a peer networking group and the use of EUCCONET resources to promote the group aims.

The 'Data Management Interest Group' group aims are:

- Establish a group and provide a forum for specialist data staff from child cohort studies to discuss topical issues and to identify and share best practice.
- To use the information gained to encourage the development of templates outlining 'generic' systems of use in cohort studies and the identification and development of standards within the field.

Conclusions:

The 2010 workshop provided a starting forum for data specialists to meet and discuss their methodologies, the barriers they face and solutions they have developed. The workshop was aimed primarily at data managers as well as specifically database administrators, database designers and data processors from the bio-informatics field. 42 delegates representing 12 European child cohort studies attended. To broaden the knowledge and experience present at the workshop the field was expanded to include two US panel studies as well as representatives from 'NatCen' and 'ScotCen', UK based social research agencies.

Speakers and topics were selected from nominations made from the delegates. Each session comprised an introductory presentation outlining systems or topic areas, followed by round table discussion. To address the aim of developing a 'generic system template' it was decided to identify and focus on a system that is common to almost all cohort studies– the 'administrative' database. This system is used to maintain a record of contact and participation of cohort members and generally underpins the mechanisms used to distribute data collection tools. System design was debated at a parallel sessions aimed at the database designer and supported by a survey sent to all studies in advance. The session concentrated on identifying common elements of a 'generic' system and tried to identify best practice.

Feedback from delegates suggests that much was learnt from the workshop. It also suggests that many delegates felt that they had few previous opportunities to meet with their peers and to debate these issues at a technical and specialist level. In particular the discussion around designing a generic administrative database proved to be popular and suggested a model with which to discuss other areas in the future. Additionally topics including 'open data access' and the future requirements of bio-informatics were felt very useful and sparked interesting debates and exchange of experience and proposed solutions.

The workshop outputs meet the aim of establishing a working group of data specialists. Group contact and discussion will be encouraged through group emails and the establishment of a dedicated discussion forum, via the EUCCONET website. Further promotion of the group and dissemination of findings will be made via application to conferences for presentation opportunities. The EUCCONET and methodology session of the inaugural Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies conference was identified as an appropriate venue.

SW4 - Tracking sample members in longitudinal studies, 1-2 July 2010

Organiser: Lisa Calderwood, Senior Survey Manager, British Birth Cohort Studies (Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education, UK)

Identified issue:

Minimising sample attrition caused by failure to locate sample members who move is a major concern for all longitudinal studies. The dynamics of residential mobility, and the processes related to it such as relationship and employment change, are of substantive interest to most studies and the failure to locate sample members who move may lead to biased estimates of change in these and other important domains.

The workshop brought together around fifty participants from child cohort and household panel studies around the world to share experiences and best practice in relation to tracking sample members in longitudinal studies. The rationale for inviting participants and presenters from panel studies as well as cohort studies in the workshop was that the location problem is a common problem in all longitudinal studies.

There were twelve presentations from longitudinal studies based in Europe, three from studies based in USA and two from studies based in Australia. The workshop also attracted delegates, who travelled at their own expense, from studies in Japan and New Zealand.

The workshop provided a forum for different types of longitudinal studies from around the world to learn from each other's tracking procedures and showcased some of the most recent methodological research on this. The broad range of countries and types of study represented highlighted the different institutional and legal contexts and the diversity of approaches on different studies, in particular between local area and national studies.

Conclusions:

The main impact of the event was to globalise best practice in tracking procedures. All participants went away from the workshop with ideas about how to adapt and improve their own study's tracking procedures as a result of what they had heard from other studies.

A secondary impact of the workshop was to enhance awareness of the survey methodological literature among survey practitioners and to encourage survey practitioners to evaluate their practice and to publish the results of their evaluations in order that enhance and broaden the knowledge base in this area. The objective of enhancing awareness was achieved during the workshop as the introduction by the organiser introduced all participants to the Couper and Ofstedal (2009) model and the workshop showcased some of the most recent methodological research by on this topic (Calderwood, 2010; Fumagalli, Laurie and Lynn, 2010; McGonagle, Couper and Schoeni, 2010). It was hoped that some of the workshop participants will feel be motivated to produce working papers or journal articles in this area.

In terms of future directions, there is a clear need greater evaluation of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the tracking procedures used on longitudinal studies. In addition, it was felt that gathering systematic feedback from study members about the materials that are produced for them would be beneficial.

SW5 - "Early Childhood Educational Measures - Methods of Data Collection and Instruments in the MCS, ELFE and NEPS", 24-26 January 2011

Organiser: von Maurice, Jutta & Schlesiger, Claudia, National Educational Panel Study, NEPS, University of Bamberg

Identified issue :

The goal of the workshop was to inspire each other and make each other aware of challenges, obstacles and problems occurring in this very special field of research. The workshop was gathered by the NEPS cohort team, which focus lies on competence development, learning environment, educational decisions, the influence of migration background on education and returns to education. The NEPS cohort was launched in response to the lack of educational studies in such a longitudinal design, since most studies have been cross-sectional so far (e.g. PISA).

Conclusions:

The workshop gave the opportunity to each participants to present their cohort design, and to discuss their approached in assessing early childhood educational measures. Three of the participants attended from the ELFE (Etude Longitudinale Française depuis l'Enfance), two scientists joined from the MCS (Millennium Cohort Study) and about two dozen of the NEPS (National

Educational Panel Study) representatives. Following general presentation, the focus areas were sampling, field procedure, cohort maintenance, and the interviews and questionnaires for parents and day-care-givers. On the next day the direct measurement, including videos, from the first years up to kindergarten were central issues. In the afternoon, a special session on possibilities of cooperation in the three panels was held. Main fields of cooperation could be the exchange of items and instruments concerning early language (e.g. expressive vocabulary), extra-familial day-care (e.g. to compare systems of early education and early day-care), the use of the subtest “picture similarity” of the British Ability Scales in the NEPS (as it has been used / will be used in the MCS / the ELFE), the use of the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire and also cooperation with other cohorts/stages of the NEPS and the MCS. The following day, literacy, language and metalinguistic skills as well as the interview of parents and teachers were addressed.

In each session the expert groups of the different projects presented their approaches and goals and consecutively. A discussion followed to make things clear and give suggestions. Whereas a minority of aspects was unique to each cohort study most topics could be discussed gainfully.

The first and second session of the workshop was about sampling, field procedures and cohort maintenance in the birth cohorts. The presentations and discussions were very fruitful especially for the both panels whose starting wave has to come yet. So the ELFE and the NEPS learned from ideas, plans and experiences of the MCS.

Possibilities of further cooperation in the three panels could be the exchange of items and instruments concerning early language (e.g. expressive vocabulary), extra-familial day-care (e.g. to compare systems of early education and early day-care), the use of the subtest “picture similarity” of the British Ability Scales in the NEPS (as it has been used/will be used in the MCS/the ELFE), the use of the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire and also cooperation with other cohorts/stages of the NEPS and the MCS.

An important aspect for ELFE was the educational evaluation (especially in the fields of language, math and science) that was under preparation for the 5-year-olds in France. Here the ELFE invited experts of these fields to organize further exchange and cooperation.

The EUCCONET-Workshop “Early Childhood Educational Measures: Methods of Data Collection and Instruments in the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), Etude Longitudinale Française depuis l’Enfance (ELFE) and National Educational Panel Study (NEPS)” was one important milestone in launching further cooperation between these three panels. All participants agreed in fostering further meetings and exchange, self-organized or during other conferences to come, e.g. the annual meeting of the Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies to take place in Bielefeld in 2011.

SW6 - “MRC CAiTE Sequencing Workshop, Genetic sequence data and populations: where do we start?”, 16-17th March 2011

Organiser : Nicholas Timpson, Faculty of Social Medicine, University of Bristol

EUCCONET/ESF supported the participation of twenty-four researchers to the sequencing workshop hosted by the MRC CAiTE centre, University of Bristol.

Genetic sequence data are relevant to population health scientists because of their potential for advancing understanding of the determinants of health and disease and because they are increasingly seen as the next logical step – after genome wide SNP analyses – for assessing genomic variation in large cohort studies. The workshop intended to raise awareness of cohort researchers to an emerging issue.

Identified issue:

The workshop brought together some of the leading figures in genetic research to discuss the issues resulting from the most recent advances in population level genetic data collection and analysis. So called “Next-generation” sequencing technologies are enabling the collection of whole genome sequence data in participants of large epidemiological cohorts and case-control studies; this has important implications for population health research in terms of:

- (i) Understanding how genetic variation influences health and disease.
- (ii) Identifying genetic variation that can be used as valid instrumental variables for determining causal effects of non-genetic modifiable risk factors².

- (iii) Identifying genetic contributions to off-target drug side-effects³.
- (iv) Exploring the potential of genetic variation to add to risk prediction models for common complex diseases.
- (v) Clarifying important gene-environment interactions.

In comparison to the genome-wide approaches that have been used widely over the last 5 years the next generation sequencing technologies allow near to complete sequence capture and the potential to identify rare variants with moderate effects and variation currently not covered in genome-wide SNP chips. Furthermore, the profiling of structural variation and the application of similar technologies to the analysis of genome wide epigenetic marks (again across large numbers of individuals), will offer new insight into the importance of these mechanisms for risk of common complex diseases. At the same time this approach poses major challenges in terms of how to appropriately handle and analyse the data and how to develop best ethical guidelines.

- The aim of the workshop was to discuss, with qualified experts, many of the ethical, practical and analytical opportunities & issues surrounding the new sequencing technologies and their applications to epidemiological cohort studies. For a full guide to the meeting, please see the workshop handbook (http://www.euconet.com/?page_id=345).

Conclusions:

Throughout the workshop there were open discussion sessions on aspects relating to the use of next generation sequencing data in cohort studies. There was some concern as to whether functional studies will be adequate for the examination of large number of potentially functional variants that are going to be identified with the new sequence data being produce. Strict quality controls (akin to those used in GWAS for determining population stratification) will be essential at all stages of data analysis to avoid excessive type 1 error leading up to functional analysis of variants. It was hoped the same stringent QC measures could be adopted by those groups performing the functional analyses.

The utility of in silico prediction tools (e.g. SIFT6 & PolyPhen7) was discussed and decided that they should only be used alongside other measures of function and not as the sole measure owing to their current inaccuracy. The discussion leaders gave insight into their experiences of sequencing in large cohorts and trying to identify functional variants. Experience of sequencing the IPF1 gene in a large cohort of T2D cases and controls showed that bias can easily be introduced if variants in both cases and controls are not treated equally. Many of the variants predicted (in silico) to be functional in the cases were also present in the controls. Any variants identified in case or control must be fully followed up to rule out false positive findings.

Discussion also focussed on the methods by which data can be shared between cohorts and whether this data harmonisation would be useful in epidemiological studies. Owing to the specific nature of the new sequence data there were concerns over the sharing of sequence data because of geographical stratification. Of particular note, rare variants were acknowledged to be specific to particular regions or populations and indeed not sensitive to adjustment by conventional means⁸. These population/region specific variants could then lead to misinterpretation of association results. Large sets of whole genome reference sequences of different human populations such as those being produced by 1000 genomes will be essential in accounting for these population differences. Choosing whether to combine sequence data or not will have to be taken on a study by study basis and there will not be a single answer. The organisers of this meeting are associated with ALSPAC, which takes the lead in exploiting the genetic material they have already collected. The scientists assembled at the workshop are working on a technology which may well be adopted by other studies as more of them embark on collecting genetic data.

Overall, the EUCCONET/ESF sequencing workshop succeeded in bringing together key personnel from the international research community currently focused on the application of next generation sequencing in population based studies. Issues from the technicalities of sequence capture and analysis through to the complications and details of the ethical standpoints of these data were discussed in a forum conducive to conversation between the drivers of health research and epidemiology and to those centred on genomic interrogation. Other than the specific experiences and reflections mentioned in this report, key themes to emerge from this were (i) The importance in the assessment of data integrity, (ii) the importance of engaging effectively with those involved in

the determination of policy and ethical standing and (iii) the need to encourage similar research in population based resources, but only where it is appropriate (i.e. for many projects, the availability of public data sets such as 1000 genomes and UK10K and the tools to use these data with one's own study will be sufficient for many years' worth of follow-up and de novo analysis).

SW7 - "Surveying Children in longitudinal studies", 5-6 May 2011

Organisers: James Williams, Director, Growing Up In Ireland (Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin, Ireland), Kate Smith, Survey Manager, Millennium Cohort Study (Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education, UK)

Identified issue:

This workshop focused on issues related to the ethical and practical issues surrounding best practice in surveying children aged 9-15. These ranged from ethical issues relating to recruitment and informed consent / assent to practical issues of consultation with children and parents in advance of implementation, as well as those associated with age appropriate modes of data collection in a longitudinal study.

There is much literature which focuses on the practical and ethical issues involved when carrying out research with children (e.g. Alderson & Morrow, 2004 & 2011; Tisdall et al, 2009) However much of this work is qualitative in nature and focuses on small-scale and once-off studies. There is an increasing awareness that information should be taken directly from children, giving children a voice (the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). However there is little evidence on the different approaches that large-scale longitudinal studies are taking as the children in these cohorts are growing up and become actors in their own right, but before they have reached legal adulthood.

These issues cover the areas of: data collection mode, what is the best way of engaging young people and what use can these studies make of new technologies? With regards to the ethical and practical issues of surveying children, best practice highlights the importance of informed consent, however how is this practically implemented with a cohort of young people who have yet not reached the age of legal responsibility? As these children grow, how do these studies ensure their cooperation and participation for the future?

The workshop brought together those running longitudinal studies around the world in order to share experiences and best practice in relation to these issues. The programme for the two-day workshop included substantive presentations. The vast majority of the presentations were from child cohort studies based in Europe and one from the USA. There was also a presentation from a longitudinal study of school aged young people based in Europe. The rationale for the inclusion of this study as well as cohort studies is that they have already encountered many of the issues that the EUCCONET cohort studies will be experiencing and can share their knowledge.

Conclusions:

This Workshop was very successful in focusing on its stated objectives viz ethical issues related to recruitment and informed consent as well as aspects of retention and new modes of data collection in longitudinal studies of children.

The Workshop raised an awareness internationally of the need to ensure that child cohort studies must be undertaken with children and for children with a view to benefiting children and enhancing child outcomes. This requires us to set our longitudinal child cohort studies within the parameters of rights, responsibilities and protection, set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Securing and listening to the child's voice is fundamental to the implementation of child cohort studies (Article 12 on Children's Opinion and Article 13 on Freedom of Expression). The balance between child rights and parental responsibilities in terms of child protection is a delicate one. Raising its profile among researchers at meetings such as the EUCCONET workshop can substantially assist in ensuring that such considerations are incorporated into the work of researchers in developing child cohort studies.

Related to the right to participation among children are issues associated with children's advisory forums and advisory panels adopted by several of the child cohorts which presented at the Workshop. These provide an important input to formats for securing informed consent and assent by

parents and children respectively. Sharing of information on the ways in which informed assent/consent may be secured can only assist and improve the work we do.

Equally, sharing of information on retention and attrition minimization strategies can also help to ensure best practice procedures are adhered to with a view to improving data quality and consistency across surveys within ethically acceptable parameters. An aspect of this is the use of new technologies, particularly web and internet based, phone apps. and so on in the implementation of child cohort studies.

In terms of future directions, the workshop underlined the need for clear thinking on the ethical issues involved in child cohort studies and an international convergence to what might be agreed as ethical best practice in terms of balancing rights and responsibilities of all parties involved – the children, their parents/guardians and researchers. A harmonized approach to ethical procedures would ensure not only enhanced protection of children but would also allow international benchmarking of child cohort studies in this area. Such benchmarking could involve comparison of each cohort in terms of the extent to which consent/assent can be truly considered to be informed; the extent to which children are actively engaged in the research process and the degree to which data collection, recruitment and retention methods are age appropriate and consistent with best ethical practice. The ideal outcome would involve such ethical benchmarking exercises becoming standard in comparing the rigor of child cohort studies in the same way as response rates are currently used to assess their technical robustness.

SW8 - "Record Linkage Workshop", 15-17 June 2011

Organisers : Andy Boyd, ALSPAC Data Linkage Manager, ALSPAC (University of Bristol, UK) and Patricia Schreuder, MoBa Cohort Manager, MoBa (Institute of Public Health, Norway)

Identified issue:

The administration and investigative use of child cohort studies requires an enormous investment of time and resources, from funders, the research community and study participants. The scientific potential for a cohort study is maximised through the collection of broad, accurate and complete data. In most studies the scientific investigator needs to balance the advantages of data collection against limited financial resources. Administrative records have been used to maximise the ability of cohort studies to identify the causal influences on physical and psychosocial health, and thus help to ensure the scientific return on existing investment and cost efficient means of future data collection. The use of these records has increased as new technologies allow access to a broader range of electronically held records.

This workshop brought together researchers and study administrators from EU child cohort studies along with specialist speakers whose work is closely connected with linkage and cohort studies. The rationale for the workshop was to enable linkage practitioners and experts to share their experiences and provide insight into the attributes that can lead to successful linkage projects.

The workshop was designed with three distinct approaches to share and learn from each other's linkage strategies and methodologies:

1. To encourage the sharing of best practice and the development of a linkage focused network between primarily EU cohorts. There were representatives from 11 longitudinal child cohorts based in Europe with representatives from non-EU countries (one from New Zealand and one from USA) providing a wider perspective.
2. To provide summary training to enhance the understanding amongst the delegates of key methodologies in the field, including references to introductory texts and key publications.
3. To provide a forum for expert speakers to illustrate the work of some exemplar projects that demonstrate the common issues faced by linkage researchers within EU cohort studies, such as consent, participant understanding and privacy protection.

Conclusions:

The principal impact of this workshop was to discuss and share the best practice found across a range of EU cohort studies. Participants were seen to contribute to and take away new information which can be used to evaluate and shape data linkage strategies within each individual study.

Networking and sharing of best practice

The study update session facilitated introductions and networking, allowing participants to discuss and share the best practice regarding linkage activities found across a range of EU cohort studies. Participants were seen to contribute to the discussion and take away new information which can be used to evaluate and shape data linkage strategies within each individual study. Due to the breadth of study designs represented we were able to consider linkage applications from a wide range of perspectives.

Introduction to probabilistic linkage theory

The workshop participants were drawn from studies of all types and stages of implementation. While some study representatives had considerable working understanding of linkage methodologies others were at a planning stage or had access to national registries which systematically include individual level 'linkage'. To address this range of experiences the organisers incorporated papers designed to provide introductory level training on the history and principles of linkage methodologies alongside exemplar papers of linkage in practice. The McDonald paper provided participants with both a summary understanding of linkage methodologies and references to key methodology and exemplar references. This understanding was reinforced by exemplar papers of cohort based research based on these methodologies. The organisers received feedback that this summary was considered valuable and gave participants the understanding and resources to see the extended possibilities allowed by probabilistic linkage.

Feedback Question: What was the most useful presentation(s)/session(s) for you, and why was it so useful?

Feedback Answer: *Session on probabilistic matching. Currently we use deterministic matching to link to health data but in a couple of years we will most likely want to match to education records and will have to use probabilistic matching if the national student identification system is not in place for pre-schoolers*

The training objective was achieved, with the first and last paper of the workshop focused on the key Fellegi and Sunter probabilistic linkage model.

Participant Understanding and Consent & Privacy Protection

The papers presented by Ford, Brown, Jones, Ketende and Sanderson outlined varying aspects of privacy protection, information governance and the perspectives from the point of view of the research participant. The group discussed the importance of these considerations. How participants' understanding and perceptions interact may influence differing consent rates between linkage data sources and across different populations. Brophy reported that a children's focus group from the Environments for Healthy Living (EHL) study in Wales considered the study to form part of their NHS treatment and as such didn't require consent, however they did expect to be informed about the study and this use of their information.

Future Directions

There was agreement within the group regarding the importance of data collection via record linkage within a cohort study. It is hoped that enthusiasm from the workshop will lead to onward networking and dissemination of best practice with the aim of facilitating cross study research utilising linkage data. It was noted that there is considerable variation across EU countries in terms of the availability and conditions of access. The paper from Elias encouraged the delegates to join in the debate and described possibilities of how cohort studies could influence EU debate in this area.

SW9 - "Nutrition resources in longitudinal studies; what can we learn from each other?", 18-19 October 2011

Organisers: Kate Northstone and Pauline Emmett, School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, UK

Identified issue:

Detailed data on diet and nutrition has been collected on children (and their parents) in several European longitudinal studies. There is huge potential for collaborative studies using these resources which is virtually untapped at present. The purpose of the workshop was to increase our understanding of how the nutrition & diet resources of various longitudinal studies can be used to

their maximum scientific potential and to facilitate collaborations between the studies thereby adding substantial value to the data that has been collected individually.

The workshop brought together many experienced researchers and PhD students currently working on a range of nutrition resources available through European longitudinal studies. The programme for the two-day workshop was based on a large number of presentations which were split into two groups: the first group of presentations which took place on the first morning briefly described the nutrition resources that were represented at the workshop. The second group of presentations (straddling both days) was centred around on-going analyses and research results from the studies and it was divided into a number of subtopics. The final session of the workshop provided an opportunity to discuss how best to take things forward and encourage future collaborative project.

The workshop was attended by delegates from 11 European countries plus Australia, Japan and the USA, representing 14 cohort studies; a quarter of delegates were PhD students.

Conclusions:

The presentations were very well received with plenty of questions offered after each one. As a result, we are confident that the workshop raised awareness about a) the other European cohort studies that exist, which have substantial nutrition resources available and b) the wide range of research activities that are taking place across the world in nutritional epidemiology. Not all delegates were aware of all the different studies and the resources that they could offer to potential collaborators. Throughout the duration of the workshop there were many individual discussions during the available networking time. These primarily revolved around seeking advice on data collection and statistical methods, potential collaborations and clarification on individual's research.

