



Dear reader,

We are proud to present today our new Newsletter format - we hope you will find it easy to use and will like it as much as we do. Today's edition provides an insight into different activities of the past view months. We also introduce our latest initiative **SOCKS FOR LIFE**. Through artwork activities, we gather voices and call for a change. You know someone who could create a socks art? You plan activities throughout the year? You want to do something for World Prematurity Day? Then join us and help us make a difference to preterm infants and their families!

Enjoy reading our latest newsletter edition,
Your EFCNI Team



Help making a difference - join SOCKS FOR LIFE

SOCKS FOR LIFE is our slogan within the campaign "ene, mene, mini." It is about promoting art activities which will create awareness for preterm babies and their families. Countless associations, healthcare professionals, industry partner and individuals will join forces and raise their voices. SOCKS FOR LIFE will peak on NOVEMBER 17 for WORLD PREMATURETY DAY 2013.

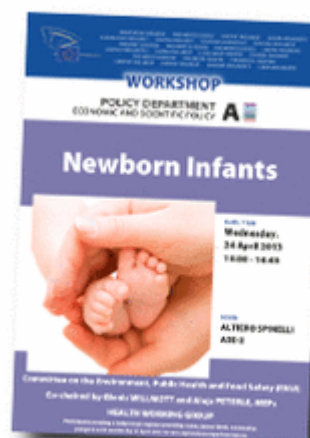
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EFCNI at EU Parliamentary Workshop "Newborn Infants"

On 24 April 2013, the European Parliament held for the first time a workshop on "Newborn Infants". Parliamentarians discussed together with experts and patients challenges in newborn health for Europe. EFCNI as patient representative draw attention to the importance of maternal health, needs of preterm babies and their families.

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Written Question on prematurity at EU Parliament

Beginning of May, Member of the European Parliament Oreste Rossi (EFD/IT), posed a question to the Commission on the topic "Providing better services for premature babies".



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Clinical trials: clearer rules, better protection

Draft EU rules on clinical trials of new medicines were recently endorsed by the Public Health Committee. A regulation designed to encourage research whilst protecting patients' rights is to replace an existing directive with simpler, more uniform rules.

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New legislation on labelling and composition of infant formula

In June, The European Parliament agreed the new "Regulation on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes". Labelling and content of baby milks and foods for special medical purposes will be better defined.

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Publication "Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2013"

The European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) recently published "Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2013". This publication consists of talks given by a range of experts to the European Parliamentary Working Group on the Quality of Childhood (QoC) during the years 2011/2012. This new edition summarises a workshop held in September 2012 on risks and challenges on prematurity in Europe.

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New European Perinatal Health Report published

The Euro-Peristat consortium published a report entitled "European Perinatal Health Report: The Health and Care of Pregnant Women and Babies". The project has partners from 29 countries across Europe and a large network of contributing experts. The report highlighted the importance of healthy mothers and children considered as the "building blocks for a strong future in Europe".

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Silke Mader receives "Medal of Europe"

Emilia Mueller, head of the Bavarian State Ministry of Federal and European Affairs awarded the "Medal for Particular Services to Bavaria in a United Europe" to EFCNI 's co-founder and chairwoman of the Executive Board, Silke Mader. You can

watch a part of the ceremony on [YouTube](#) in German. The award honors Ms Mader's involvement and dedication to improve the situation for preterm infants and their families in Europe.

[view more](#) (press release in German)



Cooperation with European Patients' Forum

EFCNI is honoured to announce a collaborative partnership with the European Patient's Forum (EPF). Both parties have agreed to continue further mutual cooperation in advancing the interests of European patients.

[view more](#)



Cooperation with COFACE

EFCNI is honoured to announce a collaborative partnership with COFACE, the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union. COFACE is a pluralistic organisation, which aims at promoting family policy, solidarity between generations and the interests of children within the European Union.

[view more](#)



NIDCAP Spring Board Meeting

The Spring Board Meeting of the NIDCAP Federation International NFI took place in Waltham, Massachusetts, in April 2013 and was attended by EFCNI Parent Advisory Board member Mandy Daly from Ireland. The NFI Board is nearing the conclusion of a Strategic Planning process which commenced in January 2013.

