



Dear reader,

In this edition of our newsletter, we would like to share with you some exciting developments regarding our initiative SOCKS FOR LIFE. We sincerely thank the JOKE team and in particular to Stephan Schäfer-Mehdi and Michel Schmidt for their strong support.

Much to our regret, we have to wish farewell to our team member Gabi Thies who will be leaving us end of August. Our best wishes accompany her to her new position.

Enjoy reading our newsletter and have a nice summer!

Your EFCNI team



SOCKS FOR LIFE update

SOCKS FOR LIFE, the European art campaign for preterm babies launched beginning of July in Cologne, Germany. [Follow our blog on SOCKS FOR LIFE](#) to find out more about the key visual and artist René Böll's inspiration ([the Children's Graveyards called "Cillini" in Ireland](#)) as well as other famous artists showing their support for our smallest ones and their families.

By now, the entire SOCKS FOR LIFE toolkit is available in 8 languages at <http://www.socksforlife.org>. Here you can also find additional visual materials in 27 languages for free. We warmly invite you to adapt this material with logos and texts and to use it for your activities throughout the rest of the year. This will give our cause one common and recognisable face and voice to the public and important stakeholders. Please do not hesitate to [get back to us](#) with your questions, ideas or concerns.



Start of Lithuanian Presidency

The European Union ministers for Employment and Social Security met in Vilnius, Lithuania, on the occasion of the start of the Lithuanian Presidency. One important topic of their discussions during the informal meeting was the well-being of children.

[view more](#)



International Conference on Maternal Health and Newborn Care in Bulgaria

MEP Mariya Gabriel and the Foundation "Our Premature

Children" organized an International Conference "Maternal Health and Newborn Care – Harmonization with European Practices" in order to respond to the major challenge that Europe is facing in terms of maternal health and newborn care. The event aimed to turn the topic into a priority of public health policies for all European countries.

[view more](#)

Summary of EU Parliamentary Workshop "Newborn Infant"

In April, the Workshop on "Newborn Infants", organised by the European Parliament, highlighted challenges related to neonatal mortality and morbidity as well as preterm births. EFCNI had the opportunity to present the patients' point of view. A document summarising the presentations and discussions at the workshop has recently been published. We would like to encourage you to use this [European Parliamentary report](#) for the policy work in your country.

EU Parliament questions Commission

In July MEP Marc Tarabella (S&D, Belgium) asked the Commission [if they would be in favour of treating maternal and newborn health](#) and in particular preterm birth as health priority. We will keep you updated.

Meanwhile, the Commission answered the question by MEP Nuno Melo (PPT, Portugal) on ["pregnant woman and iodine supplement"](#), as well as MEP Oreste Rossi's (EFD/Italy) question on ["providing better services for premature babies"](#).

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EU Parliamentary report "Impact of the crisis on access to care for vulnerable groups"

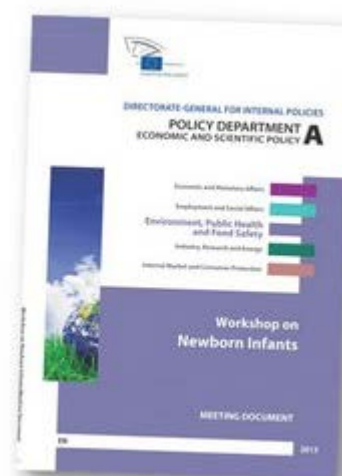
The recently published report on the ["Impact of the crisis on access to care for vulnerable groups"](#), written by MEP Jean Lambert, is an interesting document referring also to maternal and child health and in particular preterm babies.

