

The European Child Cohorts Network (EUCCONET)

Standing committee : **SCSS**

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Abstract – Despite its cost, the methodological issues it raises, and time constraints for analysis, the cohort study is of strong interest for decision-makers and researchers in quest of new behaviours. Whereas longitudinal retrospective studies can reconstruct the past histories of individuals, they can only do so in a way that is subject to memory lapses. The *prospective* approach of cohort studies is more directly adapted to the information needs on current and future trends in population and can capture a variety of information that cannot be recalled. Longitudinal studies of children constitute a unique source of data to analyse human development in its context. They permit the study of the various factors interacting all over the life course up to adulthood : family structure, social and physical environment, schooling, health and nutritional behaviour... They also clarify the impact of the experience lived during infancy on the individual's physical, psychological, social and professional development.

The ambition of the European Child Cohorts Network is to bring together leaders of national or regional major children's cohorts in order to compare practices, exchange experience, share questionnaires and other tools, and encourage comparative analyses. The focus of this network lays on generalist cohorts. It will bring together the leaders of the large-scale general and interdisciplinary cohorts that exist in Europe and North America, while developing links with more specialised networks. The Network's objectives are threefold: (i) identifying cohort expertise in Europe; (ii) sharing knowledge and experience with a broad range of cohort experts, including from outside Europe, and establishing a forum for an easy accessible expertise on these issues in Europe; (iii) offering opportunities to go deeper on the cross-country comparison by sharing tools and questionnaires.

If elaborating a common European cohort project seems out of reach for the time-being, sharing knowledge could lead to a certain convergence in the practice of national/regional cohorts, and to fruitful exchanges on methodologies, ethics, as well as on the definition of future cross-national comparative studies.

Previous or current applications to the ESF: NONE

1. Status of the relevant research, scientific context, objectives and envisaged achievements of the proposed Programme

Scientific context:

Whatever the field, be it health or social sciences, the analysis of longitudinal data on children is the best way to understand relations of cause and effect and to examine child development in the round, from the different perspectives of family, social and economic backgrounds, social interactions and health. The ESF interdisciplinary programme on **Social Variations in Health Expectancy in Europe** has stressed the importance of life-course analyses to be able to explain (and not only describe) the variations in health of individuals belonging to various groups. The value of this approach has been shown, e.g., in Kuh's¹ or in a special issue of the *International Journal of Epidemiology*². At each age the behaviour and the health status of an individual depends on his whole previous history, not only on his current situation. To assess properly the major steps in this history it is necessary to adopt a *life-course approach* based on the continuous collection of data that could otherwise not be reconstructed retrospectively. This is even truer for events occurring during childhood which may remain unknown or be poorly remembered by the adults.

Several child cohorts have been set up in various countries of Europe and elsewhere in the recent years, from birth or soon afterwards. The scientific value of these studies might be greatly enhanced if proper comparative analyses could be conducted on their data. It is obvious that each country has its culture, its background and its social, educational and health systems, which makes comparison exercises difficult. However, building and running a cohort conveys similarities and common steps. Except for some countries, running multidisciplinary and large-scale child cohorts is rather a new experience for national research teams. This reinforces the claim for the creation of dialogue facilities to transfer knowledge and maximise the potential of convergence in methods, themes addressed and time schedule.

In September 2006, an international conference on child cohort studies took place in Oxford, organized by the *Centre for Longitudinal Studies* with mainly ESRC funding. It gathered more than 200 participants from around the world, and constituted the first opportunity for European research teams to discuss about their own experience, on the design of cohorts and on methodological issues. This conference was first of its kind, and, given its success, could form the first of a series, as yet unfunded. The Oxford conference was also the opportunity to observe a gap at European level, as no forum of discussion exists for researchers to exchange on the methodologies adopted by each of the national teams in the longitudinal studies. Building on the Oxford conference, leaders of child cohort studies felt that the moment has come to fill up this gap in research, and to organise a forum for exchange which will provide support on common methodological issues, while working towards a possible convergence and a better comparability of child cohorts in Europe.

Objectives :

Some specialised thematic networks already exist and the objective of this proposal is not to replicate what has successfully been done elsewhere. **The focus of this network will be on large scale and generalist cohorts, and its originality will lay on the inter-disciplinarity of the themes to be covered:** researchers involved in these studies tend to find ways to reconcile through *one survey* social, health and environmental aspects of child development. The expertise and the synergies with existing cohorts and networks will be sought and is necessary to develop

¹ D. Kuh and Y. Ben-Shlomo (eds), *A Life Course Approach to Chronic Disease Epidemiology*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1997; D. Kuh and R. Hardy (eds), *A Life Course Approach to Women's Health*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2002.

² *International J. of Epidemiology*, 31 (2), April 2002, p. 285-420.

sound discussions on methodologies, but the European Children Cohorts Network will primarily aim at bringing together large scope cohorts and their specific working questions. The network will focus on methodology aspects of data collection through cohort methods, including the tools used to collect the data.

Within this context, the European Child Cohort's objectives will be to

- 1) **Enhance the visibility and the synergy between children cohorts** and among the different European teams involved in them.
- 2) **Identify the best expertise in Europe** on cohort methodology. Links between large-scale and generalist cohorts will be strengthened, but the objective is also to call on the experience of limited-scale, regional cohorts, or very specific epidemiology and medical cohorts which may have already encountered similar methodology issues.
- 3) **Perform a mapping exercise at European level** of the methodology diversity and similarities in order to identify common methodological, scientific and ethical questions.
- 4) Making the network a **single access point** of expertise for Child Cohorts in Europe, able to gather a scientific community of interested stakeholders and to diffuse methodology advice for potential new comers.
- 5) **Initiate new and in-depth collaborations** between scientific teams which could lead to comparative analysis, using common questionnaire modules, develop standardised questionnaires, and identify potential issues where comparative analysis could be undertaken.

