



The Parent Organisations Meeting at the end of January marked the start of the new EFCNI year. Filled with workshops and plenty of activities for networking and exchange, like the *World Café* discussion event, we were inspired by the talks of our speakers. By sharing their expertise and practice, e.g. on creating a paid position in a national parent organisation in Bulgaria, they encouraged others to make an impact in their own countries. Furthermore, 2018 is a special year for us. Ten years ago, EFCNI was born. What started as an action by two affected parents and a neonatologist, has turned into a global network for newborn health. Let us celebrate and dedicate our 10th anniversary to everyone who made this possible. Thank you for your strong support and trust in EFCNI and our work.



Your EFCNI team

## New composition of the EFCNI Trustee Board

EFCNI is delighted to announce the following changes in the foundation's Trustee Board: Professor Luc Zimmermann from the Netherlands joined EFCNI as new member. He has been accompanying and supporting the foundation for about a decade and in his new role, he will work even closer with EFCNI. Professor Hercília Guimarães from Portugal became Honorary Member of the Trustee Board. In her role, she will continue supporting and advising EFCNI and the Trustee Board with her invaluable expertise.



We warmly thank the Trustee Board for their commitment and continuous support and are looking forward to our common work.

[View more](#)

## Our youngest supporter

Sophia, a six-year-old girl from Germany surprised us with a heart-warming drawing. Her picture of her family adorns the back of our new "Thank-you" card for donors. We warmly thank her for this valuable contribution.



[View more](#)

## Reinforcement for the EFCNI Design Department

Welcome on board: Laura Staudt recently joined our team and will support the Graphic Department. As a *Graphic Designer*, she will

help to further boost the brand awareness by developing digital and printed material in line with our corporate identity. We warmly welcome Laura to our team.

[View more](#)



## Hot off the press

The renowned German magazine *Monatsschrift Kinderheilkunde* that covers all kinds of areas of paediatrics and adolescent medicine, features our international project on the development of recommendations for the operation of milk banks. The abstract in English and German is available for free.



[View more](#) (Springer International Publishing)

## 14th Parent Organisations Meeting

As a time-honoured tradition, January was that time of year again where EFCNI hosted its by now 14th Parent Organisations Meeting (POM) in Freising, Germany. About 80 participants from Europe, Africa, Canada, and North America, in total from more than 30 countries, gathered to discuss preterm health topics, to share knowledge and experiences, and to motivate each other.



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## Happy Birthday RECAP preterm

Time flies so quickly! It's been a year since the EU-funded project *Research on European Children and Adults born Preterm (RECAP preterm)* came into being. EFCNI as a proud project partner and coordinator congratulates to 12 eventful months of stimulating meetings, fruitful debates, encompassing data collection and promising long-term follow-up research! Happy Birthday #RECAPpreterm



[View more](#)

## RECAP preterm consortium meeting in Frankfurt, Germany

Since the first 12 months of the EU-funded project *Research on European Children and Adults born Preterm (RECAP preterm)* are over, the consortium consisting of about 60 professionals from diverse areas met to wrap up the first working year. Currently all milestones and deliverables are on track. EFCNI and our project partner from the University of Marburg, Professor Rolf F. Maier, shared their dissemination plans for 2018 based on the lessons learned in the project's first year.



[View more](#)

## 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 @

- [51st Annual Congress of the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition \(ESPGHAN\)](#), from 9 to 12 May 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland
- [44. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Neonatologie und Pädiatrische Intensivmedizin \(GNPI\)](#), from 7 to 9 June 2018 in Rostock, Germany
- [World Congress in Fetal Medicine](#) from 24 to 28 June 2018 in Athens, Greece
- [XXVI. European Congress of Perinatal Medicine \(ECPM\)](#), from 5 to 8 September 2018 in St. Petersburg, Russia



## Photo contest 1 in 10

On the occasion of World Prematurity Day 2017, the Romanian parent organisation and partner of EFCNI, *Unu si Unu* held a photo contest. The theme was adapted by the *Socks for Life* slogan *One baby in 10 is born premature* and participants were called to submit photos that illustrate the concept *One in ten*. Our Chairwoman Silke Mader was a proud member of the jury and we are very delighted to introduce the winning photo: Monica Alina, mother of a preterm boy chose seeds to illustrate the contest's theme. Congratulations!