EU Parliament debates draft report on patient safety

Following the publication of MEP Oreste Rossi's (EFD, Italy)



Summary and Action Points for the International Conference
"Maternal Health and Newborn Care –
Harmonization with European Practices"
Sofia, Bulgaria, June 7th, 2013



[report on patient safety](#), including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections, the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee of the European Parliament held their first debate on the issue on 20 June. The report highlights the need for preventative strategies and control mechanisms. Taking simple steps, including basic hand hygiene, can prevent many of these infections and save lives. [view more](#)



Decision on preterm infants care in Germany

The Federal Joint Committee (German: Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss) decided that there should be [one caregiver per preterm infant](#) when the baby is requiring intensive care therapy. The "Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss" is a German public health organisation. The German national association Bundesverband „das frühgeborene Kind" e.V. is very engaged in this topic: warmest thanks for your work! [view more](#)



Welcome: Svenska Prematurförbundet, Sweden

We warmly welcome the "[Riksförbundet Svenska Prematurförbundet](#)" ("The Swedish Premature Federation") which was founded in June by the three largest local parent organisations in Sweden: Stockholm/Uppsala, Gothenburg and Helsingborg. The federation grows quickly and is now active also in Örebro, Umea, Nyköping, Eskilstuna and as well as Visby. [view more](#)



Welcome: Little Giant, Serbia

We are excited to welcome the newly registered parents association in Serbia "Mali div / Little Giant" in our network. It is the first and only national association of parents of preterm infants in Serbia. With its office in Belgrade and a volunteer network all over the country "Little Giant" is helping the parents of preterm infants during their stay in hospital and after discharge. [view more](#)



Welcome: Prematuridade, Brasil

We are delighted to now also officially warmly welcome the



Brasilian association "Prematuridade.com" in our network, which is the first Brasilian online project designed to inform and support preterm infants' families. The project's idea is to help families in every possible way: e.g. by publishing reliable information about prematurity and also providing a platform where parents can share their stories and exchange experiences.

[view more](#)

First ever summer party with families of preterm infants in Lithuania

In June, the Lithuanian parent organisation "Neisnesiotukas" celebrated the first SUMMER EVENT in Lithuania for families of preterm babies. It was a very successful event with around 30 families (about 100 people including twins and triplets) and involved mothers from the NICU and the Unit who could participate and see grown kids, and talk to other parents. It was very inspiring and gave hope and strength to move on.

[view more](#)



Sweden: Grieving parents in Gothenburg receive support

Having to lose your baby while still in hospital is an incredible burden for parents. In addition to their grief, these families have to experience financial challenges and often enough have to take up a credit when it comes to burying their child. Parents in Gothenburg, Sweden, now found a way to support these families and to accompany them through this most difficult time.

[view more](#)

Prematurföreningen Mirakel

Vi öskar ställa frågor

EFCNI visits Erasmus MC-Sophia Children's Hospital in Rotterdam, the Netherlands

On our way to the ESPNIC congress mid of June, we had the great opportunity to visit the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Erasmus MC-Sophia Children's Hospital in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, one of the NIDCAP training centres in Europe. At the entrance to the unit, we were fascinated by the "welcome parents" sign in several languages. To our amasement, this represented what we felt during our entire visit – a warm atmosphere where babies and parents receive treatment and care with respect and trust. For example parents are invited to stay with their baby 24 hours and can kangaroo (skin-to-skin contact) even at night.

Many thanks to the NICU team for showing us around and for the fruitful discussions we had. We took home a lot of



information and inspiration for our work.



EFCNI Scientific Advisory Board

We would like to warmly welcome Prof. Gian Carlo Di Renzo in our Scientific Advisory Board. Prof. Gian Carlo Di Renzo is currently Professor and Chair at the University of Perugia and Director of the Reproductive and Perinatal Medicine Center, Santa Maria della Misericordia Hospital in San Sisto, Perugia. In addition he is the Director of the "Permanent International and European School of Perinatal and Reproductive Medicine" (PREIS) in Florence, Italy.

[view more](#)



EFCNI at World Congress Fetal Medicine in Marbella, Spain

The Fetal Medicine Foundation invited to its 12th World Congress on Fetal Medicine in Marbella from 23 to 27 of June. Prof. Kyros Nicolaides, also member of EFCNI's Scientific Advisory Board, organised five intensive and most interesting days of scientific programme. Experts from all over the world presented latest findings in clinical practice and research in fetal medicine. EFCNI was proud to attend this event and honoured to present the foundation's work with a booth during the congress.