We attempted to bring all of this together in the final session. We used this time to summarise the workshop, to identify the burning issues and gaps in current nutritional research and finally, to discuss the ways in which we could take possible collaborations forward as described above. Fundamentally, it was agreed that the biggest problems were related to a) the leadership of collaborative studies; who would lead and how would this relate to the individual studies? And b) the funding sources for these potentially large comparative studies that require substantial organisation and coordination. One possible way forward would be to influence the calls put out by the EU for future research projects. These are constantly up dated and there is potential to suggest important collaborative pan-European projects.

The general consensus was that the take home message from the workshop was clear: sharing expertise can only help to raise the standard of research output and spread best practice in the field of nutrition.

SW10 - "Combining Birth Cohort Data – Lessons from Past and Ongoing Studies", 29-30 March 2012

Organisers: Martine Vrijheid, Diana Van Gent, CHICOS project, CREAL

Identified issue:

European birth and child cohort research has resulted in an extensive amount of data on child health outcomes and risk factors. Recommendations have been made to combine data from cohorts in order to increase statistical power when outcomes or exposure are rare, or when new study designs requiring large sample sizes are applied (e.g. in the field of genetics). Data exchanges have been initiated as part of replication and comparison studies in order to improve causal inference. European cohorts are now increasingly working together encouraged by coordinating networks (such as ENRIECO and CHICOS) and European research projects on widely diverging topics (e.g. ESCAPE, EAGLE, MEDALL). Major challenges in these combined studies result from difficulties in the identification of eligible cohorts, in administrative obstacles, willingness and restrictions in sharing data, and in the harmonisation and standardisation of analysis data, amongst others. Various European projects have over the last few years made major progress in overcoming these challenges and drawing meaningful conclusions from combined birth cohort studies. Other projects were just starting analyses. This was therefore an ideal time to take stock of European cohort combination projects and draw lessons for the future.

The objective of this meeting was to discuss past and current methodology, opportunities and benefits of data combination. "How to combine birth/child cohort data" was the focus of a plenary

session inviting speakers with experience in combining data as part of some of the above-mentioned EC projects. This was followed by parallel sessions on specific topics for which case studies were currently evaluating issues around data pooling. These focused on:

- Fish consumption in pregnancy and fetal growth;
- Alcohol consumption during pregnancy and birth weight;
- Selected maternal occupations and fetal health;
- Social inequalities in preterm delivery;
- Prenatal environmental exposures (POPs) and birth outcomes.

Conclusions:

Participants who were currently conducting pooled studies as part of ongoing EC-funded and other projects, had been asked to put forward proposals for these parallel sessions. The meeting was thus of interest for all European cohort researchers involved in pooling data across cohorts or who were planning to do so in the future (for example those preparing for European project grants). The topics were chosen based on the current stage of various available case studies, and their relevance to known and arising public health issues in children, and birth cohort research.

The meeting was held over 1,5 days at the Center of Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) in Barcelona, Spain. A maximum of 12 EUCCONET members attended the workshop in order to facilitate effective discussion. Funding for participants from non-ESF member countries was provided by the CHICOS project. In close collaboration with the CHICOS project, this meeting formed the basis for a step-by-step guide to combined birth/child cohort analyses. The parallel sessions of the meeting focused on specific topics for data pooling and helped to develop specific protocols for data combination and analysis for these topics. The meeting also facilitated networking amongst cohort and encouraged new links through which the envisioned pooling of data will take place.

SW11 - “Metadata documentation for the survey lifecycle”, 25-26 June 2012

Organisers : Organised by Kelly Ward, Head of Data Management, (NatCen Social Research and Joan Corbett, Senior Data Manager (ScotCen Social Research) with support from Jackie Palmer, Data Manager (ScotCen Social Research).

Identified issue :

Standards have been emerging over recent years which provide a common framework for describing and capturing metadata. Metadata provides important information enabling users to understand the origin and structure of datasets. This serves a number of purposes both for secondary analysis but also to ensure appropriate capture of the study and potential re-use of information for other studies. An example is the Data and Documentation Initiative (version 3) whose primary aim is to document the whole of the survey cycle. This standard has been adapted and developed by academics and data archives; however the standard is complex and the DDI specific tools are often incorporated based on the needs of a specific project. This workshop aimed to bring together a number of specialists who have experience in setting up and working with metadata as well as those who are just starting out. Participants came from different origins including governmental bodies, in addition to big academic-based cohorts (Growing up in Ireland, Institut national d'études démographiques-ELFE cohort, Institute of Education, UK Data Archive, University Bamberg, Born in Bradford, ALSPAC, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, eHealth Industries Innovation Centre Swansea University, ScotCen Social Research, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, NatCen Social Research, University of Leeds, Department of Education, Growing up in New Zealand). The workshop was designed to share current experiences, showcase tools with online demonstrations and understand alternative metadata models and developments by inviting presentations from a range of delegates.

Conclusions:

The main aim of this workshop was to enable a range of specialists such as those working in academic research, data management and survey programming to share their own experiences of working with metadata. The day was designed as an open forum with presentations and question and answer sessions. Participants were actively engaged throughout the day and generated useful discussions to share experiences and take away new information which may be useful when

exploring metadata further. We received very positive feedback from participants about the range of presentations given and the shared experiences that they were able to take away with them. Some colleagues were at the very early stages of considering how best to use metadata and although we recognised that there was not one easy tool to use, the day enabled all of us to consider wider issues. We hope that the day facilitated useful networking that can continue outside of the workshop and we note that participants would welcome further workshops around this increasingly important issue.

SW12 - “Dissemination, engagement and impact”, 25-26 June 2012

Organised by Paul Bradshaw, Project Director, Growing Up in Scotland study (ScotCen Social Research) and Lesley Kelly, GUS Dissemination Officer (Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh)

Identified issue:

In the current financial climate, where difficult choices need to be made, the need for good evidence has come to the forefront. However, research evidence – including that available from cohort studies - is not always fully understood by its intended audience nor utilised to its full extent. Studies face challenges in getting their findings and data understood and used by the many varied audiences it is intended for, including research participants. The impact, and often the future, of a study will depend on the dissemination of the findings and the use of findings by policy makers and practitioners.

As longitudinal projects, demonstrating impact presents a particular challenge for child cohort studies. Often the true value of these studies and their data is not realised until many years after the project is launched. This means that any impact can be quite distant from the project’s initiation and first data collection. Thus it is particular hard to demonstrate impact in the short term.

Nevertheless, clear plans for research dissemination and evidence of impact are increasingly being requested by research funders. For example, the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) require impact to be considered in all funding applications. The ESRC categorise impact in three ways:

- Instrumental – for example, influencing the development of policy, practice or service provision, shaping legislation or altering behavior
- Conceptual - for example, contributing to the understanding of these and related issues, reframing debates
- Capacity building – for example, through the development of technical or personal skills

To achieve these kinds of impact, dissemination is increasingly required to go beyond publication of the research findings in a peer-reviewed journal. Instead, new and innovative methods and technology are required in order to reach out to a wider audience and to increase the influence of research in these – and other – ways. Such impact requires identifying and engaging with the right stakeholders and ensuring they are involved with the study from as early as possible.

Conclusions :

This meeting aimed to be a platform for EUCCONET members to learn about and share examples of effective dissemination and engagement with stakeholders and participants, and making an impact on policy and practice. Attendees were invited to give presentations covering a range of related issues. For example: who their key stakeholders are and how they were identified, what information is disseminated to stakeholders and what methods are used to do this. The programme included substantive presentations from cohort studies based in the UK, US and other countries (Growing Up in Scotland, Millennium Cohort Study, Growing Up in Ireland, Longitudinal Study of Young People in England, Born in Bradford, Young lives, The US National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth, ALSPAC) as well as expert input on assessing research impact, communicating research to policy and practice, effectively translating research for the mass media and using the arts to disseminate and engage (the Straight Statistics campaign, the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS), the Wellcome Trust Science Engagement programme).

Those attending the meeting heard about examples of novel and innovative ways of disseminating to different audiences, including the use of new media. Participants were also asked to illustrate how they influence policy makers and practitioners as well as demonstrate (or estimate) the extent to

which they feel this has been successful, describing how they measure and demonstrate impact and the challenges this brings.

Whilst many of these activities are similar across different studies – such as paper-based reports or summaries, seminars and conferences, websites - a range of different, innovative ideas for sharing results with a range of audiences were described. The local studies – Born in Bradford and ALSPAC – in particular demonstrated how they increase local awareness of, and interest in, their research – e.g. through local press and events - and establish it as a recognised part of the local community. For both of these studies, much of this was done by making use of the research participants themselves, using photographs of them or events happening in their lives to generate awareness of the research. Social media – such as Twitter and Facebook - and the web more generally, for example, via blogs - was recognised as playing increasingly larger roles in dissemination and the presentations and discussion demonstrated how they can be used in different ways for different purposes. Examples of audio-visual methods – such as podcasts or video interviews - and broadcast media approaches, including television and radio programmes, were also demonstrated with the pros and cons of these approaches discussed. Many of the studies have resource dedicated to dissemination and impact in the form of a Dissemination or Communications Officer. This was considered essential for maximising reach and impact. Yet, at least one study had already lost this resource due to funding cuts. Some wider discussion was had around where responsibility should lie for dissemination and impact – with the team responsible for producing the data or with external analysts or an external ‘knowledge broker’ such as IRISS. This also raised the issue of whether it was always necessary for researchers to be demonstrating and thinking about impact. A number of presentations discussed, specifically, the challenges associated with defining, measuring and demonstrating impact. These challenges were present both amongst research teams - either in having to measure impact themselves or being subject to an external evaluation which was attempting to do so – and amongst funders. The definitions of impact provided by funding bodies were helpful, to some extent, but left considerable scope for interpretation. Overall, the notion of impact and its measurement was still felt to be elusive. Nevertheless, the details and merits of a number of methods for impact assessment were shared and discussed, with particular consideration given to the contribution approach. Feedback from participants indicates that the meeting overall was found to be both interesting and useful by all. As the above detail has demonstrated, the cohort studies were actively involved in the programme, which also benefitted from expert input from others not directly involved in child cohort research. New collaborative links have been established, particularly between those individuals responsible for the dissemination activities of each of the studies, and a full range of potential opportunities for new and innovative dissemination activities designed for different audiences, was shared between the studies and the relative merits of each discussed. Participants left the meeting aware of new methods for dissemination and with new ideas for their own studies. For example, for some there was a need to consider whether cohort members and other research participants should be more involved in dissemination and engagement activities. It would be helpful to maintain links between those who met via an email network so that new findings, new ways of engaging audiences and other news can be shared. Steps have already been taken to establish this virtual network. This is an important, emerging topic which will continue to grow in importance as the many newer cohort studies begin to analyse and publish their data, and as that data, and the opportunities to exploit and share it, increase.

“Longitudinal studies are generating a wealth of learning and evidence which is highly relevant for policy debates. There is a wealth of experience in communicating research and engaging with stakeholders – it’s great to see and hear how others are working. Networking, peer support, sharing and learning is invaluable for good practice. Assessing impact is a challenge- but planned approaches can improve the things we do.” Quote from meeting participant

SW13 - “DOHaD 2012 satellite meeting: New developments in developmental epidemiology”, 6-7 December 2012

Organiser: Vincent Jaddoe, Erasmus University, Netherlands

EUCCONET supported the participation of twelve researchers in this large international workshop.

Identified issue:

The Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) hypothesis proposes that adverse environmental exposures in early life lead to early developmental adaptations. These adaptations may be beneficial for short term survival, but may lead to diseases in later life, such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, respiratory diseases and psychopathology. This hypothesis was primarily based on historical cohort studies, but led to the start of numerous prospective pregnancy and birth cohort studies in different countries all over the world. Many of these cohorts started in European countries since 2000, and have led to hundreds of publications in peer reviewed journals and to important insights in determinants and consequences of various developmental trajectories in fetal life and early childhood.

Conclusions:

The main objective of the DOHaD 2012 satellite meeting was to bring junior and senior researchers together who are involved in Developmental Epidemiology research in Europe. There were state of the art and recent research lectures. Plenary and parallel session were focused on adverse fetal exposures; air pollution; asthma; behavior; bone health; brain imaging; cardiovascular development; cognition; epigenetics; genetics; growth; metabolomics; methodological approaches; nutrition; obesity; placenta function. More than 200 researchers from more than different 20 countries participated in the meeting. These researchers came from various European cohorts which participate in the EUCCONET Consortium. During the meeting, various opportunities to develop European and other international collaborations were discussed.

2.2 Scientific Conferences

Three conferences were co-organized in the framework of the network. All were organized in collaboration with the Longview think-tank and supported the development of the Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Study (SLLS).

Conf1 - Developments and challenges in longitudinal studies from Childhood conference, Cambridge, 22-24 September 2010

Organiser : Longview and EUCCONET

The scientific meeting on 22nd -24th September 2010 in Clare College, Cambridge, addressed the EUCCONET aims of:

- raising the visibility of birth cohort studies
- enhancing their quality
- initiating new and in-depth collaboration to share expertise

Experts in longitudinal enquiry from across the developmental, health, social and statistical sciences presented papers with a major focus on early childhood, its impact on functioning later in life and on the methodology and practice of longitudinal study.

The meeting was funded through a co-funding arrangement between EUCCONET and the Think Tank Longview, and organised jointly by EUCCONET and the international 'Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies' (SLLS), for which this was the inaugural meeting. 168 academics participated of whom 141 were based in Europe and 27 in other countries, including 21 from the USA. The conference was oversubscribed and 5 people joined a waiting list for places.

Support for EUCCONET participants was provided in the form of 120 bursaries, of which 108 were awarded to European participants and 12 to participants outside Europe. Priority in the allocation was given to early career researchers and PhD students.

The facilities for the conference, supplied by Clare College, Cambridge, were excellent, comprising a large auditorium able to accommodate just over 160 people and four break-out rooms for group sessions and rooms for poster presentations. Accommodation was provided in the College.

To support networking at the conference, two receptions were held associated with the poster presentations in the evenings of 22nd and 23rd September. On Thursday 23rd September there was a conference dinner in the Great Hall of the college, at which the newly appointed Chief Executive of

the 'Economic and Social Research Council' (ESRC), Professor Paul Boyle, former member of the SLLS Executive Committee, gave the after-dinner talk.

The conference was preceded by a methodological workshop on longitudinal data analysis offered free of charge to participants. Conference proceedings were arranged in terms of plenary sessions, symposia, 4 streams of parallel group sessions and two poster sessions. There were three keynote talks (Professors Karl Ulrich Mayer (Berlin and Yale), Carol Dezateux (London), Bren Neale (Leeds); 16 symposia; 10 themed individual paper sessions; 2 poster sessions. One of the poster sessions was devoted to displaying information from EUCCONET cohorts and one of the symposia was a double session to showcase EUCCONET member studies

Feedback from the conference participants was supplied through completion of a short questionnaire. Of the 70 participants who responded, 74% rated the conference 'excellent', 26% 'good', none judged it 'average', 'not very good' or 'poor' and only 2% judged the conference too long and unbalanced between different types of presentation. The meeting may be viewed as a memorable and highly significant event in the development of the field of longitudinal and life course studies, to which ESF through EUCCONET made a major contribution

Conf2 - SLLS Annual conference, EUCCONET Symposium, 26-28 September 2011, Bielefeld, Germany

Organisers : SLLS and EUCCONET

The 2011 conference took place at Bielefeld, Germany, September 26-28. A steering committee meeting of the EUCCONET network was organized on that occasion. The concurrence of these two events had two purposes:

- i. to encourage SC members to attend the committee by giving them the opportunity also to attend the conference. With this in mind, a special child cohort related programme was organised on the first day. This started with a keynote speech from Hans Peter Blossfeld, the director of the very ambitious German Education Panel Study. The committee meeting was followed by a EUCCONET-sponsored symposium on comparative analysis of child cohort data;
- ii. to enable the invitation of more stakeholders to participate in the discussions about the programme of EUCCONET activities and its final conference.

The SLLS conference brought together nearly 200 people in Bielefeld, Germany, who contributed around 170 papers or posters. Participants enjoyed the interdisciplinary and international exchange of ideas in the well-appointed setting of a converted linen mill. The general theme was "Life Course and Social Change: Interdisciplinary and international Perspectives". The final programme can be found on the SLLS website (www.slls.org.uk).

The funding contributed by EUCCONET for this meeting covered the cost of the participation of Steering Committee members and three speakers invited to present a symposium.. The contributions were selected to demonstrate or initiate internationally comparative analysis of child cohort data. This was an aspect of research on child cohorts which the Co- chairs were seeking to encourage, as it had not emerged spontaneously in responses to the network Calls. EUCCONET supported symposium were on:

- "Comparative Analysis of Child Cohort Studies"
 - Susan Morton SMB, Growing Up in New Zealand, University of Auckland
 - Lucinda Platt, CLS, Institute of Education
 - James Williams, *Growing Up in Ireland* Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin
- "From Nutrition to Aspirations and Self-efficacy: Gender bias over time in four countries"
 - Abhijeet Singh, Nuffield College, University of Oxford (Phd student)

Aside from the EUCCONET symposium, the work of European child cohort studies was well represented in the other sessions of the conference. There were an additional 23 presentations about studies belonging to the EUCCONET family. 11 were analyses of the UK Millennium Cohort, which had reached a stage where the analysis of the children's early years data was possible, by researchers in and beyond its home base and in a range of disciplines. The NEPS study was at an

earlier stage of its existence, but its team contributed three items about their development work. We also heard from two epidemiological cohorts in Germany, and received two papers from another biologically oriented cohort, PIAMA in the Netherlands. The other papers or posters were one each from ALSPAC in the Bristol area of Britain, Ireland, Scotland, the socially oriented cohorts in Denmark. These did not include all of the member cohorts, but the turnout suggested a thriving multi-disciplinary activity around the studies, which was ready to provide another crop of outputs for the 2012 conference. The abstracts for all these presentations can be found in the online journal *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, as a supplement to Vol. 3, No 1 2012.

Conf3 - EUCCONET/SLLS final conference: "Childhood and beyond: tracing cohorts over the lifecourse", 29-30 October 2012, Paris

Organisers : SLLS and EUCCONET

The final conference of EUCCONET was organized in collaboration with the Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies (SLLS) and ELFE (Longitudinal Survey of Children from French), the INED-INSERM UMR, hosted at INED (Paris). It gathered 283 participants from 25 countries. Financial support from INED, CNAF (Caisse Nationale d'Allocation Familiale) and of the Région Ile de France was added to the ESF funding. EUCCONET, thanks to its own funding and the funding raised, covered the participation of 60 persons (Phd students for the majority), as well as the participation of the SC members and three key note speakers :

- Jane Waldfogel, Columbia University, "Socio-economic inequality in childhood and beyond: international evidence"
- Ian Deary , University of Edinburgh, "From 11 to 90: following up the Scottish Mental Surveys of 1932 and 1947"
- Marie-Aline Charles, Inserm/ELFE, "Early origins of obesity"

The conference also included 145 papers in 44 parallel sessions and 49 posters. There were around 260 participants actually attending, though around 285 had registered. 23 cohort studies which had participated in other Network activities were presenting in the conference.

Because of its joint sponsorship the program gave prominence to studies of children. Two of the four parallel sessions (A and B) broadly covered the collection and analysis, respectively of such longitudinal data. The third strand (C) followed people into adolescence and young adulthood and includes papers of primarily methodological interest. Strand D covered outcomes of in mid-life and old age which often cover the whole lifecourse. The poster sessions, on the other hand were organized by alphabetical order of first author rather than the ages of the subject matter. This idea here was to provide for an interaction across topics which may otherwise be inhibited by the channeling of sessions into streams. See full programme and list of participants on the EUCCONET website dedicated page ([link](#)). A book of abstracts was finalized after the meeting and sent to all participants in the course of June 2013.

Conference Scientific Committee, EUCCONET/SLLS conference 2012, Paris

- Heather Joshi, Institute of Education, UK, EUCCONET and SLLS
- Henri Leridon, INED, France EUCCONET,
- Martin Diewald, University of Bielefeld, Germany, SLLS
- Walter Heinz, University of Bremen, Germany, SLLS
- Vincent Jaddoe, Erasmus MC, Netherlands, EUCCONET
- Mette Lausten, SFI, Denmark, EUCCONET
- Amanda Sacker, University of Essex, UK, SLLS
- Ingrid Schoon, Institute of Education, UK, SLLS
- Jan Smit, VU Medical Center, Netherlands. SLLS
- Stephen Stansfeld, Queen Mary's University London, UK, SLLS

The regular meetings to gather the scientific community working on these issues, facilitate collaboration and the implementation of joint projects is required. It was the goal of both organizations, SLLS and EUCCONET, and of the 2012 conference, following conferences Cambridge (September 2010) and Bielefeld (September 2011). The conference itself was an opportunity to encourage comparative work between cohorts and compare methods of analysis.

2.3 Short and Long-term exchange visits

Within the frame of the Research Networking Programme EUCCONET, travel grants were proposed to support the primary objectives of the network that are to foster international cooperations and exchanges of experience between cohort studies. Ten travel and stay grants were awarded during the project duration, following a bottom up approach after issuing a call within the network.

