



This year's World Prematurity Day was amazing and broke all records. We thank everyone who contributed to this fantastic momentum for action on preterm birth. People around the world organised charity concerts, information events, heartwarming family days, decorated hospital units with the famous socks line, illuminated buildings in purple, and much more, to give a clear signal that they care for the smallest. Let's keep this great spirit and combine our efforts in the long-term Socks for Life campaign. Recently, Socks for Life was shown at the World Congress of Perinatal Medicine in Madrid. For now, we wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas, a peaceful and joyous holiday season, and a Happy New Year. See you in 2016!



Your EFCNI team

World Prematurity Day 2015: Review

World Prematurity Day 2015 broke all records: On all continents in about 100 countries events were organised. Far more than 1 billion people were reached. EFCNI is so thankful and proud of all the commitment especially of our partner organisations. On our [review of World Prematurity Day 2015](#), you can find a selection of remarkable activities around the world from Australia to the USA.



EFCNI Changemaker Map

On the [EFCNI Changemaker Map](#), we want to show the world that people work together internationally to improve situation for preterm infants and their families. In the few months since its launch more than 140 events on all continents were added by committed individuals and organisations. A huge thank you to all contributors to the success. And to the others: Keep on adding...!



Workshop Maternal and Newborn Health in the European Parliament

In the runup to World Prematurity Day, renowned health experts and academics, World Health Organization (WHO) ambassadors and patient representatives met in Brussels for a workshop on maternal and newborn health. It was kindly hosted by MEP Dr Angelika Niebler and MEP Dr Peter Liese, in close collaboration with EFCNI.



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EFCNI at the 12th World Congress of Perinatal Medicine

From 3 to 6 November, the 12th World Congress of Perinatal Medicine took place in Madrid, Spain. In addition to its usual booth, EFCNI also brought a themed banner exhibition to the congress. Silke Mader gave talks in a session of the congress and in a pre-congress course.

- [Summary of 12th World Congress of Perinatal Medicine \(WCPM\)](#)
- [Socks for Life on WCPM](#)



27th Congress of the German Society for Perinatal Medicine

From 1 to 3 December 2015, the 27th German congress for perinatal medicine took place in Berlin. The congress is organised by the German Society for Perinatal Medicine (DGPM) - the oldest and largest professional society for the interdisciplinary field of perinatal medicine in the German speaking countries.

- [Summary of 27th German congress for perinatal medicine \(DGPM\)](#)
- [Website of DGPM](#)



EFCNI talk at Neonatology Conference in Bratislava

Slovakia's capital Bratislava was the venue for a neonatology conference organised by our partner organisation *Malicek*. Professionals discussed best practice examples of family-centred care and follow-up programmes. Silke Mader gave a talk on the empowerment of parents.

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Exchange of views with Members of European Parliament

On 28 October 2015, the Interest Group on Maternal and Neonatal Health in close collaboration with EFCNI organised a breakfast meeting with Members of the European Parliament for an exchange of views on the state of maternal and newborn health in our countries.

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Dr Michael Poschmann joins EFCNI Trustee Board

EFCNI has the honour to announce the appointment of Dr Michael Poschmann, as new member of the EFCNI Trustee Board. As Head of the Department of Paediatric & Neuro-orthopaedics of *Schön Klinik München Harlaching*, Dr Michael Poschmann is an expert in paediatric and neuro orthopaedics.

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New member of EFCNI Scientific Advisory Board

We are honoured to welcome Dr Carmen Pallás-Alonso, the Head of the Neonatal Unit at the Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre and Associate Professor at the Medical School of the Complutense University in Madrid, as a new member of the EFCNI Scientific Advisory Board.

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University Children's Hospital Tübingen opens NIDCAP centre

On World Prematurity Day, the Department of Neonatology of the University Children's Hospital Tübingen celebrated the official opening of the first Newborn Individualized Development Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP) training centre in German-speaking countries.

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Expert symposium in Rimini

For the third time, healthcare professionals in the fields of neonatology, paediatrics, nursing, child psychiatry, psychology, and physiotherapy exchanged views on *The Family in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*. Silke Mader represented EFCNI in this symposium held on 30 October in Rimini, Italy. We warmly thank Professor Gina Ancora, Monica Ceccatelli, Vivere Onlus, and the regional parent organisations for the kind invitation.

[View more](#) (Italian)



Prix Courage

On 16 November, for the 11th time, German TV programme *ML mona lisa* and French cosmetics company *Clarins* invited powerful and committed women to Munich, Germany, to honour them with

the *Prix Courage*. Right in the thick of it: Chairwoman of the Executive Board Silke Mader and Vice Chair of the Executive Board Nicole Thiele.

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A cosy time-out for parents

EFCNI is happy to support the creation of a new parent room *Kleine Auszeit* (Small Break) at the German Catholic Children's Hospital Wilhelmsstift in Hamburg. For this purpose EFCNI used the prize money Silke Mader received as an awardee of the *Prix Courage*. This new feel-good space for parents gives them the opportunity to feel welcome, rest, relax and regain energy, or have lunch breaks, and to exchange information.

[View more](#) (German)

Hospital visit in Strasbourg

On 28 October 2015, EFCNI's Executive Board Professor Neil Marlow, Silke Mader and Nicole Thiele had the opportunity to visit the neonatal unit of Les Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg. Professor Pierre Kuhn and his team showed their unit and explained their care concept.