EFCNI at World Congress Perinatal Medicine in Moscow, Russia

Health professionals from the gynaecological/obstetric and neonatal field came together in Moscow from 18-22 June for the 11th World Congress of Perinatal Medicine. EFCNI participated with a booth and presented its work for maternal and newborn health to an international audience. Silke Mader had the opportunity to speak at a Luncheon Symposium about her own story having experienced a preeclampsia and a preterm birth. She also presented EFCNI's work and aims.



EFCNI at ESPNIC congress in Rotterdam, the Netherlands

This year's congress was again a great opportunity for the over 1120 participants from 84 different countries to exchange ideas and experiences. One topic on the congress agenda were ethics in neonatal care with immensely inspiring presentations and discussions. We hope that this important topic will find its way into the programmes of other international and national events as well.

We wish the newly elected ESPNIC Executive Committee and especially our Scientific Advisory Board Members, Nursing President Odile Frauenfelder, and Agnes van den Hoogen, all the best for their work.

Thanks to Dorette Jansen from the Dutch parent group VOC for also joining us at our booth where had many interesting talks and discussions with the congress participants.

Symposium: breast-feeding preterm infants

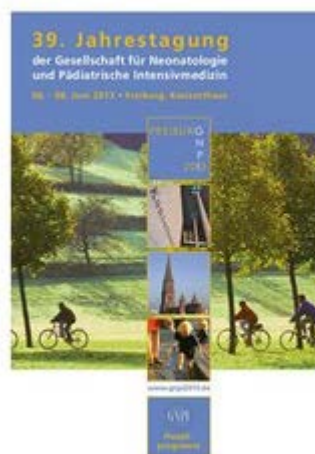
In June, Medela invited to a one-day training workshop for health professionals on breastfeeding preterm infants taking place in Munich, Germany. Thomas Kühn from the Vivantes Hospital in Berlin-Neukölln, amongst others, explained the importance of breast milk for preterm infants. Family-centred care and the implementation of the ideas of NIDCAP (Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program) are crucial in the treatment and care for preterm babies to improve their development and long-term health.

EFCNI at GNPI congress in Freiburg, Germany

The annual congress of the "German Society of Neonatology and Pediatric Intensive Care" (GNPI) in Freiburg, Germany, was the first occasion for us to present the initiative SOCKS FOR LIFE. This year's congress focussed on topics such as the care for the healthy newborn and the unborn child, long-term outcome after prenatal and perinatal pathology, as well as neonatal infections. Guest speaker was Prof. Hugo Lagercrantz from the Swedish Karolinska Institute in Stockholm who is also member of the EFCNI Scientific Advisory Board.

Our best wishes to the newly elected GNPI Board and in particular to Prof. Rolf F. Maier from Marburg, as well as to Prof. Ursula Felderhoff-Müser, also member of the EFCNI Scientific Advisory Board. We very much look forward to our collaborative work in the next years.

EFCNI at Preeclampsia Congress



in Berlin, Germany

Preeclampsia is one of the causes of preterm birth - also the roots of EFCNI lie within this disease, as chairwoman Silke Mader herself experienced a preterm birth due to preeclampsia. The prevention of preterm birth is one major target of EFCNI's work, and we were grateful to attend the national Preeclampsia Congress ("Deutscher Gestose Kongress") in Berlin, Germany. Many experts from all over the country came together for the 2-day congress held mid of June at the campus of the Charité to discuss new findings on treatment and diagnosis, prediction and prevention of preeclampsia.

EFCNI co-organises multistakeholder event "PAss'auf"

At the beginning of June, the "Children's Hospital Dritter Orden" in Passau, Germany, invited to the forum PAss' auf, "Newborn Health – Quo Vadis", a multidisciplinary platform for experts in the field of child and family health. The event was co-organised by EFCNI and provided interesting and intensive discussions on the pressing challenges in child and family health.



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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