Name	Dates of Stay	Place of origin	Place of stay	Theme
John McDonald	10/01/2010 – 20/01/2010	Centre for Longitudinal Studies	International Agency for Research in Cancer	To attend the third workshop of the International Childhood Cancer Cohort Consortium (I4C). The workshop was held November 16–17, 2009 at the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France.
Carol Soloff	12/07/2010 – 22/07/2010	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Centre for Longitudinal Studies	The aim of this short visit grant was to produce a working paper comparing findings so far from the UK Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), and Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC). Data have been collected from children at comparable ages for both studies. The working paper was based on published, primarily descriptive research, in order to paint a picture of the similarities and differences between young children's lives in the UK and Australia at the beginning of the 21st Century.
Claudia Flexeder	13 October 2010 – 15 October 2010	Helmholtz Zentrum Muenchen, German Research Center for Environmental Health	CELSE 2010 – Conference of Epidemiological Longitudinal Studies in Europe, Paphos, Cyprus	The conference focused on longitudinal research, particularly on longitudinal methods to study aspects of human health and behaviour.
Pauline Raynor	09/02/2010 – 12/02/2010	Born In Bradford study	Professor James Williams, Economic and Social Research Institute, Principal Investigator	The main aim of the visit was to compare practice, share expertise and exchange ideas with a team of experienced researchers' working with a cohort of children of a similar age group as Born in Bradford.

			and Co-director of the National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland (NLSCI)	
Rachel Bakker	01/12/2010 – 28/02/2011	Generation R Study, University of Rotterdam	Professor Jorn Olsen, Aarhus University, Denmark	Research stay on paternal smoking and the risks of fetal and neonatal complications at the Danish National Birth Cohort.
Monica Guxens	28/02/2011 – 04/03/2011	University of Rotterdam	CREAL, Barcelona, Spain	Participation to meeting “Perform joint common analysis in 3 different European cohorts: Does total duration of previous breastfeeding in a mother, lower POPs levels, and improve reproductive outcomes for subsequent children?”
Maria Vassilaki	28/02/2011 – 04/03/2011	University of Crete	CREAL, Barcelona, Spain	Participation at meeting “Perform joint common analysis in 3 different European cohorts: Does total duration of previous breastfeeding in a mother, lower POPs levels, and improve reproductive outcomes for
Merette EGGESBO	28/02/2011 – 04/03/2011	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	CREAL, Barcelona, Spain	Participation at meeting “Perform joint common analysis in 3 different European cohorts: Does total duration of previous breastfeeding in a mother, lower POPs levels, and improve reproductive outcomes for
Leda Chatzi	28/02/2011 – 04/03/2011	HERAKLION, Greece	CREAL, Barcelona, Spain	Participation at meeting “Perform joint common analysis in 3 different European cohorts: Does total duration of previous breastfeeding in a mother, lower POPs levels, and improve reproductive outcomes for
Monica Guxens	19/09/2011 – 31/01/2012	Center of Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL), Barcelona, Spain	Department of Epidemiology, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands	The general aim of the exchange visit was to share knowledge and experience with the cohort experts of Generation R Study and establish collaboration between both projects. The exchange visit offered also

				opportunity to go deeper on the cross-country comparison by sharing methods, tools, and questionnaires, comparing practices and exchanging experiences, and evaluating and standardizing all the information on exposures and health outcomes already collected.
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3. European added value and RNP visibility

3.1 Research Data Managers and not only researchers

The data and information technology teams working within child cohort studies have specialized expertise to face a wide range of demands from both study administrators and researchers. These study demands require IT/data solutions to be developed using a mix of techniques from across the IT industry. Although individual studies may approach each requirement using different methodologies, the core functions of cohort data teams can be summarised as:

- Develop systems that allow staff to maintain contact with the study families, keeping a record of participation, records of appointments and study status.
- Develop systems that facilitate data gathering.
- Undertake the processing of data so they are clean, documented and secured.
- Develop systems to enable the access of data and documentation to researchers in a controlled and ethical manner.

Data teams have to maintain this functionality within a rapidly changing technological environment which offers both new methodological possibilities (the internet, optical text scanning and high throughput genotyping) and new challenges (IT security and data loss, quality control issues, vast amounts of data to process). Due to the technical nature of these tasks data staff, particularly those tasked with the provision of systems or data repositories, are often from an information technology background rather than a research background. While this has clear advantages in bringing information systems knowledge into cohort study administration these staff may not have access to a relevant peer network or prior experience of the problems in facilitating longitudinal cohorts.

Although data and information technology are vitally important to all cohort studies those who design and develop the data systems and solutions have few opportunities to develop links and share experiences, or have their expertise recognized. EUCCONET has provided funding and an opportunity for data manager, data-base designers, data administrators to establish an interest group for data specialists working within child cohort studies across Europe. This group encouraged discussion and provided an opportunity to seek advice and allow problems to be overcome.

The bottom-up approach sought for by EUCCONET allowed this issue to come at the forefront of its activities. The light-touch procedure for workshop applications provided by the ESF scheme was unanimously supported by the EUCCONET participants.

3.2 Adapting to a dynamic European context

Over the last few years, several initiatives have emerged to promote child cohort research. Not completely overlapping, they have nevertheless involved partially the same participants and shared the same objective to consider the structuring of longitudinal research communities, including child cohorts. Against this background, again, EUCCONET opted for cooperation and support rather than competition.

- Creation of the Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies (SLLS)

The Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies is an international learned society with a multi-disciplinary nature, bringing together members who have a shared interest in longitudinal and life course research. SLLS was established in 2010 and has over 400 members worldwide. EUCCONET supported the development of this international society by co-funding the participation of child cohort specialists to the yearly events of the network. While the funding of EUCCONET was limited to 5 years, the support to a long-lasting initiative such as SLLS was a way to organize a sustainable future for child cohort scientific exchanges. The collaboration culminated in 2012 by the joint organization of the SLLS yearly conference and EUCCONET final conference, which brought together more than 250 participants. The establishment of this international scientific society can be seen as a tangible legacy of EUCCONET's activity.

- CHICOS network and project

CHICOS (Developing a Child Cohort Research Strategy for Europe) is a project conducted within the Seventh Framework Programme for Research of the European Commission. Its overarching aim is to improve child health across Europe by developing an integrated strategy for mother-child cohort research in Europe. CHICOS aims to promote an inventory of all mother-child cohorts in Europe, to evaluate existing information on outcomes and determinants from these cohorts, to identify gaps in knowledge, and to develop recommendations for research action at a European level for the next 15 years, focusing on key areas of policy concern. The participation of EUCCONET at the first CHICOS workshop in Barcelona in April 2011 was very successful in achieving this. It also brought up more contacts, especially with cohorts specialised on child health and environment issues. Moreover another goal of the CHICOS project is to pursue the comparative analysis work that had been started within ENRIECO. Since EUCCONET is also very interested in international comparison of cohort data, new projects in this direction might come out of this collaboration. The recommendations of the CHICOS network were published in May 2013, and are supported by EUCCONET. (www.chicosproject.eu).

- Support to DOHaD network

The International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease was set up to promote research into the fetal and developmental origins of disease and involves scientists from many backgrounds. EUCCONET supported the participation of generalist cohort researchers to the 2012 international event.

- Worldwide network

EUCCONET has always paid attention to closely link up with child cohort initiatives from all over the world. The participation of colleagues from the US, Australia and New-Zealand who have a strong and long experience of cohort management has always been beneficial to the work of EUCCONET.

4. RNP management and finances

The activities of EUCCONET had a late start as the Coordinator was hired about six months after the official start of the project in May 2008. Upon making a first contact with the European studies to define a programme of activities in February 2009, the organization could be effectively launched in 2010. As a result, the spending in the first two years has been much lower than planned originally. But as the network becomes more visible and valuable, more activities are being financed and the expenses are taking a steep leap accordingly.

The money underspent in the first years was put aside to organize a big scientific event at the end of the project, while more activities were financed each year to meet with the growing interest to the network's activities and opportunities. Science Meetings were financed in 2009-2012, each encouragingly expanding the network and the definition of its activities. The lower spending in the first years also allowed the co-sponsoring of a major event which helped promote the network to a wider audience.

4.1 RNP coordinator

Since the beginning of the project a major cost item was the salary of the Coordinator, who is hired on a half-time basis at INED, where the Steering Committee Chair Henri L ridon is established along with the ELFE-Growing up in France study. The departure of Anne-Claire Blanchard at the end of 2011 created some difficulties as she was a very well identified contact for the network participants. She was replaced by Esther Nzali, whose profile was more administrative in view of the preparation of the large end of network conference. While the scientific programme was established until the end of the RNP by the SC committee, the involvement of Esther Nzali was therefore facilitated. It is to note that the coordinators played a major role in the organization of the events themselves in order to facilitate the involvement of the participants.

Costs related to coordinator salary

Period covered	Date of invoice	Cost
01/10/2008 – 31/03/2009	26 th May 2009	€ 9281
01/04/2009 - 30/09/2009	31 st August 2009	€ 9911.87
01/10/2009 – 31/07/2010	29 th July 2010	€ 15710.72
01/08/2010 – 31/12/2010	29 th July 2010	€ 8012.18
01/01/2011 – 30/06/2011	14 th June 2011	€ 9691.88
01/09/2011 – 31/12/2011	25 th January 2012	€ 6072.72
01/03/2012 – 30/12/2012	7 th February 2013	€ 15994.06
01/01/2013 – 30/04/2013	1 st July 2013	€ 3994.5

4.2 Steering Committee meetings

Five steering committee meetings were regularly organized during the project duration, back to back with science workshops. In general, they took place during a larger event that gathered the scientific community to which EUCCONET brought support.

Steering Committee task included :

- Setting up the RNP's scientific programme according to the Science Workshop proposals received;
- Overseeing the RNP budget

Steering Committee meetings

Title	Date
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SC 1 – Strasbourg	27 th May 2008
SC 2 – Paris	18 th February 2009
SC 3 – Cambridge	22 September 2010
SC 4 – Bielefeld	26 September 2011
SC 5 – Paris	29 October 2012

Steering Committee members

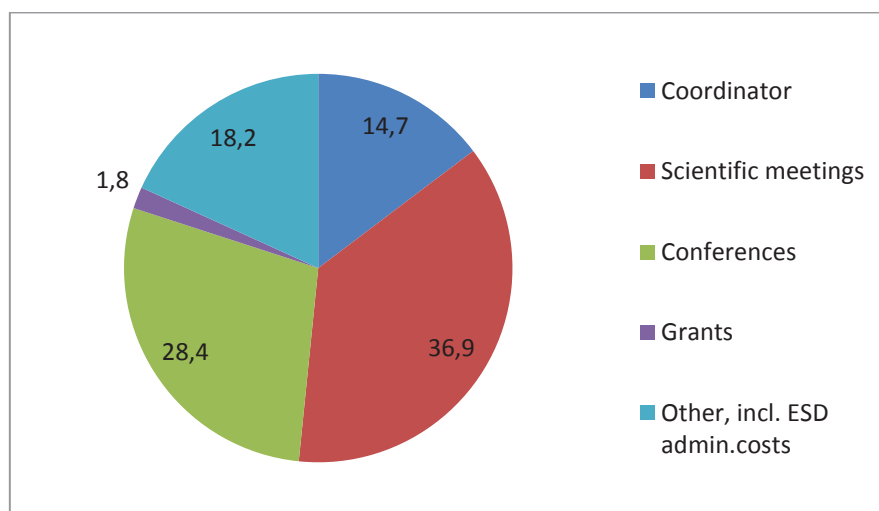
Country	Member Organisation	Steering Committee member
Austria	Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF)	<p>Professor Harald Werneck University of Vienna Faculty of Psychology Dept. Developmental Psychology and Psychological Assessment Liebiggasse 5/1 1010 Wien Tel: +43 0 4277 478 62 Fax: +43 1 4277 478 69 Harald.werneck@univie.ac.at http://homepage.univie.ac.at/harald.werneck</p>
Denmark	Forsknings- og Innovationsstyrelsen – Forskningsrådet for Sundhet og Sygdom (FSS)	<p>Dr. Tine Brink Henriksen Department of Obstetrics and Paediatrics Aarhus University Hospital Børneafdelingen Skejby Sygehus, Brendstrupg.v. 8200 Aarhus N Tel: +45 8949 6377 tine.brink.henriksen@ki.au.dk</p>
France	Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED)	<p>Dr. Henri Leridon Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED) 133 boulevard Davout 75980 Paris Tel : +33 1 5606 2104 Fax : +33 1 5606 2009 leridon@ined.fr</p>
Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	<p>Dr. Joachim Heinrich GSF - Research Center for environment and Health Institut für Epidemiologie Ingolstädter Landstrasse 1 85764 Neuherberg Tel: +49 89 3187 4150 Fax: ++49 89 8318 73380 joachim.heinrich@gsf.de</p>

Country	Member Organisation	Steering Committee member
Luxembourg	Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR)	<p>Prof. Dr. Michael-Sebastian Honig</p> <p>Université du Luxembourg Campus Walferdange - Route de Diekirch L-7220 Walferdange Tel: +352-466644 9660 Fax: +352- 466644 9535 michael.honig@uni.lu</p>
Netherlands	Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)- Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMV),	<p>Dr Vincent W.V. Jadoe</p> <p>Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam PO Box 2040 3000 CA Rotterdam Tel: Fax v.jaddoe@erasmusmc.nl</p>
Norway	Norges Forskningsråd	<p>Dr. Wenche Nystad</p> <p>Norwegian Institute of Public Health P.O. Box 4404 Nydalen 0403 Oslo Phone +47 23 40 81 84 E-Mail: wenche.nystad@fhi.no</p> <p>Substitute: Professor Per Magnus Norwegian Institute of Public Health P.O. Box 4404 Nydalen 0403 Oslo Phone + 47 23 40 82 11 Cellphone+47 92 68 31 19 E-Mail per.magnus@fhi.no</p>
Sweden	Forskningsrådet för Arbetsliv och Socialvetenskap (FAS) Swedish Council for Working Life & Social Research & Vetenskapsrådet (VR) Swedish Research Council	<p>Professor Johan Fritzell</p> <p>Prof in Sociology CHES Center of Health Equity Studies Stockholm University Karolinska Institutete 106 91 Stockholm Tel: +46(0)8 16 20 00 / 162921 Fax: +46(0)8 16 26 00. johan.fritzell@chess.su.se</p> <p>and deputy: Ass Prof Viveca Östberg Tel: +46 (0) 8 162650 vostberg@chess.su.se</p>

Country	Member Organisation	Steering Committee member
Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)	<p>Professor Alexander Grob Universität Basel Institut für Psychologie Missionsstrasse 60/62 4055 Basel Tel: +41 61 267 05 70 Fax: +41 61 267 35 26 Alexander.grob@unibas.ch</p>
United Kingdom	Medical Research Council (MRC) & Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)	<p>Prof Heather Joshi Director Centre for Longitudinal Studies University of London 20 Bedford Way London WC1H 0AL Tel: +44 20 7612 6875 Fax +44 207 612 6880 H.Joshi@ioe.ac.uk</p> <p>Lynn Molloy Department of Social Medicine University of Bristol Canynge Hall Whiteladies Road Clifton Bristol BS8 2PR Lynn.Molloy@bristol.ac.uk</p>

4.3 Budget overview

The total expenditure of the Project are estimated at 535 808.03 euros over the five year duration of the Project. The largest contribution by far was dedicated to the organisation of the science meetings (scientific workshops or conferences), which were considered the most suitable format of collaboration by the network participants. The ESF contribution to the coordinator costs has been essential to the smooth conduct of the Project.



5. Publicity and future perspectives

5.1 Publicity and publications

The publicity efforts have been very focused on targeting potential participants for network activities, in the enduring objective to make as much expertise available to the most people as possible. As such the collection of contact data from studies and the cooperation with other international networks was the primary task. The communication on EUCCONET activities extended to the growing circle of child cohort studies over the world. More and more studies participated to the activities and brought more input.

EUCCONET has developed its own website. It has been running since the beginning of the network activities. It will be repatriated into an Ined mini-site in order to guarantee its sustainability over time. A special feature is to give access to all the presentations given over the course of the project, and to workshop reports.

Another important part links to all studies involved in the network. The objective of creating a register of all European child cohort studies has been dropped upon realising that a similar project was being financed by the European Commission. However EUCCONET keeps close contacts to the CHICOS project that will be enhancing the www.birthcohorts.net website.

A EUCCONET mailing list has been created and keeps improving. It reaches now around 300 scientists and child cohort managers from Europe and beyond. It also reaches coordinators of networks that contribute to redistribute EUCCONET information, in particular the Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies (SLLS) members' network. A EUCCONET participant directory will also be published in a few weeks and made available on the website. The booklet of abstract of the final conference is also available, giving a comprehensive overview of on-going work in the field of Child Cohort studies.

The International Journal "Longitudinal & Life Course Studies" associated with SLLS provide an outlet for people across the world, working in the field of longitudinal research, to publish substantive and methodological articles on their work, within the broad framework of life course enquiry. It provided opportunities for publications of papers issued from the EUCCONET activities.

5.2 Perspectives

Perspectives for the network

While the network has reached formally an end on 30th April 2013, it was still thought important to gather the Cohort leaders for a last meeting aiming at linking up different initiatives that has developed in the recent years. A last workshop will take place in Paris on 8th July 2013 on the issue of international access to cohort study data. This will focus on developments since the beginning of the EUCCONET network. The objective is to gather several interesting initiatives rather than going into the technical issues of cohort data access organization.

The establishment of the SLLS as a long-lasting scientific forum for exchange will make it possible to capitalize on the work of the network. A specific subgroup of the Society could be dedicated to gathering child cohort researchers and managers.

Perspectives for EU cohorts

EUCCONET partners were represented in two projects submitted under a recent FP7 calls addressing the issue of European longitudinal childhood and youth survey (SSH.2013.6.3-1). Project should carry out comprehensive mappings of available data on children and young people's wellbeing (WP4 and

WP5) with a life course perspective, and makes recommendations on how to better address the issue of data on children and youth in Europe.

The European Commission is currently very concerned with the issue of child health and in search of comparable data on a European scale. At the same time, it is interested in the potential of child cohort studies to address the requirements of this specific research topic. Therefore many projects have been financed that focus on either the health of children or more specifically on longitudinal studies (CHICOS, ENRIECO...).

It is unrealistic at this stage to think about a large European Child Cohort. Building a nationally representative cohort, and even more financing it, are big challenges for all countries. Those who have launched such studies in the recent years (UK, France, Germany, Denmark, Finland...) are not likely to support new projects in the near future. Actually the key problem for these cohorts is to ensure their own longstanding financial support. The EUCCONET view is that efforts should be geared at the development of comparative methods of analysis between cohorts, and harmonisation between new emerging cohorts across Europe. In each cohort throughout Europe and beyond important work to determine the priority questions to be looked at each age of the child development, according to the national or regional contexts, and integrating an interdisciplinary stance have been carried out. This work should be taken into account not only for the design of new cohorts but also for recommending which data should be collected on children through official statistics or cross-sectional surveys.

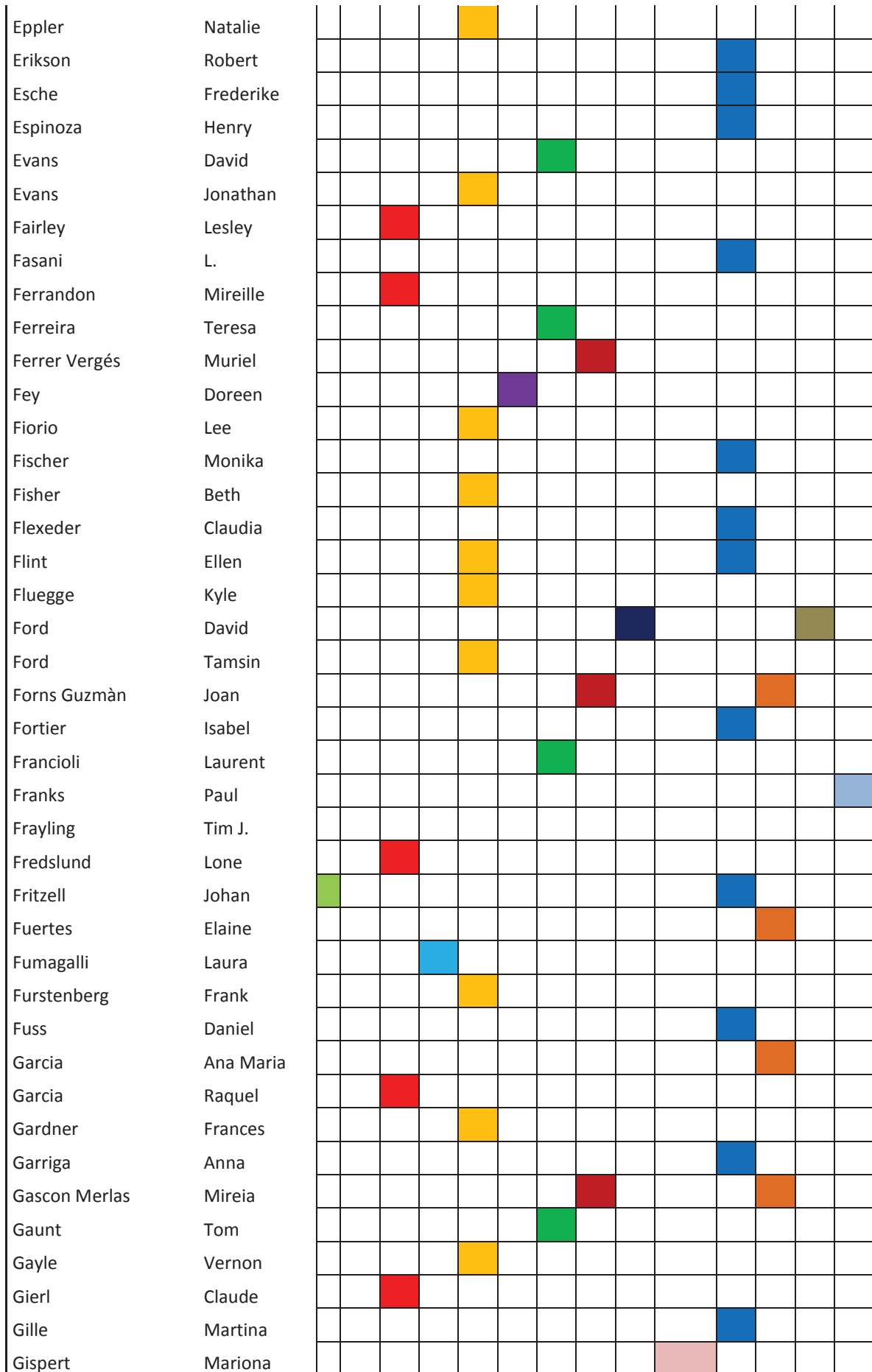
EUCCONET has allowed many contacts to be made and a much better knowledge of work going on in Europe. It has alerted cohort leaders to the necessity to engage in better dissemination of their data and management tools. Opportunities to propose joint research projects should now be enhanced for this community of researchers.