[view more](#)



Welcome: Prematurfoereningen Mirakel, Sweden

We warmly welcome the association Prematurfoereningen Mirakel in our network. Prematurfoereningen Mirakel was founded in March 2013. The Board consists of Chairwoman Pernilla Brown (Gothenburg), Vice President Anna-Charlotta Hellner (Partille) and Treasurer Susanne Keri (Stockholm). The association helps parents, health professionals and politicians to get ahead in the research, treatment and working practices in the field of prematurity.

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Charity bazaar in Bulgaria

The Bulgarian foundation "Our Prematurity Children" held an Easter charity bazaar called "Give a Little Magic!" in Sofia. This was one of two annually charity events organized by the foundation. The funds raised from the Bazaar will be used to buy syringe and infusion pumps for the neonatal units in several hospitals in Bulgaria. The items for the auction were all handmade and were donated by volunteers - parents, grandparents, supporters and even already grown-up preterm children.



Pre-eclampsia and preterm birth

Silke Mader had never even heard about a condition called pre-eclampsia until she was admitted to the hospital because of severely high blood pressure and having protein in the urine. She had several pre-eclampsia risk factors. Have a look at this video of her story.

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"Return to Zero" is seeking "local leaders"

"Return to Zero" is a Hollywood movie that was recently completed and stars Minnie Driver. It is based on a true story of a family with a stillborn child. RTZ is seeking "local leaders" who will work to hold a viewing of the movie, and use social media to drive attendance. They also want people to pledge that they will go to the movie in the first weekend that it is showing.

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Cooperation with Spanish Society of Neonatology

We are happy to announce that EFCNI is partnering with the Spanish Society of Neonatology (Sociedad Espanola de Neonatología SENeo) which is a scientific and non-profit association dedicated to the care of the newborn.

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EFCNI at Women Deliver

Women Deliver takes place every three years and is focusing on girls' and women's rights and health around the globe, including maternal and newborn health. The third global conference took place end of May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. EFCNI's Chairwoman Silke Mader was given the opportunity to share parents' perspectives and needs.

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8th Breastfeeding and Lactation

Symposium

This year's symposium went along the theme "Empowerment and the power of human milk: When science helps break down barriers". Improvements in science and medicine have resulted in preterm babies having a much improved chance of survival. The growing consensus is that the most natural of products, human milk, is the key to giving them the best start in life.

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International workshop on individualized developmental care

The Italian parents' umbrella association and partner of EFCNI, Vivere, the Italian Neonatal Society, the Neonatal Department of the University Hospital in Modena and the association "Pollicino" invited to an international workshop on individualized developmental care according to NIDCAP. Keynote speaker was Prof. Heideliese Als, the "mother of NIDCAP", as many friends and colleagues call her. Different hospitals in Europe, all working according to NIDCAP principles, presented their way to baby and family centred care and how this new way of approaching the baby and the family positively influences their work, the team, the bond between baby and family and last but not least the baby's' outcome.

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2013 Stockholm Conference on Ultra-Early Intervention

As a continuation of the different symposia on "Family Centered Neonatal Couplet Care" from 2009, 2010 and 2012, the Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska NIDCAP Training Center invited also this year to a scientific meeting on ultra-early intervention in May 2013. This year's event focused on sensitive and responsive parent-infant interaction, infant cognitive and behavioural development and self-regulation.

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EFCNI at preterm baby massage training course

In April, EFCNI had the opportunity to attend a two days training course "Fruehgeborenen die Haende reichen" for baby massage instructors and received an insight into the training programme on massage of preterm infants provided by the German Association for Infant Massage, DGBM (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Baby- und Kindermassage e.V.).

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PREBIC annual meeting and workshop

This year's PREBIC annual meeting and workshop was held on

22-24 April at the headquarters of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland. Delegates from all over the world participated in one of five targeted working groups - biomarkers, nutrition, epidemiology, systems biology and international studies, and global partnerships in preterm birth, which was lead by Prof. David Olson and Silke Mader.



Mark your calendar

[Meet EFCNI at congresses and conferences in 2013](#)

[Outlook on congresses and conferences in 2013](#)

[Awareness days in 2013](#)



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EFCNI - Hofmannstraße 7A - 81379 München - Germany

Tel: +49 (0)89/89083260 - Fax: +49 (0)89/890832610 - E-mail: info@efcni.org

EU Transparency Register ID Number: 33597655264-22 - Chairwoman of the Executive Board: Silke Mader