



Thank you for taking your time to read the latest EFCNI newsletter. The year 2015 started as busy as the old year ended. We are happy to announce that Silke Mader is now an Ashoka Fellow and that Prof. Neil Marlow joined the EFCNI Executive Board. Another highlight of the past months was the 11th Parent Organisations Meeting which took place in January. 40 participants from all around the world came together to network and exchange experience. Happy reading!



Your EFCNI-Team

Silke Mader is a new Ashoka Fellow

Ashoka Germany welcomed Silke Mader and four other new fellows to the partnership on March 10, 2015 in Berlin, Germany. For more than 30 years, Ashoka has been supporting pioneers of society who solve societal problems with innovative approaches in more than 80 countries. Kailash Satyarthi, the 2014 Nobel Prize laureate, himself a pioneer and since 1993 part of the Ashoka network, was a guest during the award ceremony. Silke Mader and EFCNI will now receive pro bono consulting as well as access to an international network with like-minded companies and partners.



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Prof Neil Marlow joins Executive Board of EFCNI

Prof. Neil Marlow was announced a new member of the EFCNI Executive Board by the EFCNI Trustee Board. In his new role he follows PD Dr Matthias Keller, who stepped down from this position for family reasons but will remain closely connected with EFCNI as a member of the Trustee Board. Prof. Marlow will work alongside Silke Mader and Nicole Thiele. The entire EFCNI team warmly welcomes Prof. Marlow in his new position and looks very much forward to working together in the future.



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Ultra-Early Intervention Conference

The Karolinska hospital in Stockholm, EFCNI, NIDCAP International and the European Association for Developmental Care hosted the 2015 Conference on Ultra-Early Intervention in Stockholm, March 16, 2015. During the event speakers from all over the world introduced several concepts of patient- and family centered

developmentally supportive care to the audience. Silke Mader had the opportunity to present the EFCNI Standards of Care for Newborn Health. A big thank you to Björn Westrup and his team for organising this great conference!

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11th Parent Organisations Meeting

40 participants from all around the world joined the 11th Parent Organisations meeting in Freising near Munich at the end of January 2015. We are happy to see the network growing and that every year more and more participants gather to share experience and impulses for preterm and newborn health. Special thanks to Prof. Luc Zimmermann, President of the European Society of Paediatric Research, who joined the meeting on Saturday and emphasized the need for collaboration between healthcare professionals and parents.

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New Edition of German Bonding brochure

EFCNI released a new edition of the German 'Bonding with Preterm Infants' brochure. The brochure focusses on ways for parents to bond with their medically fragile babies during their stay in a neonatal intensive care unit. It also explains the principles of developmental care for preterm infants. The brochure can be downloaded on the EFCNI website for free.

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New Edition of German Healthy Pregnancy Brochure

A pregnancy is a wonderful experience for everyone involved. The German EFCNI brochure 'Healthy Pregnancy' gives tips on what is important to give newborns the best start in life. Experts from various fields authored chapters on important issues of a healthy pregnancy. The brochure can be downloaded on the EFCNI website for free. An English version will be available soon.

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Silke Mader speaks at International G7

Parliamentarians' Conference

"She Matters- Empowering women and girls to lead self-determined, healthy and productive lives" is the topic of the International Parliamentarians' Conference which takes place in the context of the German G7 presidency at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Berlin April 16-17, 2015. Silke Mader is invited to speak at the panel discussion on "Addressing neglected issues— premature births, cervical cancer, fistula".



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Longer maternity leave in the Netherlands

The Dutch organisation VOC hit a great milestone at the beginning of the year. For more than 6 years they have been advocating for a longer maternity leave in the Netherlands. Mothers are entitled to 16 weeks maternity leave, in general 6 weeks before and 10 weeks after the birth of a child – a time span which is sometimes over when or before the baby comes home from the NICU. Thanks to the hard work of VOC the mothers of preterm babies now get maternity leave of 10 weeks once their baby is at home.



[View more](#) (in Dutch)

Introducing: New Parent Group in Brazil

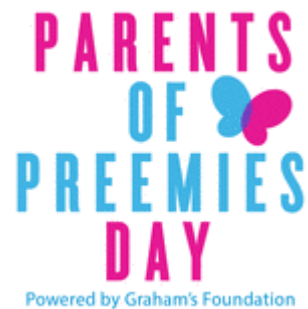
The Brazilian Association of Families, Friends and Carers of Preterm Babies Prematuridade.com was formed in November 2014 and is the country's first non-profit organisation for infants born too soon. The organisation emerged out of the website prematuridade.com which was established in 2011 as a hub to support and inform families of preterm babies. The organisation now aims to raise awareness about preterm birth and ways to prevent it. It also advocates for an extended maternity/ paternity leave for preterm parents. At the moment Prematuridade.com is planning a campaign to inform about preterm birth and its consequences and prevention measures in public places in South Brazil.



[View more](#) (in Portuguese)

Parents of Premies Day 2015

Having a preterm baby is a roller-coaster ride of emotions. Joy, hope, despair, crying and laughing are often close together. Parenting a preemie is a special experience and to honour those who go through it, the US-based Graham's Foundation initiated the Parents of Premies Day, May 3. Find out how you can support the day on its website.



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Bringing Parents and medical Professionals together in Greece

The Greek organisation Ilitominon hosted a special event in December 2014: For the first time parents of preterm babies and healthcare professionals came together to discuss the issues of preterm birth. Under the topic “Standards of Care: Empowering preterm infants and their families”, Prof. Giuseppe Buonocore, President of UENPS, Dr. Fani Anatolitou, congress President and former President of the Hellenic Neonatal Society as well as Silke Mader, EFCNI gave inspiring talks on the importance of collaboration between healthcare professionals and parents.



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New EMA Recommendations I

The EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has recommended restrictions on the use of codeine-containing medicines for cough and cold in children because of the risk of serious side effects with these medicines, including the risk of breathing problems. These medications should not be given to children under the age of 12 as well as adolescents under 18 years who have problems with breathing.



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New EMA Recommendations II

The EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) considers the risk of severe allergic reactions to medicines containing ambroxol or bromhexine small. However, the institution recommends that the product information should be updated with further information on allergic reactions. The medication is used to help clear mucus from the airways.



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Best practices in maternity care across Europe

A European research team launched a survey to find out about

women's views and experiences relating to maternity care in a number of different European countries. The online survey is available in 19 languages. Every woman who was pregnant in the past five years can take part.

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European child and adolescent health strategy

The member states in the WHO European region have adopted the new strategy "Investing in children: child and adolescent health strategy for Europe 2015–2020". The strategy is dedicated to ensure that every child in Europe should have every opportunity to live a healthy and meaningful life. The paper about the strategy is available in four languages (English, German, French and Russian).

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Teachers' knowledge of long-term consequences of preterm birth

A new paper by Johnson and colleagues assessed teachers' and educational psychologists' knowledge and training about preterm birth and its long-term consequences in England. The results show shortcomings in knowledge and a need for better training. Although over 90% of respondents thought that they were likely to come into contact with a preterm child, only 38% of teaching staff felt well-prepared to support preterm born children and only 16% of teaching staff had received formal training on the topic.

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Overview of parental leave in Europe

On request of the European Parliament group Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality the Policy Department C: Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs has published a study on "Maternity, paternity and parental leave". The paper includes data related to the duration and compensation rates in the European Union.

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Mark your calendar

Receive an overview on [congresses and conferences in 2015](#) and find out where to meet EFCNI.



Awareness days in 2015

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