ANNEX 1 – List of participants to all EUCCONET meetings

EUCCONET Workshops participation

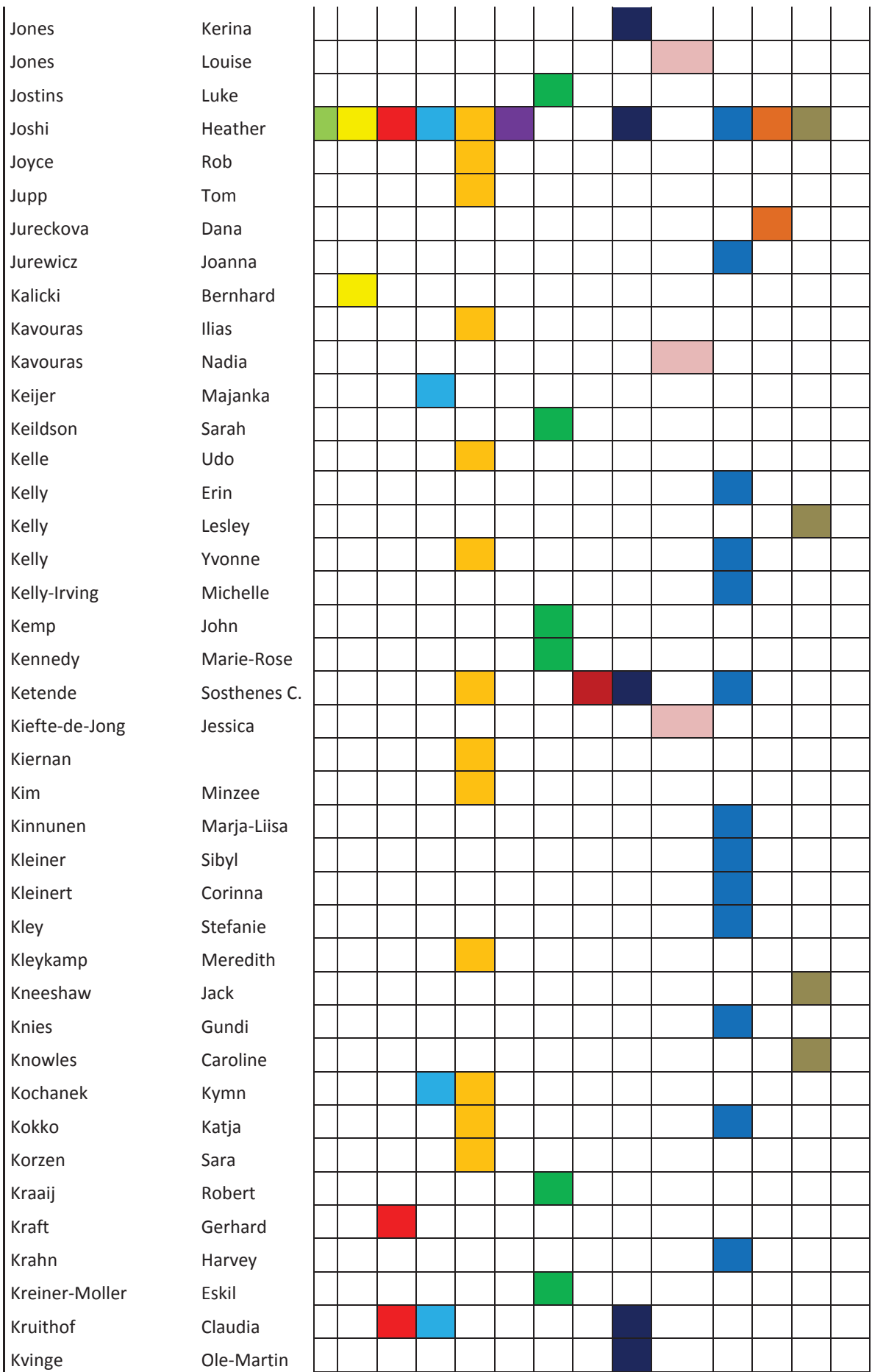
<i>Surname</i>	<i>Firstname</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Conf2	10	11	12	13
Al Moosawi	Suzana														
Abell	J.														
Akhtar	Shaheen														
Alfermann	Dorothee														
Alsaker	Elin														
Alvarez-Pedrerol	Mar														
Alwan	Nisreen														
Ambrosini	Gina														
Anderson	Carl														
Anderson	Simon														
Andres	Lesley														
Andrew	George														
Angel	Kate														
Angold	Adrian														
Appannah	Geeta														
Armstrong	Cole														
Ashby	Julie S														
Asimit	Jennifer														
Assmann	Christian														
Astell-Burt	Thomas														
Aybek	Can														
Baccarelli	Andreas														
Bachtell	Kate														
Baeumer	Thomas														
Baiocchi	Arturo														
Baird	Dennis														
Baker	Paula														
Bakker	Rachel														
Ball	Philip														
Baltzinger	Nathalia														
Baranowska	Anna														
Barfoot	Andy														
Barkow	Ingo														
Barnes	Matt														
Barratt	Ann														
Barrett	Jeffrey														
Bartley	Mel														
Bath	Sara														
Beaule	April														
Becker	Birgit														
Beham	Martina														

Burton	Jonathan					Blue																							
Burton	Paul																												
Buttaro	Anthony																												
Bynner	John	Green																											
Cable	Noriko																												
Cadar	Dorina																												
Cade	Janet																												
Cadorel	Sarah																												
Cagliesi	Gabriella																												
Calderwood	Lisa	Green	Yellow																										
Canoy	Dexter																												
Carmichael	Ama																												
Casas Sanahuja	Maribel																												
Cestari	L.																												
Chandola	Tarani																												
Chanfreau	Jenny																												
Chatzi	Leda																												
Cheng	Helen																												
Chevrier	Cécile																												
Chi Lun Lee	Arier																												
Chowdry	Haroon																												
Churchill	Amanda																												
Clagnan	E.																												
Clark	Charlotte																												
Cole	Tim J.																												
Collingwood	Aleks																												
Collishaw	Stephan																												
Connelly	Roxanne																												
Cooksey	Elizabeth																												
Copeland	William																												
Cordier	Sylvaine																												
Corey	Joanne																												
Correia	Sofia																												
Costello	E. Jane																												
Crawford	Andy																												
Crawford	Claire																												
Cribb	Vicky																												
Cross	Jennie	Yellow																											
Cusworth	Linda																												
De Assis	Maria Alice																												
De Bakker	Paul																												
De la Rochbrochard	Elise																												
De Lauzon-Guillain	Blandine																												
De Vita	Riccardo																												
De Vries	Robert																												



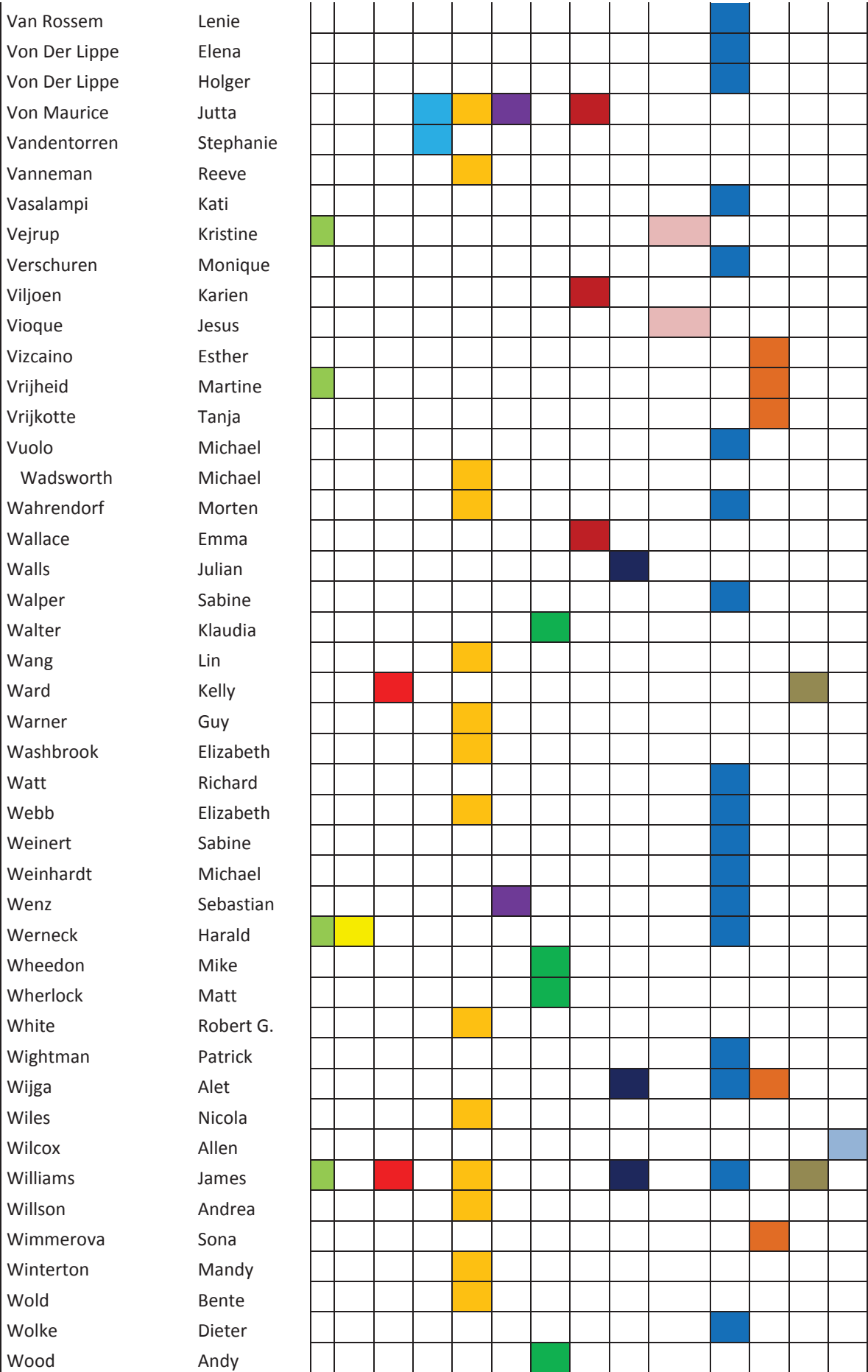
Gisselmann	Marit									Yellow													
Giudici	Francesco																					Blue	
Gjerustad	Cay																						
Godffrey	Keith																						Light Blue
Golding	Jean-Louis																						
Goldstein	Harvey																						
Goldthorpe	John																						Blue
Golley	Rebecca																						
Golsch	Katrin																						
González	David																						
Goodman	Anna																						
Goodman	Robert																						
Goodwin	Laura																						
Gore Langton	Emma																						
Govarts	Eva																						Orange
Graf	Tobias																						Blue
Graham	Helen																						Blue
Grant	Struan																						Light Blue
Gravier	Laure																						Olive
Grazuleviciene	Regina																						Red
Green	Michael																						Blue
Green	Rosie																						
Gregory	Arofan																						Olive
Grob	Alexander	Light Green																					Blue
Groh-Samberg	Amanda																						Blue
Grote	Janne																						Yellow
Guimard	Philippe																						Purple
Gumy	Julia																						Blue
Guthrie	Philip																						Green
Guxenx	Monica	Light Green																					
Hagesaether	Nina																						Dark Blue
Haggerty	Catherine																						Blue
Hahn	Inga																						Purple
Hamid	Nooraman																						Blue
Hammer Bech	Bodil																						Orange
Han	Meike																						Blue
Hancock	Neil																						Olive
Hanke	W.																						Blue
Harding	Carrie																						Red
Harding	Seeromanie																						Yellow
Hattersley	Andrew																						Green

Haugen	Margaretha							Red				
Hawkes	Denise			Yellow						Blue		
Hawkes	Nigel										Brown	
Head	Jenny									Blue		
Heckhausen	Jutta									Blue		
Heeney	Catherine					Green						
Heijmans	Bas											Blue
Heinrich	Joachim	Green						Red		Blue		
Heinz	Walter			Yellow								
Helgeland	Ingeborg									Blue		
Henwood	Karen			Yellow								
Heptinstall	Alicia										Brown	
Heron	Jon			Yellow								
Hillmert	Tessa										Brown	
Hillmert	Steffen			Yellow								
Hobcraft	John			Yellow								
Hoff	Dominic					Red			Dark Blue			
Hoherz	Stefanie									Blue		
Hohne	Anke									Blue		
Holland	Janet			Yellow								
Holmes	John			Yellow								
Honig	Michael-Seb.									Blue		
Hoogendoorn	Adrian									Blue		
Howat	Nicholas							Red		Blue		
Howe	Laura									Blue		
Humphries	Kerry			Yellow					Dark Blue			
Hurles	Matthew					Green						
Iacovou	Maria									Blue		
Iqbal	Shamrez	Yellow										
Irwin	Sarah			Yellow								
Iszatt	Nina										Orange	
Iversen	Roberta			Yellow								
Jaddoe	Vincent W.V	Green								Blue		
Jaeger	Kate							Red				
Jager	J. Justin			Yellow								
Jarman	Megan									Red		
Jarvelin	Marjo-Riitta									Blue		
Johnson	Jon					Red					Brown	
Johnson	Monica									Blue		
Jokisaari	Markku									Blue		
Jones	Elizabeth									Blue		



Morley	Kate				Green															
Morris	Andrew				Green															
Mortensen	Jakob		Red																	
Mortimer	Jeylan				Yellow										Blue					
Morton	Sarah																		Brown	
Morton	Susan			Blue	Yellow	Green									Blue					
Mougeot-Damidot	Henri																		Brown	
Muller	Sophie														Blue					
Murcia	Mario																		Orange	
Murray	Lynne				Yellow															
Murrin	C.														Blue					
Mushtaq	Mohammad		Red																	
Mynarska	Monika														Blue					
Naderi	Robert														Blue					
Nagy	Gabriel				Yellow															
Nandi	Alita				Yellow										Blue					
Needham	Caroline			Blue																
Neels	Karel				Yellow										Blue					
Ness	Andy																		Pink	
Netuveli	Gopal				Yellow										Blue					
Neumann	Irene					Purple														
Newby	P.K.																		Pink	
Nielsen	Kasper						Green													
Nielsen	Lisbeth				Yellow															
Nieuwenhuijsen	Mark																		Orange	
Nooyens	Astrid														Blue					
Norh	Ellen																			Light Blue
Northstone	Kate																		Pink	
Nunn	Susan														Dark Blue					
Nurmi	Jari-Erik														Blue					
Nybo Andersen	Anne-Marie																		Orange	
Nystad	Wenche	Light Green	Red												Blue					
Nzali	Esther																		Orange	Brown
O'Hare	Dara																			Brown
O'Muicheartaigh	Colm				Yellow															
Oeppen	Jim														Blue					
Oldrup	Helene				Yellow															
Oliveira	Andreia																		Pink	
Olsen	Randall				Yellow															
Ostergaard	Jeanette														Blue					
Pagis	Julie																		Red	
Palloni	Alberto				Yellow															
Palmer	Jackie																			Brown
Palmer	Tom						Green													
Palz	Doris	Yellow																		

Richards	Marcus									Blue		
Richter	Matthias									Blue		
Rienecker	Laura									Blue		
Ring	Sue				Green							
Rivadeneira	Fernando				Green							
Robinson	Sian								Red		Orange	
Robson	Karen			Yellow						Blue		
Rodriguez	Santi				Green							
Rodriguez	V.									Blue		
Rodriguez-Laso	A.									Blue		
Rogge	Benedikt G.			Yellow						Blue		
Rojo-Perez	J.									Blue		
Rosenberg	Rachel			Yellow					Dark Blue			
Ross	Andy			Yellow								
Rothe	Katharina											
Roumeliotaki	Theano										Orange	
Rowe	Richard			Yellow								
Rubio	Maria Carmen								Red			
Ruckdeschel	Kerstin									Blue		
St Pourcain	Beate				Green							
Sabates	Ricardo			Yellow								
Sacker	Amanda			Yellow						Blue		
Sahota	Pinki								Red			
Salmela-Aro	Katariina			Yellow						Blue		
Sanderson	Clare								Dark Blue			
Santos	Ana Cristina	Red	Cyan								Orange	
Sartini	Claudio	Red	White	Yellow								
Sato	Yuki		Cyan						Red			
Sauer	Lenore									Blue		
Schiewe	Anna									Blue		
Schilling	Elisabeth									Blue		
Schlesiger	Claudia			Yellow	Purple					Blue		
Schmaus	Gunter			Yellow								
Schmelzer	Paul									Blue		
Schneider	Silke			Yellow						Blue		
Schneider	Thorsten				Purple					Blue		
Schober	Pia									Blue		
Schoeps	Katrin			Yellow								
Schoon	Ingrid			Yellow						Blue		
Schöps	Katrin				Purple							
Schreuder	Patricia		Cyan	Yellow			Red	Dark Blue				
Schroeter	Wilko									Blue		
Schulenberg	John E.			Yellow								
Schuller	Tom			Yellow						Blue		



ANNEX 2 – Programme of all EUCCONET science meetings

SW1 - Workshop on Consent and Network Objectives, 17-18th February 2009

Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques, Paris, France

Programme

– Tuesday, February 17th –

Morning Session – 9h-13h - **PRESENTATION AND WORKING SESSION**

9h00 - Round table for the presentation of partners

11h -Health break

11h30 - Potential for collaboration between EUCCONET and other European birth/child cohort coordination projects

Martine Vrijheid, Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology

12h00 - Building up EUCCONET

Anne-Claire Blanchard, EUCCONET Coordinator

13h – Lunch at INED + Coffee

Afternoon Session – 14h-18h - Chairs: Henri LERIDON and Heather JOSHI

- **Discussion on the identification of thematic working groups and elaboration of a work plan**

- Wednesday, February 18th -

Morning Session – 9h-13h - **THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON CONSENT**

9h- SESAM - Swiss Etiological Study of Adjustment and Mental Health Study Design and Steps towards the Impossibility to Take-off

Alexander Grob, University of Basel

9h50- Issues of Consent in the Millenium Cohort Study

Katie Smith, Center for Longitudinal Studies, UK

10h25 - Health break

10h45- Informed consent - experiences from The Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study

Wenche Nystad, Norwegian Institute of Public Health

11h20- Community consent in the Born in Bradford birth cohort study

Neil Small and Pauline Raynor, University of Bradford

11h55- Securing informed consent – Growing up in Ireland

James Williams, Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland

12h30- Final Discussion

Afternoon Session – 14h-17h - **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

SW2 - The Role of Fathers in Child Cohorts, Scientific workshop, 24 February 2010
University of Vienna, Faculty of Psychology, Vienna

Programme

9:00–9:30:	Welcome and Introduction to the workshop
9:30–10:15:	Findings from a longitudinal study in Austria / Werneck
10:30–11:15:	Findings from relevant cohort studies in Germany / Kalicki
11:30–12:15:	Methodological considerations using relevant examples / Walper
12:15–14:00:	Lunch
14:00–14:45:	Generation R (Netherlands) / Lucassen
14:50–15:35:	Growing Up In Scotland / Marrayat
15:45–16:30:	ALSPAC (UK, Bristol) / Molloy & Duffy
16:45–17:30:	Millenium Cohort Study (UK, London) / Calderwood & Smith
17:35–18:20:	Born in Bradford (UK) / Raynor
18:20–18:45:	Final Discussion
19:45:	Dinner

SW3 - EUCCONET Data Management Workshop, 9-10 March 2010

University of Bristol, UK

Tuesday 9th March

10.00 – Registration & Welcome Coffee

10.30 – 12.00 - Workshop Outline & Introductions

- Chairs Welcome & Workshop Outline
- All study centres to introduce themselves and their study

12.00 – 13.00 - Session 1: Data Management & Documentation

- Jon Johnson: Birth Cohort and Panel Study Data Management and Documentation in the USA and England: An overview of the findings from the Survey Resources Network and pointers for future directions

13.00 – 14.00 - Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 - Session2: **Either** Data Access **OR** Administrative Database Design

Data Managers

Data Access

- Paul Snell: Moving towards open access data
- Inger Meder: The Danish National Birth Cohort – Data resources, linkage and data access

Database Designers

Administrative Database Design

- All DBAs to present a short (5 – 10 min) overview of their administrative database
- Discussion to identify common elements and establish best practice