[View more](#) (Facebook)



## A music therapeutic fiesta

Three great music therapists contributed to an emotional marking of World Prematurity Day at the neonatal unit of the Akershus university hospital (Ahus), near Oslo. In addition, special cake, coffee and not least purple home-knitted gifts were handed out. Vilni Verner Holst Bloch, Chairman of *Prematurforeningen* in Norway, reports about this special day.

[View more](#)



## Peer-to-peer and multi-language support

The *Canadian Premature Babies Foundation (CPBF-FBPC)* established the country's largest NICU parent support network. In addition, the parent organisation published introductory booklets *Welcome to the Club: An introduction to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit by parents for parents* in several languages – among others in Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and Tamil.

[View more](#)



## Extension of maternal leave in Brazil

The Brazilian government has decided to double the length of paid maternity leave for mothers of preterm infants. Our partnering parent organisation *Prematuridade* significantly influenced the legislative procedure by creating a task force composed of politicians from different parties to join forces to improve the legal situation.

[View more](#)



## Breast milk for preterms: dissertation studied maternal experiences

For her dissertation *Breast Milk for Preterm Infants*, Riikka Ikonen from the University of Tampere, Finland, interviewed mothers about their experiences in milk expressing, practices, and coping strategies. Our Finnish partnering parent organisation *Kevyt* contributed to the research by sharing the questionnaire with their network and thus recruiting participants.

[View the dissertation](#) (*Tampere University Institutional Repository*)



## Short films on Butterfly Project

Last year in September, our newsletter included an article about the Butterfly Guidelines. A wonderful project run by the network around neonatalresearch.net which provides guidance for health professionals dealing with bereaved parents who have lost a twin baby. Neonatal Research has now produced films with affected parents who share their experiences. The films are available on neonatalbutterflyproject.org. Please register (for free) if you wish to have access to the short films and parent stories. If you would like to learn more about the butterfly project, please visit the website.

[View more](#) (website neonatalbutterflyproject)



## Share your experience of finding a midwife

After reports of overcrowded delivery rooms, difficulties in finding a midwife for childbirth and childbed care at home, especially in major cities, the German prevention and care programme *BabyCare* decided to find out how widespread this situation is in Germany. What are your personal experiences of finding a midwife? Help us gain an overview in order to take action. If you are pregnant or if you have given birth to a child after January 2015, we would like to hear from you in a short survey. Please note that the survey is only available in German. (Image: Jason Lander/flickr)

[View more](#) (*BabyCare*, in German)



## 11 months - 11 topics: Data collection and documentation

February marks the start of our monthly calendar *11 months - 11 topics* with *Data collection and documentation* being the first topic. This month you will learn about evidence-based research outcomes, the use of big data in neonatal care and their effects on medical practises and care procedures. To stay updated, follow us on social media.

- [Topic announcement \(Facebook\)](#)
- [Standard topics of Data collection and documentation \(Facebook\)](#)
- [Developing standards on Data collection and documentation \(website of European Standards of Care for Newborn Health project\)](#)



## Lighthouse projects: Data collection and documentation

As part of *11 months – 11 topics*, we would also like to introduce you to our brand new concept of lighthouse projects. Each month you will get to know one or more lighthouse projects. These are projects realised by members of our network or others active in neonatal care which we would like to share with you. Please regard them as a source of inspiration, a motivator or a role model for your own organisation or your individual ideas.

- [SwissNeoNet: a voice in favour of health care of preterm infants](#)
- [The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement \(ICHOM\)](#)
- [Update on the eNewborn International Networking Programme](#)



## EMA recommends suspending of hydroxyethyl-starch

EMA's *Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee* (PRAC) recommends the suspension of the marketing authorisations for hydroxyethyl-starch (HES) solutions for infusion across the European Union. These products are used as plasma volume replacement following acute blood loss, where treatment with alternative products is not considered to be sufficient.

[View more \(European Medicines Agency\)](#)



## Mark your calendar

Receive an overview on [congresses and conferences in 2018](#) on maternal and newborn health.

[Awareness days](#)



## Landmark 2017 in the Land of Ideas

EFCNI is one of the most innovative "Landmarks 2017" of the initiative [Germany – Land of Ideas](#).

[View more](#) (website *Germany - Land of Ideas*, in German)



Special thanks to our corporate partners for their kind support:



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