[View more](#) (Facebook)

Visit of Vivantes Hospital Berlin-Neukölln

On 4 December part of the EFCNI team had the great opportunity to visit the Clinic of Obstetrics and the neonatal intensive care unit at the Vivantes Hospital Berlin-Neukölln, Germany. The hospital meets the requirements of the highest standard in Germany as a Perinatal Centre Level 1.

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EFCNI visited the St. Joseph Hospital in Berlin-Tempelhof

EFCNI was thankful to have the opportunity to visit the St. Joseph Hospital on 3 December in Berlin-Tempelhof, Germany. With more than 3,800 births in the last year the St. Joseph Hospital is among the hospitals with the highest number of births in Germany.

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Silke Mader speaks at University of Gothenburg

Clinicians, psychologists, scientists and other experts in the field of preterm birth met at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, for a seminar session. Silke Mader was invited to give a talk on the



empowerment of parents. Special thanks to Professor Ann Hellström and Carina Mallard.

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Meet EFCNI @ these congresses

We will participate in [several congresses](#) within the coming months and would be happy to see you there! Meet the EFCNI team @

- the 24th [European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology \(EPCOG\)](#) from 19 to 21 May 2016 in Torino, Italy
- the 49th [Annual Meeting ESPGHAN](#) from 25 to 28 May 2016 in Athens, Greece
- the [25th European Congress on Perinatal Medicine](#) from 15 to 18 June 2016 in Maastricht, Netherlands
- the conference [Nutrition and nurture in infancy and childhood bio-cultural perspectives](#) from 23 to 25 August 2016 in Dalarna, Sweden
- the conference [The Power of Programming 2016 – Developmental Origins of Adiposity and Long-term Health](#) from 13 to 15 October 2016 in Munich, Germany
- the [6th Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies](#) from 12 to 25 October 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland



Release of first Bulgarian booklet and online platform on prematurity

We congratulate our Bulgarian partner organisation *Our Premature Children* for releasing the first booklet on preterm birth in Bulgaria on the occasion of World Prematurity Day. Additionally, they released an online platform. Several media reported about the booklet which was distributed in about 40 NICUs.

[View more](#) (Bulgarian)



Healing music in Hungarian NICUs

PIC Ringató Programme by *Ringató Hungarian Music Education Foundation* is a music programme to help parents to sing and tell rhymes to their babies during their stay at a paediatric intensive care unit (PIC). In a guest article, Tímea Hazay, head of the programme, explains how they help parents find their own voices.

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Asociatia Unu si Unu launches first Romanian call center on prematurity

On World Prematurity Day, our partner organisation *Asociatia Unu*

si Unu launched the country's first call centre for preterm birth in Romania. Within the new helpline *Alo, prematuritate!* (*Hello, prematurity!*) parents with a preterm born child receive professional advice, information and moral support. The French parent organisation *SOS Préma* kindly supported the development and training for this project.

[View more](#) (Romanian)

DiaryforLife/Barnets Bog: New Danish app for parents of preemies

DiaryforLife/Barnets Bog is a new app developed for parents in the need for saving memories in a digital matter, making an informative diary about their child's beginning of life. The app is free of charge and was created in collaboration with the Danish parent organisation *Landsforeningen Præmatures Vilkår*. It contains detailed information on the most important issues of preterm birth.

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EFCNI at the EMA training session for patients and consumers

On 25 November the European Medicines Agency (EMA) organised a training session for patients and consumers interested in European Medicines Agency activities with the aim to give an overview of medicines evaluation and how patients can be involved in the process.

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Management and therapeutics of lower respiratory tract infection

A new paper by Mazur and colleagues published in the *Lancet Respiratory Medicine* in collaboration with the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Network (ReSViNET) reviews the current management and new therapeutics of lower respiratory tract infections caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

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Results from EUROPAIN study

A recently published prospective cohort study, EUROPAIN (EUROpean Pain Audit In Neonates), shed light on sedation and analgesia in neonatal intensive care practice in Europe.

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NICE Guideline on preterm labour and birth

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recently launched a guideline for preterm labour and birth. This guideline covers the care of women at increased risk or with symptoms of preterm labour and women having a planned preterm birth.

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FIGO's initiative on gestational diabetes mellitus

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) has launched an initiative on gestational diabetes mellitus. Hyperglycaemia is one of the most common conditions during pregnancy.

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Safety information on ambroxol and bromhexine expectorants

The Coordination Group for Mutual Recognition and Decentralised Procedures - Human endorsed by majority vote recommendations to update the product information for ambroxol and bromhexine containing medicines with information about the small risk of severe allergic reactions and severe cutaneous adverse reactions.

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Public consultation on access to health services in the EU

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has released a reflection paper for public consultation on a proposal to enhance early dialogue to facilitate accelerated assessment of priority medicines (PRIME). The deadline for comments is 23 December 2015. Please provide your comments using this [template](#) and send it to prime@ema.europa.eu

[View more](#)

Collecting high-quality information on medicines through patient registries

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has launched an initiative on patient registries aimed at making better use of existing



registries as a source of high-quality post-authorisation data for regulatory decision-making, and to facilitate the establishment of new registries if needed.

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Mark your calendar

Receive an overview on [congresses and conferences in 2016](#) and find out where to meet EFCNI.

[Awareness days in 2016](#)



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