15.30 – 16.00 - Coffee

16.00 - 17.00 - Session 3: Data Access

- Ingo Barkow: Controlling access to NEPS items via a user management system

19.30 - Evening Meal at the Bristol Lido

Wednesday 10th March

9.00 – Coffee

9.30 – 12.00 - Session 4: Future Directions in Bio-informatics

- Nic Timpson: Future directions in genetic epidemiology, impact on IT and Data requirements
- Sue Ring: Changing practice and regulations and the impact on laboratory IT requirements

11.00 – 11.20 - Coffee

- Dominic Hoff: The MoBa LIMS application

12.00 – 13.15 - Session 5: Security & Research Governance

- Anthony Philips : Meeting international security standards within a cohort study
- Andy Boyd: Structuring ALSPAC data around an 'ethical divide'

13.15 – 14.15 - Lunch

14.15 – 15.30 - Plenary: Closing Discussions

- Future Direction of the Data Management Interest Group
- Closing discussion & workshop evaluation

15.30 - Workshop Close

SW4 - Tracking sample members over time in longitudinal studies, 1-2 July 2010

Institute of Education, University College London, London, UK

Programme

Thursday 1st July

- 09:00 – 09:20 Welcome and introduction
Lisa Calderwood (Institute of Education)
- 09:20 – 10:00 The Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study
Patricia Schreuder (Norwegian Institute for Public Health)
- 10:00 – 10:40 The Danish National Birth Cohort: Cohort maintenance in Denmark using national registries
Inger Kristine Meder (Statens Serum Institut)
- 10:40 – 11:00 Tea and coffee**
- 11:00 – 11:40 The Generation R Study: Keeping track of all children and their parents during years of follow-up (Netherlands)
Rachel Bakker (Erasmus Medical Center)
- 11:40 – 12:20 Born in Bradford: Keeping in touch (UK)
Pauline Raynor (Bradford Institute for Health Research)
- 12:20 – 13:00 The great ‘lost when moved’ debate: the ALSPAC experience (UK)
Jennie Cross (University of Bristol)
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch**
- 14:00 – 14:40 *Growing Up in Australia*, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children: sample tracking
Carol Soloff (Australian Institute of Family Studies)
- 14:40 – 15:20 Tracking sample members over time: the HILDA survey experience (Australia)
Mark Wooden (University of Melbourne)
- 15:20 – 15:40 Tea and coffee**
- 15:40 – 16:20 Keeping in touch with mobile families in the Millennium Cohort Study (UK)
Lisa Calderwood (Institute of Education)
- 16:20 – 17:00 We’re Back: Locating respondents for an unexpected round of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing study (USA)
Peggy Daly (Westat)
- 17:00 – 17:30 Discussion and close
- 19:00 Dinner**

Friday 2nd July

- 09:00 – 09:10 Welcome and introduction
Lisa Calderwood (Institute of Education)
- 09.10 – 09.50 Cohort Maintenance on the French Cohort Study (ELFE)
Nathalia Baltzinger (INED)
- 09.50 – 10.30 Tracking Strategies in the National Education Panel Study (Germany)
Jutta von Maurice (University of Bamberg)

10:30 – 10:50	Tea and coffee
10:50 – 11:30	Maintaining a longitudinal panel: the NLSY experience (USA) <i>Kymn Kochanek (NORC)</i>
11:30 – 12:10	Maintaining a Cohort Study: the Growing Up in Scotland Experience <i>Louise Marryat (National Centre for Social Research)</i>
12:10 – 12:50	Cohort Maintenance: the Growing Up in Ireland Experience <i>James Williams (Economic and Social Research Institute)</i>
12:50 – 13:40	Lunch
13.40 – 14.20	The PSID tracking methodologies and results of an experimental design of a new contact strategy (USA) <i>Eva Lessiou (University of Michigan)</i>
14.20 – 15.00	Experiments with methods to reduce the costs and increase the effectiveness of between-wave keep in contact efforts on the British Household Panel Survey <i>Laura Fumagalli (University of Essex)</i>
15.00 – 15.20	Tea and coffee
15.20 – 15.50	Provisional results from an experiment to increase the effectiveness of between-sweep cohort maintenance mailings on the Millennium Cohort Study (UK) <i>Lisa Calderwood (Institute of Education)</i>
15:50 – 16:30	Discussion and close

SW5 - Early Childhood Educational Measures - Methods of Data Collection and Instruments in the MCS, ELFE and NEPS, 24-26 January 2011

University of Bamberg, Bamberg, Germany

Programme

Tuesday, 25.01.2011: "Birth Cohorts & Kindergarten"

9.00: Direct measures of early child development (1.-4. year) in panel studies

9.00: MCS (Heather Joshi)

9.30: ELFE (Jean-Louis Lanoë)

10.00: NEPS (Jennifer Lorenz)

10.30: Coffee break

10.45: Discussion: Direct measures

12.30: Lunch break

13.30: Cooperation MCS, ELFE, NEPS (Moderation: Thorsten Schneider)

14.30: ELFE: Evaluation at 5 years in kindergarten (Philippe Guimard)

15.00: Assessing mathematical competence in kindergarten - challenges, methods and first results (Irene Neumann & Christoph Duchhardt)

15.30-16:15: Discussion

19.00: Dinner

Wednesday, 26.01.2011: "Kindergarten"

8.30: Measuring scientific literacy in kindergarten: challenges and a special approach (Katrin Schöps, Inga Hahn & Inger Marie Dalehefte)

9.00: Language and metalinguistic measures in the kindergarten cohort of the NEPS (Karin Berendes & Stefan Zimmermann)

9.30: Coffee break

9.45: Parent telephone interview (CATI) and teacher/principal questionnaires (PAPI) (Sebastian Wenz, Doreen Fey & Tobias Linberg)

10.15: Discussion: Direct measures in kindergarten

11.00: Discussion/End

SW6 - MRC CAiTE Sequencing Workshop, Genetic sequence data and populations: where do we start?, 16-17 March 2011

MRC Centre for Causal Analyses in Translational Epidemiology, University of Bristol, UK

Programme

March 16th 2011

- 10.00-10.30 Coffee & Introductions
- 10.30-11.00 Presentation: **George Davey Smith** – Welcome & epidemiology in the world of next generation genetics.
- 11.00-11.30 Presentation: **Jeff Barrett** – What is next generation genetics and where will it take us?
- 11.30-12.00 Discussion and question and answer session for previous presentations – Chair: **David Evans**.
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-13.45 Seminar: - **Gil McVean** – Feeding experiences from the 1000 genomes project into sequencing in populations.
- 13.45-15.30 Small group work: Focused on population based sequence collection – themed groups – chairs: **Catherine Heeney** (ethics), **Dennis Mook** (phenotypes vs case/control), **Carl Anderson & Andrew Morris** (methods).
- 15.30-16.15 Coffee – discussion subject – **Vincent Jaddoe** (Cohort angle - Generation R)
- 16.15-18.00 Large group discussion (feed back from small groups): - Chair: **Ele Zeggini**
- 19.30 Pub/Dinner

March 17th 2011

- 9.30-10.00 Presentation: **Paul de Bakker** – Advances in complex disease genetics.
- 10.00-10.30 Presentation: **Catherine Heeney** – Ethical issues for next generation genetics.
- 10.30-11.00 Discussion and question and answer session for previous presentations – Chair: **Tim Spector**.
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee
- 11.30-12.15 Seminar: **Matt Hurles** – Promise and complicating issues surrounding genomewide sequence data in large population collections.
- 12.15-13.15 Lunch
- 13.15-15.00 Small group work: Focused on the pragmatics of large sequencing projects, utility and ethics – themed groups – chairs: **Nicole Soranzo** (Harmonisation of studies), **Debbie Lawlor** (epidemiological considerations), **Andrew Hattersley & Ian Day** (moves towards function),
- 15.00-15.45 Coffee – discussion subject – **Nicholas Timpson** (Cohort angle - ALSPAC)
- 15.45-16.15 Presentation: **Paul Franks** – Study designs exploiting sequence data and its new findings.
- 16.15-close Large group discussion & close (feed back from small groups and round up): - Chair: **Cecilia Lindgren**

SW7 - Surveying Children in longitudinal studies, 18-19 October 2011, Dublin, Ireland

Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin, Ireland

Programme

Thursday 5th May

11:00 – 11:30	Registration; Tea/coffee
11:30 – 11:40	Welcome and introduction <i>James Williams (Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland)</i>
11:40 – 12:20	The State of <i>Fragile Families</i> in the States: Retaining and Interviewing Children in a US Birth Cohort Study. <i>Kate Jaeger (Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, US)</i>
12:20 – 13:00	Children and longitudinal studies. Experiences from the Generation R Study. <i>Rob Taal (Erasmus Medical Centre, Netherlands)</i>
13:00 – 13:40	Lunch
13:40 – 14:20	Growing Up in Ireland – the work of the Children’s Advisory Forum and the Qualitative Component <i>Sheila Greene (Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland)</i>
14:20 – 15:00	Millennium Cohort Study – The design and approach to interviewing children in the Age 11 survey <i>Kate Smith (Institute of Education, UK)</i>
15:00 – 15:20	Tea/coffee
15:20 – 16:00	ALSPAC: The story so far <i>Larisa Duffy and Kate Angel (University of Bristol, UK)</i>
16:00 – 16:40	The 11-year follow-up in the Danish National Birth Cohort <i>Inger Kristine Meder and Pernille Stemann Larsen (Statens Serum Institut, Denmark)</i>
16.40 – 17.20	Discussion and Close
19.00	Dinner

Friday 6th May

09.15 – 09:30	Tea and coffee
09:30 – 09:40	Welcome and introduction <i>Kate Smith (Institute of Education, UK)</i>
09.40 – 10.20	Keynote Address: Ethical decision-making across the research process?

Participation, protection and other issues.

Janet Boddy (Institute of Education, UK)

10.20 – 11.00

Growing Up in Ireland –recruiting, retaining and interviewing nine-year-olds in Ireland’s child cohort study

James Williams (Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland)

11:00 – 11:20

Tea and coffee

11:20 – 12:00

The German National Educational Panel Study: Need, main features, research potential

Jutta Von Maurice (University of Banberg, Germany)

12:00 – 12:40

Qualitative Research to inform the collection of sensitive data among 11-year-olds on the fifth wave of the Millennium Cohort Study.

Angela Thompson (Ipsos MORI,) and Emma Wallace (Ipsos MORI, UK)

12:40 – 13:20

Lunch

13:20 – 14:00

Merging ethical concerns and innovative research practice

Anne Cleary (University College, Dublin, Chair Research Ethics Committee, Growing Up in Ireland)

14.00 – 14.40

LSYPE – An Education Journey

Nick Howat, Carrie Harding (TNS-BMRB, UK) and Helen Wood (Department of Education, UK)

14.40 – 15.20

Discussion and close

SW8 - EUCCONET Record Linkage workshop, 15– 17 June 2011
Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Bergen, Norway

Programme

15th June: Evening Introductory Session (18:00 – 20:00)

18.00 – 18.20 Workshop Welcome: Aims for the workshop

Andy Boyd (School of Social and Community Medicine, Bristol)

18.20 – 19.00 An introduction to Probabilistic Record Linkage

Presentation Author: *John ‘Mac’ McDonald (Institute of Education, London)*

Due to illness Mac was unable to attend and Andy Boyd presented this paper in his absence

19.00 – 20.30 Armauer Hansen and the Bergen Lepramuseet

Sigurd Sandmo

The institute hosting the workshop houses the laboratories used by Armauer Hansen in his pioneering work into the study of Leprosy. Sigurd will give a talk on Hansen, a tour of the *Lepramuseet* and illustrate the role the world’s first national patient register played in understanding Leprosy.

Buffet Meal

16th June: Study Updates, Information Governance & Disclosure Control

09.00 – 09.10 Welcome and Introduction

Reports from EUCCONET cohort studies on the role of record linkage in their project.

09.10 – 09.30 The Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study

Nina Hagesæther (Norwegian Institute for Public Health, Bergen)

09.30 – 09.50 Generation R

Claudia Kruithof (Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam)

09.50 – 10.10 ELFE

Xavier Thierry (Institut national d’études démographiques, Paris)

10.10 – 10.30 Growing Up in New Zealand

Peter Tricker (University of Auckland, Auckland)

Break

10.45– 11.05 ALSPAC

Kerry Humphries (School of Social and Community Medicine, Bristol)

11.05 – 11.35 GINI/LISA

Wolfgang Lohr (Helmholtz Zentrum, Munich)

11.35 – 11.55 Born in Bradford

David Bolus (NHS Bradford & Airedale, Bradford)

Break

12.10 – 12.30 Millennium Cohort

Heather Joshi (Institute of Education, London)

12.30 – 12.50 Environments for Healthy Living
Sinead Brophy (College of Medicine, Swansea)

12.50 – 13.10 NLSY79
Paula Baker (Center for Human Resource Research, Ohio)

Afternoon session

Information Governance & Disclosure Control: One of the principal challenges of establishing record linkage data collection is to satisfy the legal and ethical concerns surrounding information governance and disclosure control.

14.00 – 14.40 Privacy Protection & the SAIL Databank
David Ford (College of Medicine, Swansea)

14.40 – 15.20 Personal identity protection solutions in the presence of low copy number fields
Kerina Jones (College of Medicine, Swansea)

15.40 – 16.20 Information Governance Controls - Balancing Public Assurance and Research
Clare Sanderson (NHS Information Centre, Leeds)

16.20 – 17.00 Record linkage: the need for more effective processes
Peter Elias (University of Warwick)

17.00 – 17.30 Information Governance & Disclosure Control Group Discussion

17th June: Consenting & Applied examples of Record Linkage

Morning Session, Chair: Dominic Hoff

09.20 – 09.30 Welcome and Introduction

Consent for Linkage: Speakers will present evidence on study participants understanding of linkage, views about consent and consent patterns from consent campaigns. Followed by an open discussion on seeking consent for linkage.

09.30 – 10.10 Title to be provided
Sosthene Ketende (Institute of Education, London)

10.10 – 10.50 Title to be provided
Lindsey Brown (School of Social and Community Medicine, Bristol)

10.50 – 11.05 Linkage Consent & Participant Perceptions: Group Discussion

Closing Session

Applied Linkage in Cohort Studies: Speakers will present examples of linkage applications in cohort studies.

11.20 – 12.00 The family based longitudinal database of Norwegian citizens
Dominic Hoff (Norwegian Institute for Public Health, Oslo)

13.00 – 13.40 Title to be provided
Arild Sunde (Norwegian Institute for Public Health, Bergen)

13.40 – 14.20 Identifying an adolescent peer network within ALSPAC using probabilistic linkage
Andy Boyd (School of Social and Community Medicine, Bristol)

14.20 – 15.00 Closing Group Discussion

SW9 – Nutrition resources in longitudinal studies; what can we learn from each other?, 18-19 October 2011

University of Bristol, UK

Programme

Tuesday 18th October

10.00 - 10:30: Registration & coffee

10:30 - 10:45: Welcome and Introduction by Pauline Emmett

10:45 – 12:15: **Setting the dietary data scene**, chaired by Pauline Emmett;
5 minute talks providing an overview of the nutrition resources from the represented cohorts

Pauline Emmett	ALSPAC, UK
Sian Robinson	Southampton Women's Study, UK
Manon van Eijsden	Amsterdam Born Children and their Development (ABCD)
Jolien Steenweg-de Graaff	Generation R, The Netherlands
Margaretha Haugen	Norwegian Mother and Child cohort (MoBA)
Blandine de Lauzon-Guillain	EDEN and ELFIE, France
Richard Layte	Growing up in Ireland
Marie Standl	GINI and LISA, Germany
Andreia Oliveira	Generation XXI, Portugal
Annick Xhonneux	Childhood Obesity Project (CHOP), EU multicentre trial
Sesilje B Petersen	National Danish Birth Cohort
Jesus Vioque	INMA, Spain
Leda Chatzi	RHEA, Crete

12.15- 12.35: **New tool and demonstration**, chaired by Pauline Emmett

Janet Cade	"My Meal Mate" (MMM) a new smart phone application for weight loss: evaluation of its potential as a dietary assessment tool.
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12:35 - 13:35: *Lunch*

13:35 - 14:15: **Comparative analyses**, chaired by Sian Robinson

Michelle Mendez	Dietary intakes during pregnancy across Europe: A collaborative multi-country analysis
Blandine de Lauzon-Guillain	Early parental feeding practices and later fruit and vegetable intake in 4 European birth cohorts
Leda Chatzi	Mediterranean diet adherence during pregnancy and fetal growth: INMA (Spain) and RHEA (Greece) mother-child cohort studies

14:15 - 15:30: **Patterns and indices**, chaired by Kate Northstone

Gina Ambrosini	Reduced Rank Regression (RRR) – a powerful method for identifying <i>a-priori</i> empirical dietary patterns
Rebecca Golley	An index measuring adherence to weaning guidelines has face validity as a measure of infant diet quality
Andreia Oliveira	The Southern European Atlantic diet index – definition and effects on cardiovascular health
Andrew Smith	Dietary patterns in the ALSPAC cohort: Cluster analysis
Jessica Kiefte-de Jong	Socio-demographic and lifestyle determinants of dietary patterns in toddlers

15:30 - 16:00: *Coffee break*

16:00 - 17:30: **Biomarkers**, chaired by Jean Golding

Jean Golding	Dietary predictors of mother's prenatal blood mercury level
Jolien Steenweg-de Graaff	Maternal folate status in early pregnancy and child behavioral development. The Generation R Study.
Marie Standl	FADS1 FADS2 gene cluster, PUFA intake and blood lipids in children. Results from the GINIplus and LISAPlus studies.
Sarah Bath	Investigation of the effect of maternal iodine status on cognitive outcomes in the offspring
Carolina Bonilla	Vitamin B12 status during pregnancy and lactation and child's IQ at age 8: A Mendelian randomization study in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children
Kristine Vejrurp	Reuse of results from analysis done on biological material in the Norwegian Mother and Child cohort study (MoBa)
Nisreen Alwan	Maternal iron in pregnancy and offspring's cardiovascular risk: an example of using data from multiple longitudinal studies to address a scientific hypothesis

18.30: Meet at the hotels for a guided walk to the restaurant on the Bristol Waterfront

19.00: Meet at Bordeaux Quay to order from menu

19:30: Dinner at the Bordeaux Quay

Wednesday 19th October

9:30 - 11:00: **Dietary behaviours and eating habits**, chaired by Nadia Micali

Louise Jones	Dietary variety in toddlers and preschool children
Nadia Micali	Eating patterns in a population-based sample of children aged 5-7: association with psychopathology and parentally perceived impairment
Cathal McCrory	Breastfeeding and risk of overweight and obesity at nine years of age: results of an Irish cohort study.
Megan Jarman	Better maternal diet and a covert style of control over children's eating habits improve the quality of children's diets.
Suzana Al Moosawi	Circadian dietary rhythms: secular trends and associations with cardiometabolic risk factors in the 1946 British birth cohort
Sesilje B Petersen	Socio-demographic characteristics and food habits of organic consumers: A study from the Danish National Birth Cohort

11:00 - 11:30: *Coffee break*

11:30 - 13:00: **Longitudinal analysis**, chaired by P.K. Newby

Laura Howe	Longitudinal analysis of diet data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children
Abigail Easter	Growth Trajectories in the children of mums with eating disorders:
Lisa Smithers	Diet pattern trajectories from 6 to 24 months and intelligence quotient (IQ) at 8 years of age
Gina Ambrosini	Tracking dietary patterns in longitudinal studies
P.K. Newby	A Tale of Two Challenges Conducting Longitudinal Studies in Children and Adolescents: Accurately Measuring Diet and Body Composition in ALSPAC

13:00 - 14:00: *Lunch*

14:00 - 15:30: **The way forward**, chaired by Andy Ness

Pauline Emmett	Some novel approaches to food and food group analysis to aid comparability and interpretability
Andy Ness	Challenges of dietary assessment

General discussion resulting from the two days led by Andy Ness

15:30: *Close; Coffee and tea available until 16:00*

SW10 - Combining Birth Cohort Data – Lessons from Past and Ongoing Studies, 29-30 March 2012

Centre of Research in Environmental Epidemiology, Barcelona, Spain

Programme

Thursday 29 March

- 13:00 – 14:30 Plenary(Room Xipre)
Welcome and Introduction to CHICOS case studies – Martine Vrijheid
Lessons from combined studies in ENRIECO and other European projects
1. Data preparation and management – experience from ENRIECO and EAGLE meta-analyses – Marie Standl
 2. Outcome definition – Anne-Marie Nybo Andersen
 3. Covariates – Maribel Casas
 4. Analysis issues – experience from ENRIECO – Mark Nieuwenhujsen
- 14:30 – 15:30 Parallel Sessions for discussion of ongoing case studies
Presentation of progress/first results, discussion and protocols and harmonization of variables
1. Fish consumption in pregnancy and fetal growth
 2. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy and birth weight
 3. Selected maternal occupation and fetal health
- 15:30 – 16:00 Break
- 16:00 – 18:00 Parallel sessions 1, 2, 3 continue

SW11 – “Metadata documentation for the survey lifecycle”, 25 June 2012
University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Programme

Monday 25th June

10:00 10:30	Registration
10:30 10:45	Welcome and Introduction
10:45 11:45	Keynote: Jon Johnson: The history of metadata (Birth cohort studies)
11:45 12:15	Arier Chi Lun Lee
12:15 12:30	Coffee
12:30 13:00	Colin Micelli, NatCen
13:00 14:00	Lunch
14:00 15:00	Keynote: Arofan Gregory
15:00 15:30	Andy Boyd, ALSPAC
15:30 16:00	Jack Kneeshaw, ESDS Data Archive
15:45 16:00	Coffee
16:00 16:30	Alicia Heptinstall, LSYPE
16:30 17:30	Keynote: Christian Matyas - German project NEPS
17:30	End

SW12 – “Metadata documentation for the survey lifecycle”, 25-26 June 2012
University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Programme

Monday 25th June

- 09:30 10:00 Registration
- 10:00 10:15 Welcome and Introduction
Paul Bradshaw, ScotCen Social Research, UK
- 10:15 10:45 Engagement, dissemination and impact – the Growing Up in Ireland Study
James Williams, Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland)
- 10:45 11:15 Growing Up in Scotland: Dissemination and Impact
Lesley Kelly, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 11:15 11:45 Making an Impact - the Millenium Cohort Study
Lucinda Platt, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UK
- 11:45 12:05 Coffee
- 12:05 13:00 Guest speaker: Understanding and utilising the press media
Nigel Hawkes, Contributing Editor, Straight Statistics, UK
- 13:00 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 14:30 Creating policy impact: Making the most of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England
Helen Wood, Department for Education, UK
- 14:30 15:00 Family and community engagement on the Born in Bradford study
Ann Barratt, Bradford Institute for Health Research, UK
- 15:00 15:30 Young lives: A 4-country study of childhood poverty
Catherine Knowles, University of Oxford, UK
- 15:30 15:50 Coffee
- 15:50 16:50 Guest speaker: Assessing the impact of research: exploring the issues
Sarah Morton, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 16:50 17:30 Closing discussion
- 19:30 Group evening meal

Tuesday 26th June

- 09:00 09:30 Registration
- 09:30 09:40 Welcome and Introduction
Paul Bradshaw, ScotCen Social Research, UK
- 09:40 10:30 Guest speaker: Research and Practice at IRISS
Ellen Daly, Institute for Research in Social Science, UK
- 10:30 11:00 The US National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth: Research Dissemination
Paula Baker, Ohio State University, UK
- 11:00 11:20 Coffee
- 11:20 11:50 How a hook can help: Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children

Dara O'Hare, University of Bristol

11:50 12:40 Guest speaker: The Wellcome Trust Science Engagement programme

Tom Ziessen, Wellcome Trust, UK

12:40 13:00 Closing discussion

13:00 14:00 Lunch and close

SW13 – DOHaD 2012 satellite meeting: New developments in developmental epidemiology, 6-7 December 2012

Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Programme

Thursday December 6th 2012

08.15		Registration
09.00		Prof H.A. Buller, Welcome;
		Plenary session A: Early nutrition (chair: Dr. V.W.V. Jaddoe)
09.15 - 09.45	A1	Dr. V.W.V. Jaddoe, Fetal origins of cardiovascular disease;
09:45 – 10:15	A2	Prof. D.A. Lawlor, Maternal pregnancy adiposity - A determinant of postnatal offspring adiposity and cardiometabolic outcomes?;
10:15 – 10:45	A3	Prof. K.M Godfrey, Maternal vitamin D and childhood health;
10:45 – 11:15		Coffee break
11:15 – 12:30		Parallel sessions I
		B – Obesity (chair: S.F.A. Grant)
11:15 – 11:45	B1	Keynote - Social and ethnic differences in childhood obesity <i>T.G.M. Vrijkotte</i>
11:45 – 12:00	B2	Cord blood and 10 year n-6 and n-3 LC-PUFA composition are associated with BMI at 10 years of age. Results from the LISApplus study <i>M. Standl</i>
12:00 – 12:15	B3	The effects of parental obesity on DNA methylation patterns at differentially methylated regions of imprinted genes in newborns <i>A. Soubry</i>
12:15 – 12:30	B4	Maternal smoking during pregnancy and adiposity in school age children. The Generation R Study <i>B. Durmus</i>
		C – Pregnancy Health (chair: E.A.P. Steegers)
11:15 – 11:45	C1	Keynote – The importance of the periconception diet for reproduction and future health <i>R.P.M. Steegers-Theunissen</i>
11:45 – 12:00	C2	Transgenerational effects of maternal smoking habits in pregnancy on fetal growth <i>L.L. Miller</i>
12:00 – 12:15	C3	Prenatal exposure to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and autistic symptoms in young children <i>H. El Marroun</i>
12:15 – 12:30	C4	Effects of exposure to a natural disaster during pregnancy on physical and metabolic outcomes in childhood and adolescence: Project Ice Storm <i>K.N. Dancause</i>
		D – Environmental Exposures (chair: L. Trasande)
11:15 – 11:45	D1	Keynote – The Human Early-Life Exposome (HELIX) – Novel tools for integrating early-life environmental exposures and child health across Europe <i>M. Vrijheid</i>
11:45 – 12:00	D2	The impact of a stepwise introduction of smoke-free legislation on the rate of preterm births <i>B. Cox (presented by T.S. Nawrot)</i>
12:00 – 12:15	D3	Association between caesarian section and increased body mass index in two distinct socioeconomic background areas in Brazil <i>M.Z.G. Zubarán Guldani</i>
12:15 – 12:30	D4	Prenatal exposure to bisphenol A and fetal growth. The Generation R Study <i>C.A. Snijder</i>

		E – Epigenetics (chair: A.A. Baccarelli)
11:15 – 11:45	E1	Keynote – Transgenerational effects of prenatal exposure to the 1944-45 Dutch famine <i>T.J. Roseboom</i>
11:45 – 12:00	E2	DNA methylation profiles in umbilical cord blood and newborn growth parameters <i>M.I Bouwland-Both</i>
12:00 – 12:15	E3	The DIO2 susceptibility SNP rs225014 affects the epigenetically regulated transcription of the DIO2 gene in articular cartilage <i>W. den Hollander</i>
12:15 – 12:30	E4	Epigenetic analyses of human airway epithelium: prenatal programming by maternal smoking? <i>M.N. Hylkema</i>
12:30 – 13:30		Lunch + Poster presentations Topics: Adverse Fetal Exposures, Air Pollution, Asthma, Behavior, Bone Health, Brain Imaging, Cardiovascular Development, Cognition
13:30 – 14:45		Parallel sessions II
		F – Air pollution (chair: E.H van den Hooven)
13:30 – 14:00	F1	Keynote – School air in a traffic city such Barcelona, the BREATHE study <i>J. Sunyer</i>
14:00 – 14:15	F2	Long-term traffic-related air pollution exposure and whole blood cytokine responsiveness in asthmatic and non-asthmatic children - Results from the German GINIplus and LISApplus birth cohort studies <i>C. Cramer</i>
14:15 – 14:30	F3	Perinatal exposure to road traffic noise at home and children's behavioural problems at age 10 years: results from the GINIplus and LISApplus studies <i>C.M.T. Tiesler</i>
14:30 – 14:45	F4	Placental mitochondrial DNA content and particulate air pollution during in utero life <i>B.J. Janssen</i>
		G – Asthma (chair: L. Duijts)
13:30 – 14:00	G1	Keynote – Early origins of childhood asthma <i>J.C. de Jongste</i>
14:00 – 14:15	G2	Maternal complications in pregnancy and infants wheezing <i>D. Zugna</i>
14:15 – 14:30	G3	Early growth and childhood asthma: a meta-analysis <i>A.M.M. Sonnenschein-van der Voort</i>
14:30 – 14:45	G4	Paternal psychological distress during pregnancy and asthma symptoms in preschool children <i>M. Guxens</i>
		H – Behaviour (chair: D.A. Lawlor)
13:30 – 14:00	H1	Keynote – Using large-scale longitudinal cohorts to unravel etiologic mechanisms in child psychiatry <i>F.C. Verhulst</i>
14:00 – 14:15	H2	Antenatal depression and infant sleep 18 and 30 months postpartum examining the moderating effects of serotonin transporter polymorphism (5-HTTLPR) and reactive temperament in the ALSPAC cohort <i>E. Netsi</i>
14:15 – 14:30	H3	Maternal hypothyroxinaemia in early pregnancy increases risk of parents-reported autistic symptoms in the offspring. The Generation R Study <i>A.G. Ghassabian</i>
14:30 – 14:45	H4	The role of cognitive function in intergenerational transfer of social and health disadvantage: results from the Uppsala Birth Cohort Multigenerational Study <i>I. Koupil</i>
		I – Infant growth and Nutrition (chair: J.C. Kiefte – de Jong)

13:30 – 14:00	I1	Keynote – Health profile of young adults born preterm: Negative effects of rapid weight gain in early life <i>G.F. Kerkhof</i>
14:00 – 14:15	I2	Genetic taste blindness to bitter and body composition in childhood <i>S.H. Bouthoorn</i>
14:15 – 14:30	I3	Breastfeeding duration and infant mental and psychomotor development: Rhea mother-child cohort in Crete, Greece <i>V. Leventakou</i>
14:30 – 14:45	I4	Blood pressure in 12-year old children is associated with fatty acid composition of human milk. The PIAMA birth cohort <i>L. Van Rossem</i>
14.45 – 15:15		Coffee Break
		Plenary session J: Genetics (chair: Prof. C.M. van Duijn)
15:15 – 15:45	J1	Dr. F. Rivadeneira, Genome wide association studies using multi ethnic populations: challenges and opportunities
15:45 – 16:15	J2	Prof. T.M. Frayling, Genetic links of fetal growth and adult diseases;
16:15 – 16:45	J3	Dr. N. Timpson, The incorporation of whole genome sequence data into population level science;
16:45 – 17:15	J4	Dr. S. Grant, Genome wide approaches for unravelling the genetic predisposition to childhood obesity
19:00		Buffet diner, party

Friday December 7th 2012

08.15		Registration
		Plenary session K: Methods (chair: Prof. A. Hofman)
08.45 - 09.15	K1	Prof. A.J. Wilcox, Developmental origins of disease: Beyond fetal nutrition;
09:15 – 09:45	K2	Prof. G. Davey-Smith, Two step, two sample Mendelian randomization, and other dance moves;
09:45 – 10:15	K3	Dr. E. Aagaard-Nøhr, Bias due to non-response and loss to follow-up,
10:15 – 10:45	K4	Prof. H.W. Tiemeier, Intrauterine influences on child mental health. A story of attempts to reduce the bias;
10:45 – 11:15		Coffee break
11:15 – 12:30		Parallel sessions III
		L – Fetal Exposures (chair: C.S.P.M. Uiterwaal)
11:15 – 11:45	L1	Keynote - Risk factors for miscarriage in a prevention approach <i>A.M. Nybo Andersen</i>
11:45 – 12:00	L2	Levels of antibodies against tissue transglutaminase during pregnancy are associated with reduced fetal weight and birth weight <i>J.C. Kiefte-de Jong</i>
12:00 – 12:15	L3	Cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption in relation to blood lead levels in pregnant women: the ALSPAC study <i>C.M. Taylor</i>
12:15 – 12:30	L4	Combined analyses of the risks of adverse birth outcomes associated with maternal occupational exposure - a chicos initiative <i>M.C. Casas</i>
		M – Nutrition (chair: T.J. Roseboom)
11:15 – 11:45	M1	Keynote – The role of the placenta for fetal nutrition <i>G. Desoye</i>
11:45 – 12:00	M2	Vitamin D supplementation to optimise fetal bone mineral accrual: translation from observation to intervention <i>N.C. Harvey</i>

12:00 – 12:15	M3	Maternal long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acid status in early pregnancy and children's risk of problem behaviour at age five <i>E.M. Loomans</i>
12:15 – 12:30	M4	Maternal first trimester diet and childhood bone mineral density. The Generation R Study <i>D.H.M. Heppe</i>
		N – Health (chair: O.H. Franco)
11:15 – 11:45	N1	Keynote - Health and aging in children: Defining child health <i>J.F. Felix</i>
11:45 – 12:00	N2	Project ice storm: prenatal maternal stress from a natural disaster predicts cognitive development and behavioral problems throughout childhood <i>S. King</i>
12:00 – 12:15	N3	Birth cohort resources in Europe and the opportunities for aetiological child health research: an overview <i>P.S. Larsen</i>
12:15 – 12:30	N4	Web-based diaries in pediatric asthma trials <i>T.A.S. Voorend-van Bergen</i>
12:30 – 13:30		Lunch + Poster presentations Topics: Epigenetics, Genetics, Growth, Metabolomics, Methods, Nutrition, Obesity, Placenta Function
13:30 – 14:45		Parallel sessions IV
		O – Maternal and Pregnancy Health (chair: A.M. Nybo Andersen)
13:30 – 14:00	O1	Keynote – Preeclampsia is associated with increased risk of language delay in offspring <i>P. Magnus</i>
14:00 – 14:15	O2	Risk factors and consequences of maternal anaemia and elevated haemoglobin levels during pregnancy <i>R. Gaillard</i>
14:15 – 14:30	O3	Maternal BMI and lipid profile during early pregnancy in relation to childhood adiposity at age 5-6 years: The ABCD study <i>M. Vermeulen (presented by T.G.M. Vrijkotte)</i>
14:30 – 14:45	O4	Determinants of change in maternal Edinburgh depression inventory scores <i>M.R. Hedges (presented by S.M. Morton)</i>
		P – Allergy (chair: J.C. de Jongste)
13:30 – 14:00	P1	Keynote – Early determinants of allergy <i>C.T.M. Thijs</i>
14:00 – 14:15	P2	Prenatal paracetamol exposure and wheezing: causation or confounding? <i>F. Rusconi</i>
14:15 – 14:30	P3	Maternal prepregnancy weight, gestational weight gain and preschool wheezing. The Generation R Study <i>E.T.M. Leermakers</i>
14:30 – 14:45	P4	Gestational weight gain, maternal prepregnancy overweight and asthma development in offspring <i>S. Scholtens</i>
		Q – Cardiovascular (chair: H.R. Taal)
13:30 – 14:00	Q1	Keynote – Fetal and infant origins of atherosclerosis <i>C.S.P.M. Uiterwaal</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Q2	Fetal and infant growth, body composition, and cardiovascular structures and function in children <i>L.L. de Jonge</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Q3	Maternal pre-pregnancy body mass index and their children's blood pressure and cardiac autonomic balance at age 5-6 <i>M.J.G. Gademan</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Q4	Adipose tissue and vascular alterations in young children: the role of adipocytokines, insulin resistance and blood pressure <i>M.V. Evelein</i>
14.45 – 15:15		Coffee Break
		Plenary session R: Epigenetics (chair: G. Davey – Smith)

15:15 – 15:45	R1	Dr. B.T. Heijmans, The epigenome: The genome's memory of past experiences;
15:45 – 16:15	R2	Dr. A. Baccarelli, Epigenetic influences of air pollution exposures
16:15 – 16:45	R3	Prof. C. Relton, Genome-wide association studies of DNA methylation;
16:45 – 17:00	R4	Prof. H.A.P. Pols, Closure

ANNEX 3 – Programme of EUCCONET supported conferences

Conf1 - SLLS INAUGURAL CONFERENCE, 22-24 September 2010

Clare College, Cambridge, UK

Programme

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

22nd/23rd/24th September 2010, Clare College, Cambridge, UK

Provisional Conference Programme

Day 1 – Wednesday 22nd September 2010

13:00 – 14:00 Registration/Tea & Coffee

14:00 – 14:10 Welcome

14:10 – 15:00 Keynote – Karl Ulrich Mayer, Yale University, USA (title to be added)

15:00 – 15:30 Tea/Coffee

15:30 – 17:30 Symposia & Papers

A – EUCCONET Steering Committee Meeting

B – Symposium (5 x papers): Longitudinal Research Using Qualitative and/or Mixed Methods

Walter Heinz (Convener) University of Bremen, Germany/Frank Furstenberg (Convener) University of Pennsylvania, USA

C – Symposium (5 x papers): The Making Connections and Resident Relocation Surveys: Longitudinal Studies of Families in Low-Income Neighborhoods - Catherine Haggerty (Convener), NORC, University of Chicago, USA

D – Symposium (5 x papers): Childhood influences on quality of life at age 50 years: evidence from National Child Development Study (1958 British Birth Cohort Study) - David Blane (Convener), Imperial College, London, UK

18:00 – 19:00 Drinks reception/EUCCONET poster session

19:00 – 20:30 Buffet dinner

20:30 – 23:00 SLLS Inaugural AGM

Day 2 – Thursday 23rd September 2010

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 10:30 Symposia & Papers

A – Symposium (4 x papers): Poorer children's educational attainment: how important are attitudes and behaviours?
Claire Crawford (Convener), Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, UK

B – Symposium (4 x papers): Longitudinal Research Using Qualitative and/or Mixed Methods

Walter Heinz (Convener) University of Bremen, Germany/Frank Furstenberg (Convener) University of Pennsylvania, USA

C – Papers x 4

Analysing the propensity for attrition in a longitudinal survey

Gabi Durrant, University of Southampton, UK/Harvey Goldstein, University of Bristol, UK

Extending the Scottish Longitudinal Study back through time

Paul Boyle, University of St. Andrews, UK

SITAR - a suitable instrument for growth curve analysis

Tim J. Cole, MRC Centre of Epidemiology for Child Health, UK

Comparability of categorical variables in longitudinal survey research

Paul Lambert, University of Stirling, UK/Alison Bowes, University of Stirling, UK

D – Symposium (3 x papers & 1 x discussant): Transition to adulthood: The role of motivation and self-concepts
Ingrid Schoon (Convener), Institute of Education, London, UK

10:30 – 11:00 Tea/Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Symposia & Papers

A – Symposium (4 x papers): Antisocial behaviour and crime: development across childhood, adolescence and early adulthood - Barbara Maughan (Convener) King's College London, Institute of Psychiatry, UK

B – Symposium (4 x papers): Longitudinal Research Using Qualitative and/or Mixed Methods
Walter Heinz (Convener) University of Bremen, Germany/Frank Furstenberg (Convener) University of Pennsylvania, USA

C – Papers x 4

Recall error and recall bias in life course studies
Gindo Tampubolon, University of Manchester, UK

The surprising respondent: using topic saliency to minimise attrition among vulnerable groups
Tania Smith, University of Edinburgh, UK

Combining longitudinal survey data and register data – opportunities and difficulties
Sara Korzen et al, Danish National Centre for Social Research, Denmark

A comparison of methods of turning banded family income into a continuous variable using longitudinal data
Sosthenes C. Ketende, Institute of Education, London, UK

D – Symposium (4 x papers): Becoming Adult in the United States, Britain, and Finland
Ingrid Schoon et al, Institute of Education, UK

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Symposia & Papers

A – EUCCONET Symposium

Introduction to EUCCONET facilities – Anne-Claire Blanchard

The role of fathers in child cohort studies – Harold Werneke, University of Vienna, Austria

Data management in child cohort studies – Andy Boyd, University of Bristol, UK

Tracking cohort members – Lisa Calderwood, Institute of Education, UK

Study of Pakistani mothers and babies in Bradford – Pauline Raynor, Bradford Royal Infirmary, UK

Getting growing up in New Zealand off the ground – Susan Morton, University of Auckland, New Zealand

B – Papers x 3

A Bayesian hierarchical approach to model the relationship between the complex concept of disability and mortality - David Prieto et al, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

Russell Ecob, Ecob Consulting – Title to be added

Model Uncertainty Over the Life Course: The Case of Early Health and Educational Attainment
Robert G. White University of Wisconsin, USA/Lane Burgett, University of Wisconsin, USA

Wealth Dynamics in the United States Over Time
Cynthia Needles et al, Iowa State University, USA

C – Symposium (4 x papers): Studying Military Service in the Life Course: An Introduction
Glen H. Elder, Jr. (Convener), University of North Carolina, USA

15:00 – 15:30 Tea/Coffee

15:30 – 16:20 Keynote – Carol Dezateux, Institute of Child Health, London, UK (Title to be added)

16:20 – 17:50 Symposia & Papers

A – Papers x 5:

The Outcomes for Children of Teenage and Early Motherhood Evidence from the UK Millennium Cohort

Denise Hawkes, Institute of Education, London, UK/Heather Joshi, Institute of Education, London, UK

Inequality during the Early Years: Child Outcomes and Readiness to Learn in Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and United States - Elizabeth Washbrook, University of Bristol, UK

Influence of socioeconomic status in BMI change between childhood and early adolescence in Florianopolis, southern Brazil - Maria Alice de Assis, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil/David Gonzalez, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil

Two inter-related processes: health and education early in life. Evidence from Young Lives long study

Mariachiara Di Cesare –University of Sussex, UK/Ricardo Sabates, University of Sussex, UK

B – Papers x 4:

Family pathways and income trajectories

John Holmes et al, University of York, UK

Pathways of Transition to Adulthood and Early Adult Well-being

Jeylan Mortimer et al, University of Minnesota, USA

Early Health and Adult Inequality in the United States with Matched Cohorts

Robert G. White et al, University of Wisconsin, USA

Paths taken by women through work, family and education from early to mid Adulthood

Flora Macleod, University of Exeter, UK

C – Symposium (4 x papers): *Understanding Society - Design, Development and Research Potential*

Amanda Sacker (Convener), University of Essex, UK

D – Papers x 4:

Birth outcomes and early-life social characteristics predict unequal educational outcomes: consistency across

Swedish cohorts born 1915-1929 and 1973-1980 - Anna Goodman (Convener), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

A life-course perspective on postponement and recuperation of fertility in Europe

Karel Neels, Antwerp University, Belgium

Measures to detect depression – CES-D

Randall Olsen, Ohio State University, USA/ Elizabeth Cooksey, Ohio State University, USA

Repeated exposure to socioeconomic disadvantage and health selection as life course pathways to mid-life

depressive and anxiety disorders - Stephen Stansfeld, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, UK

18:00 – 19:00 Drinks reception/Contributed poster session

19:15 – 21:00 Dinner

21:00 – 23:00 Member convened meetings

Day 3 – Friday 24th September 2010

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:10 – 10:00 Keynote – Bren Neale, University of Leeds, UK (Title to be added)

10:00 – 10:30 Tea/Coffee

10:30 – 12:30 Symposia & Papers

A – Papers x 5:

Equivalence scales and the cost of children: The case of household splits in Denmark, France, Germany and the United Kingdom - Gunther Schmaus, CEPS, Luxembourg

Growth by 7 years in the Millennium Cohort Study: Better or worse for ethnic minority children?
Amanda Sacker et al, University of Essex, UK

The Circumstances of Persistently Poor Children Growing Up in Scotland
Jenny Chanfreu, National Centre for Social Research, London, UK

Predictors of the trajectory of behaviour problems in children with borderline or intellectual disability
Eric Emerson, Lancaster University, UK

Effects of parental divisions in childcare and domestic labour on child socio-emotional behaviour: longitudinal evidence from the UK - Anne McMunn et al, University College London, UK

B – Symposium (4 x papers & 1 x discussant): Taking the long view: A research team's experiences of archiving data from a fourteen year qualitative longitudinal study: Sarah Irwin (Convener), University of Leeds, UK

C – Papers x 5:

Mixed Signals: To what extent does Wage Scarring vary with the characteristics of the local labour market?
Philip Ball, University of Nottingham, UK

Socioeconomic status and mental health – the importance of achieving occupational aspirations
Cay Gjerustad, Norwegian Social Research, Norway

Investigating the effects labour market position on minor psychiatric morbidity across the business cycle: longitudinal analysis of the British Household Panel Survey, 1991-200 - Ellen Flint, University College London, UK

Social Stratification and Childhood Cognitive Ability: An assessment of the influence of childhood IQ and family background on occupational position across the lifespan
Roxanne Connelly, University of Stirling, UK

Labour force status, unemployment spells and the effect on psychological well-being set points
Cara Booker, University of Essex, UK

D – Papers x 5:

Proximal life events and mid-life depressive and anxiety disorders: the moderating role of childhood adversity and childhood psychopathology - Charlotte Clark, Barts & the London School of Medicine, UK

Life course transitions and informational environments
Steffen Hillmert et al, University of Tuebingen, Germany

A Longitudinal Examination of the Intergenerational Transmission of Health Inequality
Kim Shuey, The University of Western Ontario, Canada /Andrea Willson, The University of Western Ontario, Canada

Part-time working and pay among Millennium Cohort Study mothers
Heather Joshi et al, Institute of Education, UK

Gender differences in the effect of breast feeding on adult psychological well-being: Comparing two British cohort studies - Noriko Cable et al, University College London, UK

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:30 Symposia & Papers

A – Symposium (5 x papers): Adolescent conduct and emotional problems: Secular trends and their causes

Barbara Maughan (Convener) King's College London, Institute of Psychiatry, UK

B – Papers x 5:

An exploration of young people's experiences at secondary school using the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England - Andy Ross et al, National Centre for Social Research, London, UK

Communal solidarity or pecking order? How the family affects the lives of sons and daughters
Katrin Golsch, Bielefeld University, Germany/Martin Diewald, Bielefeld University, Germany

Ethnic differences in adolescent mental health trajectories and the influence of racism and context: the Determinants of Adolescent Social well-being and Health (DASH) study.
Thomas Astell-Burt et al, Medical Research Council, London, UK

The impact of family interaction and parental involvement at school on the educational and mental health outcomes of adolescents: evidence from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England
Catherine Rethon, Queen Mary University of London, UK

Socialization into physical activity: findings from a 17 year longitudinal study
Bente Wold, University of Bergen, Norway/Marianne S. Birkeland, University of Bergen, Norway

C – Papers x 5:

A lifetime of experience: A latent class approach to modeling labour market and family life course histories
Laurie M. Corna, University of Toronto, Canada

How Trajectories of Reasons for Alcohol Use Relate to Trajectories of Binge Drinking: National U.S. Panel Data Spanning Late Adolescence to Early Adulthood - Megan E. Patrick, University of Michigan, USA/ John E. Schulenberg, University of Michigan, USA

Maternal smoking history and social circumstances in pregnancy and smoking behaviour in the offspring in the NCDS birth cohort - Dexter Canoy, University of Manchester, UK

Childhood and adulthood prospective risk markers for Irritable Bowel Syndrome in the 1958 British birth cohort
Laura Goodwin et al, Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry, UK

Young people, gender, and science: does an early interest lead to a job in SET? A longitudinal view from the BHPS youth data - Jacqueline Scott et al, University of Cambridge, UK

D – Space for member convened meetings

15:30 – 16:00 Formal conference proceedings end/Tea & Coffee

16:00 – 17:00 Member convened meetings

Conf2 – « Life Course and Social Change: Interdisciplinary and International Perspectives », SLLS conference, 26-28 September 2011

Bielefeld, Germany

Day 1 – Monday 26th September 2011

Conference welcome	Heather Joshi, President of the 'Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies' Martin Diewald, Local Organiser, University of Bielefeld John Bynner – Editor-in-Chief, 'Longitudinal and Life Course Studies' (LLCS)	09:20 – 09:40	Plenarsaal
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Keynote	The National Education Panel Study for Germany – Idea, theoretical frame, design and research potential Hans Peter Blossfeld, NEPS, University of Bamberg, Germany	09:40 – 10:40	Plenarsaal
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Tea/Coffee		10:40 – 11:10	Plenarsaal
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Parallel Session 1			
A1	Longitudinal Patterns in Health Outcomes	11:10 – 12:40	240
B1	Symposium - Risk and Resilience Among Children Growing Up in Adversity	11:10 – 12:40	Murnau-Saal
C1	Symposium - Youth Wellbeing: Early Findings from Understanding Society	11:10 – 12:40	Vortragssaal
D1	Ageing	11:10 – 12:40	117

Lunch		12:40 – 14:00	Hechelei
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Parallel Session 2			
A2	Childhood Overweight	14:00 – 15:30	240
B2	Wellbeing	14:00 – 15:30	Murnau-Saal
C2	Transitions in Youth	14:00 – 15:30	Vortragssaal
D2	Retirement	14:00 – 15:30	117

Tea/Coffee		15:30 – 16:00	Plenarsaal
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Parallel Session 3			
A3	Symposium – Gene 'Environment' Interactions – At the Interface Between Biomedical and Social Science	16:00 – 17:30	240
B3	EUCCONET Symposium – Comparative Analysis of Child Cohort Studies	16:00 – 17:30	Murnau-Saal
C3	Methods of Longitudinal Research	16:00 – 17:30	Vortragssaal
D3	Fertility	16:00 – 17:30	117

Poster Session & Drinks Reception		17:30 – 19:30	Plenarsaal
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Conference Dinner		19:30 – 21:30	Hechelei
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Day 2 – Tuesday 27th September 2011

Parallel Session 4			
A4	Health Cohorts in Netherlands and Germany	09:00 – 11:00	117
B4	Child Development and Child Cohorts	09:00 – 11:00	Vortragssaal
C4	Panel: Changing Youth Transitions in Times of Economic Transformation and Uncertainty	09:00 – 11:00	Murnau-Saal
D4	Symposium – Life Course and Contemporary Influences on Health and Well-Being at Older Ages	09:00 – 11:00	240
Tea/Coffee		11:00 – 11:30	Plenarsaal
Keynote		11:30 – 12:30	Plenarsaal
Health from an Early Life Perspective – The Roles of Genes and Environment Marjo-Riitta Jarvelin, Imperial College London, UK			
Lunch		12:30 – 14:00	Hechelei
Parallel Session 5			
A5	Mental Health in the Lifecourse	14:00 – 15:30	117
B5	Cognition	14:00 – 15:30	Vortragssaal
C5	Symposium – Expression of Career Goals and Subsequent Career Transitions: The Role of Context and Significant Others	14:00 – 15:30	Murnau-Saal
D5	Divorce	14:00 – 15:30	240
Tea/Coffee		15:30 – 16:00	Plenarsaal
Parallel Session 6			
A6	Symposium – Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety	16:00 – 17:30	117
B6	Symposium – Household Composition and Child Wellbeing	16:00 – 17:30	Vortragssaal
C6	Careers	16:00 – 17:30	Murnau-Saal
D6	Work Family Interface 1	16:00 – 17:30	240
Parallel Session 7			
A7	Round Table – Drugs and Alcohol Use	17:30 – 19:00	117
B7	Round Table – Child Outcomes	17:30 – 19:00	Vortragssaal
C7	Round Table – Methods of Collecting and Storing Data	17:30 – 19:00	Murnau-Saal
D7	Round Table – Work-Family Interface	17:30 – 19:00	240
Drinks Reception and Buffet Dinner		19:00 – 20:30	Hechelei

Day 3 – Wednesday 28th September 2011

Parallel Session 8			
A8	Mixed Methods	09:00 – 11:00	117
B8	Intergenerational Transfers	09:00 – 11:00	Murnau-Saal
C8	Education	09:00 – 11:00	Vortragssaal
D8	Neighbourhoods and Minorities	09:00 – 11:00	240

Tea/Coffee		11:00 – 11:30	Plenarsaal
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Keynote	A Motivational Theory of Life-Span Development Jutta Heckhausen, University of California, USA	11:30 – 12:30	Plenarsaal
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Lunch		12:30 – 14:00	Hechelei
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Parallel Session 9			
A9	Mental Health in Mid-Life	14:00 – 15:30	117
B9	Employment and Unemployment	14:00 – 15:30	Murnau-Saal
C9	Policy, Agency and Interdisciplinarity	14:00 – 15:30	Vortragssaal
D9	Work-Family Interface 2	14:00 – 15:30	240

Tea/Coffee		15:30 – 16:00	Plenarsaal
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Plenary Session			
A	Understanding Society as a Multidisciplinary Tool to Study Life Courses	16:00 – 16:20	Plenarsaal
B	The British Cohort Studies: From the Post-War 1946 Cohort to the Millennium Cohort	16:20 – 16:40	Plenarsaal
C	Challenges and Innovations of Long-Running Household Panel Surveys – The German Socio-Economic Panel Study	16:40 – 17:00	Plenarsaal
D	PAIRFAM: The German Family Panel	17:00 – 17:20	Plenarsaal
E	Round up and questions	17:20 – 17:30	Plenarsaal

Conference End	17:30
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Conf3 - “Childhood and beyond: tracing cohorts over the lifecourse”, EUCCONET and SLLS conference, 29-31 October 2012

FIAP Jean Monnet, Paris, France

See : http://www.euconet.com/?page_id=721

Annex 4 – EUCCONET website visual

EUCCONET

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EUCCONET seminar "International access to cohort data"

Location : Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED) – 133 boulevard Davout – 75020 Paris – France (Salle Sauvy, 1st Floor)

The network has reached the end of its ESF funding, but a last EUCCONET seminar will take place on **8th July 2013, Ined (Paris, France)**. This workshop intends to build on recent work carried out since the beginning of the EUCCONET network on the main issues identified with regards to international access to data. The objective is to gather several interesting initiatives rather than going into the technical issues of cohort data access organization. Note that registrations are now closed. Contact : catherine.daurele@ined.fr

[Programme](#)

EUCCONET wishes to draw attention to two European projects that have recently reached an end :

[CHICOS project final recommendations](#)

CHICOS is a coordination and support action launched in January 2010 funded through the European Community's 7th Framework Programme (HEALTH-FP7-2009-241604). It set out to "develop an integrated strategy for birth cohort research in Europe for the next 15 years through coordination of the most important European birth cohorts".

CHICOS recommends establishing a collaborative European Birth Cohort, using data from existing and new cohorts. This cohort should build a permanent Europe-wide data resource to contain prospective, individual-level information about child health in Europe. It will provide key statistics on child health and determinants to enable health surveillance and to provide rapid responses to knowledge gaps that should be tackled to inform policies.

[RICHE project reaches end](#)

Research Inventory for Child Health in Europe (RICHE) is a platform of resources created under a Framework 7 project and enriched by its members, to make accessible Knowledge on Child Health comprising recent Scientific Publications, Grey Literature, and Research Projects, and creating a virtual Research Community. This integrated virtual platform will help the different stakeholders to build the future of European child health research, and thus promote

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 - Dissemination, engagement and impact
 - Metadata documentation for the survey lifecycle
 - DoHaD 2012 satellite meeting

The European Child Cohorts Network (EUCCONET)

Standing committee : **SCSS**

Principal applicants :

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Keywords: Births cohorts – Comparative studies - Social Sciences – Health and environment - Lifecourse

Abstract – Despite its cost, the methodological issues it raises, and time constraints for analysis, the cohort study is of strong interest for decision-makers and researchers in quest of new behaviours. Whereas longitudinal retrospective studies can reconstruct the past histories of individuals, they can only do so in a way that is subject to memory lapses. The *prospective* approach of cohort studies is more directly adapted to the information needs on current and future trends in population and can capture a variety of information that cannot be recalled. Longitudinal studies of children constitute a unique source of data to analyse human development in its context. They permit the study of the various factors interacting all over the life course up to adulthood : family structure, social and physical environment, schooling, health and nutritional behaviour... They also clarify the impact of the experience lived during infancy on the individual's physical, psychological, social and professional development.

The ambition of the European Child Cohorts Network is to bring together leaders of national or regional major children's cohorts in order to compare practices, exchange experience, share questionnaires and other tools, and encourage comparative analyses. The focus of this network lays on generalist cohorts. It will bring together the leaders of the large-scale general and interdisciplinary cohorts that exist in Europe and North America, while developing links with more specialised networks. The Network's objectives are threefold: (i) identifying cohort expertise in Europe; (ii) sharing knowledge and experience with a broad range of cohort experts, including from outside Europe, and establishing a forum for an easy accessible expertise on these issues in Europe; (iii) offering opportunities to go deeper on the cross-country comparison by sharing tools and questionnaires.

If elaborating a common European cohort project seems out of reach for the time-being, sharing knowledge could lead to a certain convergence in the practice of national/regional cohorts, and to fruitful exchanges on methodologies, ethics, as well as on the definition of future cross-national comparative studies.

Previous or current applications to the ESF: NONE

1. Status of the relevant research, scientific context, objectives and envisaged achievements of the proposed Programme

Scientific context:

Whatever the field, be it health or social sciences, the analysis of longitudinal data on children is the best way to understand relations of cause and effect and to examine child development in the round, from the different perspectives of family, social and economic backgrounds, social interactions and health. The ESF interdisciplinary programme on **Social Variations in Health Expectancy in Europe** has stressed the importance of life-course analyses to be able to explain (and not only describe) the variations in health of individuals belonging to various groups. The value of this approach has been shown, e.g., in Kuh's¹ or in a special issue of the *International Journal of Epidemiology*². At each age the behaviour and the health status of an individual depends on his whole previous history, not only on his current situation. To assess properly the major steps in this history it is necessary to adopt a *life-course approach* based on the continuous collection of data that could otherwise not be reconstructed retrospectively. This is even truer for events occurring during childhood which may remain unknown or be poorly remembered by the adults.

Several child cohorts have been set up in various countries of Europe and elsewhere in the recent years, from birth or soon afterwards. The scientific value of these studies might be greatly enhanced if proper comparative analyses could be conducted on their data. It is obvious that each country has its culture, its background and its social, educational and health systems, which makes comparison exercises difficult. However, building and running a cohort conveys similarities and common steps. Except for some countries, running multidisciplinary and large-scale child cohorts is rather a new experience for national research teams. This reinforces the claim for the creation of dialogue facilities to transfer knowledge and maximise the potential of convergence in methods, themes addressed and time schedule.

In September 2006, an international conference on child cohort studies took place in Oxford, organized by the *Centre for Longitudinal Studies* with mainly ESRC funding. It gathered more than 200 participants from around the world, and constituted the first opportunity for European research teams to discuss about their own experience, on the design of cohorts and on methodological issues. This conference was first of its kind, and, given its success, could form the first of a series, as yet unfunded. The Oxford conference was also the opportunity to observe a gap at European level, as no forum of discussion exists for researchers to exchange on the methodologies adopted by each of the national teams in the longitudinal studies. Building on the Oxford conference, leaders of child cohort studies felt that the moment has come to fill up this gap in research, and to organise a forum for exchange which will provide support on common methodological issues, while working towards a possible convergence and a better comparability of child cohorts in Europe.

Objectives :

Some specialised thematic networks already exist and the objective of this proposal is not to replicate what has successfully been done elsewhere. **The focus of this network will be on large scale and generalist cohorts, and its originality will lay on the inter-disciplinarity of the themes to be covered:** researchers involved in these studies tend to find ways to reconcile through *one survey* social, health and environmental aspects of child development. The expertise and the synergies with existing cohorts and networks will be sought and is necessary to develop

¹ D. Kuh and Y. Ben-Shlomo (eds), *A Life Course Approach to Chronic Disease Epidemiology*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1997; D. Kuh and R. Hardy (eds), *A Life Course Approach to Women's Health*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2002.

² *International J. of Epidemiology*, 31 (2), April 2002, p. 285-420.

sound discussions on methodologies, but the European Children Cohorts Network will primarily aim at bringing together large scope cohorts and their specific working questions. The network will focus on methodology aspects of data collection through cohort methods, including the tools used to collect the data.

Within this context, the European Child Cohort's objectives will be to

- 1) **Enhance the visibility and the synergy between children cohorts** and among the different European teams involved in them.
- 2) **Identify the best expertise in Europe** on cohort methodology. Links between large-scale and generalist cohorts will be strengthened, but the objective is also to call on the experience of limited-scale, regional cohorts, or very specific epidemiology and medical cohorts which may have already encountered similar methodology issues.
- 3) **Perform a mapping exercise at European level** of the methodology diversity and similarities in order to identify common methodological, scientific and ethical questions.
- 4) Making the network a **single access point** of expertise for Child Cohorts in Europe, able to gather a scientific community of interested stakeholders and to diffuse methodology advice for potential new comers.
- 5) **Initiate new and in-depth collaborations** between scientific teams which could lead to comparative analysis, using common questionnaire modules, develop standardised questionnaires, and identify potential issues where comparative analysis could be undertaken.

The achievements of the network will be to increase awareness and knowledge, by providing a forum for discussion and an easy access to world-class expertise in the field. It will create and consolidate a scientific community working on a very specific field and producing data. It will also participate to the convergence of cohort study in Europe and on the comparability of data at European level on a policy-relevant issue : child development.

2. Facilities and expertise which would be accessible to the Programme

Through its main applicants or the members of the steering committee, the programme will benefit of the experience and skills acquired by leading European (and, later, US, Canadian and Australian) scientists in this field. A wide range of expertise will be mobilised for the programme, ranging from demography, sociology, epidemiology, or medicine, as well as methodology skills in survey conduction. Cohorts leaders with experience in running cohorts or in a stage of preparation for a first cohort will be involved in the network.

INED (Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques) and the ELFE Cohort

INED is a 60-year-old public research centre devoted to population issues, under the supervision of the French ministries of research and social affairs. Research at INED is interdisciplinary by nature, as it brings together experts in the fields of statistics, sociology, economics, geography, epidemiology, genetics or political sciences...

Since 2005, INED is hosting the pool of researchers working on the first French children's cohort, the *ELFE project*, which aims at building a cohort of 20,000 children, nationally representative, to be followed from birth to adulthood under a multidisciplinary approach. ELFE is sponsored by several institutions : INED, Institut de Veille Sanitaire, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, Direction générale de la santé of the Ministry of Health, Direction de la Recherche des Etudes de l'Evaluation et des Statistiques of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Direction de la prospective et de l'évaluation of the Ministry of Education, Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques). Several working groups of the cohort has already been set up and bring more than 60 French teams working on:

- Demography-family
- Socialisation-education
- Economy-poverty

- Feeding-Nutrition
- Perinatality
- Psychomotor development and mental health
- Use of health care
- Respiratory diseases, asthma and allergies
- Accidents and traumas
- Chemical exposures
- Physical exposures
- Environmental contaminations (air, water)

Several research units and researchers at INED will bring their expertise on key issues to the Children Cohort Network such as family structure changes, fertility and sexuality patterns, health trends and determinants of health... INED will also call on its *Survey department* (15 persons) to participate in methodology discussions in the course of the project, on sampling plans, questionnaires drafting, field tests, preparation and realisation of pilot surveys. The *Documentation department* is starting an international bibliography on birth cohorts, in collaboration with the Documentation centre of the InVS for the health aspects. This bibliography will be made available to the Network and all researchers through the Web site of the EUCCONET.

The Centre for Longitudinal Study and the Millennium Cohort

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) is one of four research centres that make up the Bedford Group for Lifecourse and Statistical Studies at the Institute of Education, in the University of London. It houses three of the UK's renowned birth cohort studies: 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70) and the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS). The studies cover a broad range of themes similar to the ones listed above.

CLS provides support and facilities for those using data from the three studies, as well as conducting research using the cohort data, with a special interest in family life and parenting, family economics, neighbourhood effects, longitudinal methodology, and the interface of qualitative and quantitative evidence.

The *Millennium Cohort Study* was initiated by the ESRC in 2000, augmented by government funding, to aim for around 20,000 children. It is a multi disciplinary longitudinal study which collects data from both parents, from the children themselves and several other sources. It has so far made 3 rounds of fieldwork, at age 9 months, 3 and 5, with the 4th sweep planned at age 7 in 2007-8. A sample was drawn from all live births in the UK over a year. It was selected from a random sample of localities (electoral wards), disproportionately stratified to ensure adequate representation of all four UK countries, deprived areas and areas with high concentrations of Black and Asian families. At ages 3, 5 and 7 information about cognitive development and anthropometry is collected directly from the children. Interview material has also been supplemented by extracting records of the maternity hospital episode, postal surveys of health visitors, and of mothers who had undergone assisted fertility treatment, the observation of conditions in a subset of daycare settings, the harnessing of routine data on attainment at school, and a postal survey of teachers.

CLS has a staff of around 33 people the majority of whom contribute to all three studies. There is a core team of 6 involved in the day to day management of the Millennium Cohort, and other senior members have expertise on the methodology of longitudinal design and analysis. We can offer the network the folk memory of three major studies, just as MCS benefited from the experience gained in the more mature studies. CLS also draws on a network of around 80 scientific and policy researchers. They represent interests in

- Child Psychological Development,
- Child Health,
- Parental Health,
- Schooling and Childcare,
- Employment, Income and Poverty,
- Family Functioning and Demographics,
- Housing and Neighbourhood,

- Linkage to administrative records.

There is also likely to be a new birth cohort in UK starting around 2012, the planning of which would also benefit from the exchanges envisaged in the European Child Cohort Network.

Other European cohorts

A list of other cohorts to be included in the network is given in Appendix II.

3. Expected benefit from a European collaboration in this area

Direct scientific benefits through the enhancement of cohorts methodology

For scientists, the Network will bring direct benefit to their work, by allowing them to exchange experience and not to repeat mistakes. The network will be a single entrance door on cohort techniques for those teams that are planning to launch projects. Some issues of common interest are: how to recruit a large number of participants through a random sample? How to minimize attrition in the cohort? How to limit the burden on the participants? What use can be made of external data coming from various registers or statistical sources?... If all this information was available a large amount of time and difficulty could be saved by the newcomers, as well as mistakes in the subsequent comparative analyses.

The experience of the various teams might also allow preparing common questionnaires, or at least common questions, for each defined age of the child. For example, a common questionnaire for teenagers and their cultural practices could lead to comparisons on the European culture to the teenagers.

Contributing to the EU research policy objectives

The network will contribute to creating and fostering a community of European researchers on cohorts, and long-term collaboration between the members of the steering committee as well as with the participants to the workshops. The support provided by the network is necessary to rapidly increase the number and the scope of the collaborations in this domain, to structure them, to allow access for all to the cohort methodology. After five years, the European Child Cohorts Network will ensure a sizeable increase in the quality and the probable duration of the collaborations established. Because the focus of this network lays on large scale pluri-disciplinary cohorts, the network will also support the convergence between different scientific disciplines of medical, environment and social sciences.

Contributing to policy-relevant research

The availability of comparative data on such a topic will result in producing new scientific and policy-relevant research on theme related to the social determinants of health and the consequence of child development, the environmental impacts on children's health and development, or their nutrition and obesity...

The issue of child health and development has become recently a sensitive political concern within EU policies, with issues such as child obesity, impact of environmental factors on development or social determinants of health being at the top of the policy concern. In this light, the objectives of the network are immediately relevant to several priority areas for EU and International policy, including the EC Public Health and Environment and Health Programmes, or WHO's Children and Adolescent health and development plans.

The network will involve an **advisory body** composed of stakeholders from international organisations. Their participation will ensure that operational and more policy-oriented actors are involved in the reflection on cohort development and use. It will also lead to raise the discussions on how to involve international organisations in supporting cohort development, and possibly for planning large scale projects where the expertise of the European Cohort Network could be sought. Members of the advisory board could be :

- A representative of the WHO European programme Children and Environment
- Representatives from the European Commission : DG Research; DG SANCO
- Possibly a representative of the Millennium Objectives programme of the United Nations.

Their participation could help bringing other aspects into the discussions of the EUCCONET, such as a reflection on the usefulness of cohorts on developing countries.

4. European context :

Relevant R&D networking activities

There is no European network that brings together large-scale generalist cohorts in Europe. There are however several more focused networks in the field of epidemiology or medicine, such as the GA2LEN Network (Asthma and allergies), the ChildrenGenoNetwork (Exposures to environmental genotoxicants), EARNEST (early nutrition), or the international Childhood Cancer Cohort Consortium... Links will be established.

Already existing or planned collaborations

The more experienced scientists in the field of child cohorts are undoubtedly to be found in UK, especially associated with those run by the CLS (see above). There are a dozen cohorts currently running elsewhere in Europe, but existing contacts are most often taken on a bilateral basis. **The international conference on child cohort studies** held in Oxford in September 2006 has constituted a first attempt to bring together the world cohort community. Contacts for the preparation of this application have been taken during this event. **A Website on European Birth Cohorts** (www.birthcohorts.net) had also been developed earlier in collaboration between two projects: ChildrenGenoNetwork and EARNEST, coordinated by Anne-Marie Nybo-Andersen (Copenhagen). We plan to continue and develop this site.

How the programme would complement their activities ?

The programme would not only complement the bilateral activities that are taking place, it would help structuring them and bring the necessary support for a long-term European cooperation. We will also associate as from the beginning, outside EU experts that are essential contributors to the methodological and scientific discussions of this network.

5. Proposed activities, key targets and milestones

In a first phase, exchange of experience and knowledge will be sought (Year 1, 2, 3). In a second phase of the project, discussions on methodological issues and data comparability will take place (Year 2, 3, 4). Finally, the third phase will allow for the development of more in-depth comparative research projects (Year 3, 4, 5). Several activities will serve this purpose :

- Steering Committee meetings

The steering committee will bring together once per year the main cohort leaders, on the basis of one representative per cohort. They are selected on a project-based approach and not on nationality ground. It includes as well representatives of three outside EU cohorts. The steering committee will be responsible for the scientific direction of the project.

- Advisory board meetings

The advisory board will meet with the steering committee once per year, in a specific session aiming at widening the methodological and research discussions and at introducing more policy-driven considerations on child cohorts development.

- Scientific workshops

Each year, 3 scientific workshops on pre-selected themes will take place. The themes are to be selected by the steering committee on the basis of the needs for information sharing expressed by the participants to the programme in the course of formal or informal consultations. Issues, at the core problematic of the cohort activities could include :

- the choice of the sample in a longitudinal study : the different modes of inclusion used and the specificities of each country

- the choice of the observation tools: structure and content of the questionnaires according to the age of the population interviewed, interview duration, self-completion modules, father interview, mother interview
- participation rates, attrition rates, respondent rates and ways to communicate to interviewees; representativeness issues
- the place of biological samples in multithematic samples
- Ethical issues: how to protect privacy and personal data. It would be interesting to compare the functioning of ethical committee in European countries
- National / Regional cohorts' specificity
- Building standardized questionnaires on specific themes, or preparing comparative sets of already collected data
- comparative studies: try to find the best time-point (age of the children) through the different longitudinal studies when a common study and questionnaire should be expected and set up

Participants to these meetings will be selected on the basis of their expertise in the field, possibly following individual invitations or calls for participation. They will be national/regional cohort leaders, leaders of very specific cohorts in the medical or environmental field, survey methodology experts from research centres, administration or national statistic institutes, specific thematic networks...

The key contributions to these meetings will be made available through the website. When appropriate, specific publications can be prepared, such as synthesis papers to be submitted to scientific journals.

Short-stay grants and travel grants

Short-stay grants will allow some of the participants to benefit from a financial allowance to meet for 5 days with other network participant(s). These face-to-face meetings between a limited number of researchers should enable these researchers to go deeper in their understanding of the data generated by their cohort, or on the questionnaire used. These meetings will serve the purpose of defining comparative study in the first place, and to develop some of its aspects. Their results could be presented during the project workshop meetings and at the final conference of the project. A total of 25 short-stay grants will be available to the networks' participants. In addition, we will encourage other exchanges between participants for longer durations, but we do not expect support from ESF, except for transportation. A total of 25 travel grants will be available as well.

Website development

A website will be developed in order to strengthen and establish the visibility of the network, based on the existing site developed by the Danish team (birthcohort.net). It will be an instrument to attract additional potential network participants. The website will be the official platform of the network, and will be used to advertise activities, open calls for attendance to network workshops, and outcomes of workshops (research papers, presentations).

A second essential purpose will be to disseminate information on the network participants and their cohorts, and on existing literature and methodology on Child Cohorts.

6. Duration :

The total duration of the programme will be of 60 months.

7. Budget estimates (in €) by type of activities and per year of Programme :

Steering committee – The steering committee meetings will bring together up to 15 persons, including the programme coordinator, plus two representatives from the ESF. Except for the first meeting which will last for 2 days in month 1, each steering committee meetings will take place towards the end of the projects' year and will last for 1 day. The budget for these meetings is based on an estimate 400 € per trip and 150 € per diem. Participation of the US, Canadian and Australian researchers in the steering committee, while very valuable for the whole Network, will be covered by external sources.

Workshops – Each workshop is planned to allow for the participation of 20 persons. Workshops will last for 2 days. In year 1, 2, 3 and 4, three scientific workshops will be organised each year. There will be 2 workshops in year 5. The budget for these meetings is based on an estimate 400 € per trip and 150 € per diem.

Conference – A final conference of the network's activities will be planned towards the end of year 5. It is expected that the final conference will bring around 60 participants. It will last for two days and will take place in Paris. The budget for the final conference is based on an estimate 400 € per trip and 150 € per diem. An additional 1000 € has been budgeted for room and equipment renting for two days.

Short-stay and travel grants – 25 short-stay grants (including daily allowance and travel) will be made available to the network's participants in order for them to undertake short-term stays (5 days) within another partner's institute. Another 25 travel grants, covering only travel costs will be available to the network participants all over the period. The budget for short-stay grants is based on an estimate 400 € per trip and 85 € per diem, an average of 165 € per day. The budget for travel grants is based on an estimate of 400 € per trip.

Website – A budget of 5000 € is proposed for the first year of the network for the development of the website (based on the Danish website). For the remainder of the project year, 3000 € have been budgeted. It will cover the maintenance of the website.

External administrative costs – The 10 % rate allowed by ESF regulation has been included. The amount will cover the additional costs the network will create for INED (hosting the programme coordinator, communication, administrative costs related to the organisation of workshops and final conference).

External coordinator – A part-time external coordinator, will be hired by INED in order to assist the network leader in his tasks, and to provide a constant contact availability for the partners and collaborators. The coordinator must be able to respond on research related questions and tasks, as well as to aggregate and prepare the information received from the project partners. The budget is based on INED's salary rate for a post-doc : 4 000 € per full-time month.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
Steering committee meetings	15750	5250	5250	5 250	5 250	36 750
Participation of advisory committee members	5250	5250	5250	5 250	5 250	26 250
Science meetings						
Scientific workshop	42000	42000	42000	42 000	28 000	196 000
Conference					72 000	72 000
Short-stay grants and travel grants	6125	615	6125	6 125	6 125	18 375
Website	5000	3000	3000	3 000	3 000	17 000
External Programme Coordinator	24000	24000	24000	24 000	24 000	120 000
External administrative costs (10%)	9812,5	8011,5	8562,5	8 563	14 363	49 312
ESF administrative charge (7,5%)	8 095	6 609	7 064	7 064	11 849	40 682
TOTAL	116 033	94 736	101 252	101 252	169 837	576 368

Annex I – Full coordinates and CV of the main applicant(s)

Henri Leridon (main applicant 1)

Head of the ELFE project, INED (Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques)

Head of the mixed INED-INSERM research unit (U569)

Membre Correspondant of the *Académie des Sciences* (Institut de France), Paris

Background

- Ph D (*Doctorat d'Etat*) in Economics, (University of Paris I), 1972
- Expert Démographe, *Institut de Démographie* (University of Paris I), 1966
- Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, 1964

Positions

Director of research at INED since 1979

Member of the French Scientific Interest Grouping on Longevity (GIS-Longévité), since 2002

Editor in chief of *Population* (1996-2002); Member of Editorial Board, *International Studies on Demography* (1990-2003), Oxford University Press; Member of Editorial Board, *European Journal of Population*, Elsevier; Editor in chief of INED's collections (1989-1996)

Member of the French High Council for Public Hygiene (Conseil Supérieur d'Hygiène Publique), 1997-2002

President of INSERM inter-committee 5 on "Demographic evolutions and human health", 1995-1998

Recent research interest

Human reproduction, fertility, infertility and births regulations

Sexual behaviours and AIDS, reliability and coherence of data

Family structures, adults and child points of view

Population dynamics, projection methods, pedagogical aspect, perspectives

Previous major projects

Enquêtes EMF, ERN, ESFE, ACSF, CSF (French national surveys on families, on contraception, and on sexual behaviour)

Selected recent publications

- LERIDON (H.), VILLENEUVE-GOKALP (C.), *Constance et inconstances de la famille. Biographies familiales des couples et des enfants*. PUF, Cahier INED n° 134, 1994
- LERIDON (H.), TOULEMON (L.), "Trends in family formation and the new role of woman : France", in: *The New Role of Women. Family Formation in Modern Societies* (ed. par P. Blössfeld), p.77-101. Boulder : Westview Press, 1995, 266 p.
- LERIDON (H.), *Les enfants du désir*. Julliard, 1995, 278 p. (republished by Hachette-Littérature, *Pluriel*, 1998)
- LERIDON (H.), *Human Reproduction Update*
- SAUVAIN-DUGERDIL (C.), LERIDON (H.), MASCIE-TAYLOR (N.), eds. : *Human Clocks: The Biocultural Meanings of Age*. Bern : Peter Lang, 2005, 350 p.

Heather Joshi (main applicant 2)

Professor of Economic and Developmental Demography Institute of Education, University of London
Fellow of the British Academy

Background

St. Antony's College, Oxford 1967-1969: M.Litt. Economics
St. Hilda's College, Oxford 1964-1967: B.A (M.A.) Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Positions

Director of the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, since 2003
Director of the Millennium Cohort Study since 2000
Deputy Director, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education (1998-2003)
Deputy Director, Social Statistics Research Unit, City University (1993-1998)

Recent research interest

Gender, paid and unpaid work over the lifecourse
Child development
Neighbourhood influences on human development
Exploitation of administrative longitudinal data

Previous major projects

"The Changing Home: Outcomes for Children" - funded under ESRC Programme Children 5-16, 1996-1998
"Dimensions of Health over Persons, Time and Place" - funded under ESRC Health Inequalities Programme, 1997-1999
"Longitudinal Study User Support Programme" – ESRC and ONS, 1996-2001
"Living Arrangements and Livelihoods over the Lifetime" – Leverhulme, 1994-1997
"Health Inequalities among Women and their Families" – ESRC, 1990-1993

5 Selected recent relevant publications

Dex, S and Joshi, H (eds) (2005) *Children of the 21st Century: From birth to nine months*. Policy Press, Bristol.

Hansen, K, Joshi H. and Verropoulou, G.V (2006) Childcare and Mothers' Employment: Approaches in the Millennium. *National Institute Economic Review*, 195, 84-99

Tate, A.R., Calderwood, L., Dezateux, C., Joshi, H. and the Millennium Cohort Study Child Health Group (2006). Mother's consent to linkage of survey data with her child's birth records in a multi-ethnic national cohort study. *International Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*

Joshi, H. (2002) Production, Reproduction and Education: women, children and work in contemporary Britain. *Population and Development Review*, 28(3), 445-474.

McCulloch, A. and Joshi, H. (2002) Child Development and Family Resources: an exploration of evidence from the second generation of the 1958 Birth Cohort. *Journal of Population Economics*. 15, pp. 283-304

Claudine Pirus (contact person)

Social science coordinator of the ELFE project
INED – Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques

Background

Master degree in Demography, IDUP (Institut de démographie de l'Université de Paris I). Essay on "The evolution of spacial and social repartition of large families" (September 2003)

Master degree of Expert Demographer, IDUP (June 2002)

Positions

Coordinator for social sciences aspects of the French Children Longitudinal Study, since 2006

Study of abortion in France: analysis of data sources on abortion, research assistant at INED (January 2005-April 2006)

Partial statistical treatment of the national survey on "Family history" and working paper on French children residence (November 2003 – December 2004)

Recent research interest

Children and family mobility, territories, housing

Fertility, family, sexuality

Selected recent publications

ROSSIER Clémentine, PIRUS Claudine, « Combien d'interruptions volontaires de grossesse en France ? Une analyse de sources de données divergentes ». A paraître.

PIRUS Claudine, « Bibliographie sur l'Ile-de-France », réalisée dans le cadre du séminaire de recherche 'La métropole parisienne, un laboratoire'. A paraître septembre 2005.

PIRUS Claudine, « Lieux de vie des enfants », 2005, Recherches familiales, UNAF.

PIRUS Claudine, 2004 « L'évolution de la taille et du nombre des familles nombreuses », Informations sociales, n°115

BROWN Elisabeth, JASPARD Maryse, PIRUS Claudine, 2003, « Les violences envers les femmes en Polynésie Française », IDUP (Institut démographique de Paris1)

Annex II – List of names and full coordinates of the envisaged steering committee members**DENMARK****Tine Brink Henriksen***Substitute: Carsten Obel*

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FRANCE**Henri Leridon and Claudine Pirus**

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GERMANY**Joachim Heinrich**

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SPAIN**Jordi Sunyer***Substitute: Jordi Julvez Calvo*

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UNITED KINGDOM**Heather Joshi***Substitute: Kirstine Hansen*

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University of London
20 Bedford Way
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ALSPAC's Executive Director
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Neil Small

Substitute: John Wright
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Paul Bradshaw

Scottish Centre for Social Research
5 Leamington Terrace
Edinburgh EH10 4JW

AUSTRALIA**Matthew Grey**

Australian Agency of Families Studies
Project manager
300 Queen Street,
Melbourne, Vic
Australia 3000

CANADA**Satya Brink**

Statistics Canada
150 Tunney's Pasture Driveway
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6

UNITED STATES**Adolfo Correa**

Centre for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Rd,
Atlanta, GA 30333

Annex III – Programme collaborations

EU national generalist cohorts

- DNBC (Danish National Birth Cohort) – Anne-Marie Nybo-Andersen, Danish Epidemiology Science Centre - <http://www.ssi.dk/sw9314.asp>
- ELFE (Etude longitudinale française depuis l'enfance, France) – Henri Leridon, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques - <http://www.elfe.ined.fr/liens/cohortetr.htm>
- NLSCI (National Longitudinal Study of Children, Ireland) – James Williams, The economic and social research institute - <http://www.esri.ie/content.cfm?t=NLSCI&mld=3>
- NMCCS (Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study) – Wenche Nystad, Norwegian Institute of Public Health - <http://www.fhi.no/artikler/?id=51488>
- Millennium Cohort Study, (United Kingdom) – Heather Joshi, Centre for Longitudinal Study - <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/studies.asp?section=000100020001>
- Growing up in Scotland (Scotland) – Paul Bradshaw, Scottish Centre for Social Research - <http://www.growingupinscotland.org.uk/>

EU subnational generalist cohorts

- Aarhus birth cohort – Tine Brink Henriksen, Danish Epidemiology Science Centre
- LISA (Lifestyle factors, Immune systems, Allergies) – Joachim Heinrich, Forschungszentrum für Umwelt und Gesundheit
- Generation R (Rotterdam) – Vincent Jaddoe, Erasmus Medical Centre - <http://www.generationr.nl/>
- INMA (Infancia y Medio Ambiente) – Jordi Sunyer, Respiratory and Environmental Health Research Unit, Municipal Institute of Medical Research - <http://www.infanciaymedioambiente.org/>
- ALSPAC (Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, UK) – Lynn Molloy, University of Bristol - <http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/>
- Born in Bradford (UK) – Neil Small, School of Health Studies, University of Bradford

Oustide EU national generalist cohorts

United- States

- The National Children's Study - Adolfo Correa, Centre for Disease Prevention - <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/>
- Fragile Families Study – Sarah MacLanahan, Princeton University - <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/>
- CDS-PSID (Child Development Supplement – Panel Study of Income Dynamics) – Robert Schoeni, University of Michigan - <http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/CDS/>
- N.L.S.Y (National Longitudinal Survey of Youth) – Elizabeth Cookley, Ohio University - <http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy79ch.htm>

Canada

- National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) – Satya Brink, Statistics Canada - <http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4450&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&dm=8&dis=2>
- ELDEQ (Etude longitudinale sur le développement des enfants du Québec, Québec, national) – Bertrand Perron, Institut de la Statistique du Québec - <http://www.jesuisjeserai.stat.gouv.qc.ca/>

Australia

- "Growing Up In Australia" / LSAC Longitudinal Study of Australian Children – Matthew Grey, Australian Agency for Families Studies - <http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/>

Specialised cohort networks

- GA2LEN Network of Excellence (Asthma and allergies) – Coordinator : Paul Van Cauwenberg, University of Gent - <http://www.ga2len.net/>
- ChildrenGenoNetwork (Exposures to environmental genotoxigants) – Coordinator : Liesbeth Knudsen, University of Copenhagen - <http://cgn.pubhealth.ku.dk/childrengen/en/>
- EARNEST (early nutrition programming project) – Coordinator: Prof. Berthold Koletzko, University of Munich - <http://www.earlynutrition.org/en/pages/en.php>
- International Childhood Cancer Cohort Consortium

Annex IV – International dimension

Several cohort leaders from the US, Canada and Australia will be invited to participate in the steering committee of the European Cohorts Network. Their participation, on a self funding basis, will be highly beneficial to the general discussions of the network, as the three countries have a long-standing experience in children cohort study. The three targeted cohorts are generalists, and answer the definition of the targeted cohorts of this network. All of them seek to study social, environmental and health aspects of the child development on the very long-term and on a national scale.

Close contacts with some of the European steering committee members have already been established, as some of these cohorts inspired some of the European cohorts, and the other way round. In terms of experience and methodological exchanges, they will provide an invaluable source of information which qualifies them to participate in the networks' activities and possibly in future cross-country comparisons.