The achievements of the network will be to increase awareness and knowledge, by providing a forum for discussion and an easy access to world-class expertise in the field. It will create and consolidate a scientific community working on a very specific field and producing data. It will also participate to the convergence of cohort study in Europe and on the comparability of data at European level on a policy-relevant issue : child development.

2. Facilities and expertise which would be accessible to the Programme

Through its main applicants or the members of the steering committee, the programme will benefit of the experience and skills acquired by leading European (and, later, US, Canadian and Australian) scientists in this field. A wide range of expertise will be mobilised for the programme, ranging from demography, sociology, epidemiology, or medicine, as well as methodology skills in survey conduction. Cohorts leaders with experience in running cohorts or in a stage of preparation for a first cohort will be involved in the network.

INED (Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques) and the ELFE Cohort

INED is a 60-year-old public research centre devoted to population issues, under the supervision of the French ministries of research and social affairs. Research at INED is interdisciplinary by nature, as it brings together experts in the fields of statistics, sociology, economics, geography, epidemiology, genetics or political sciences...

Since 2005, INED is hosting the pool of researchers working on the first French children's cohort, the *ELFE project*, which aims at building a cohort of 20,000 children, nationally representative, to be followed from birth to adulthood under a multidisciplinary approach. ELFE is sponsored by several institutions : INED, Institut de Veille Sanitaire, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, Direction générale de la santé of the Ministry of Health, Direction de la Recherche des Etudes de l'Evaluation et des Statistiques of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Direction de la prospective et de l'évaluation of the Ministry of Education, Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques). Several working groups of the cohort has already been set up and bring more than 60 French teams working on:

- Demography-family
- Socialisation-education
- Economy-poverty

- Feeding-Nutrition
- Perinatalty
- Psychomotor development and mental health
- Use of health care
- Respiratory diseases, asthma and allergies
- Accidents and traumas
- Chemical exposures
- Physical exposures
- Environmental contaminations (air, water)

Several research units and researchers at INED will bring their expertise on key issues to the Children Cohort Network such as family structure changes, fertility and sexuality patterns, health trends and determinants of health... INED will also call on its *Survey department* (15 persons) to participate in methodology discussions in the course of the project, on sampling plans, questionnaires drafting, field tests, preparation and realisation of pilot surveys. The *Documentation department* is starting an international bibliography on birth cohorts, in collaboration with the Documentation centre of the InVS for the health aspects. This bibliography will be made available to the Network and all researchers through the Web site of the EUCCONET.

The Centre for Longitudinal Study and the Millennium Cohort

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) is one of four research centres that make up the Bedford Group for Lifecourse and Statistical Studies at the Institute of Education, in the University of London. It houses three of the UK's renowned birth cohort studies: 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70) and the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS). The studies cover a broad range of themes similar to the ones listed above.

CLS provides support and facilities for those using data from the three studies, as well as conducting research using the cohort data, with a special interest in family life and parenting, family economics, neighbourhood effects, longitudinal methodology, and the interface of qualitative and quantitative evidence.

The *Millennium Cohort Study* was initiated by the ESRC in 2000, augmented by government funding, to aim for around 20,000 children. It is a multi disciplinary longitudinal study which collects data from both parents, from the children themselves and several other sources. It has so far made 3 rounds of fieldwork, at age 9 months, 3 and 5, with the 4th sweep planned at age 7 in 2007-8. A sample was drawn from all live births in the UK over a year. It was selected from a random sample of localities (electoral wards), disproportionately stratified to ensure adequate representation of all four UK countries, deprived areas and areas with high concentrations of Black and Asian families. At ages 3, 5 and 7 information about cognitive development and anthropometry is collected directly from the children. Interview material has also been supplemented by extracting records of the maternity hospital episode, postal surveys of health visitors, and of mothers who had undergone assisted fertility treatment, the observation of conditions in a subset of daycare settings, the harnessing of routine data on attainment at school, and a postal survey of teachers.

CLS has a staff of around 33 people the majority of whom contribute to all three studies. There is a core team of 6 involved in the day to day management of the Millennium Cohort, and other senior members have expertise on the methodology of longitudinal design and analysis. We can offer the network the folk memory of three major studies, just as MCS benefited from the experience gained in the more mature studies. CLS also draws on a network of around 80 scientific and policy researchers. They represent interests in

- Child Psychological Development,
- Child Health,
- Parental Health,
- Schooling and Childcare,
- Employment, Income and Poverty,
- Family Functioning and Demographics,
- Housing and Neighbourhood,

- Linkage to administrative records.

There is also likely to be a new birth cohort in UK starting around 2012, the planning of which would also benefit from the exchanges envisaged in the European Child Cohort Network.

Other European cohorts

A list of other cohorts to be included in the network is given in Appendix II.

3. Expected benefit from a European collaboration in this area

Direct scientific benefits through the enhancement of cohorts methodology

For scientists, the Network will bring direct benefit to their work, by allowing them to exchange experience and not to repeat mistakes. The network will be a single entrance door on cohort techniques for those teams that are planning to launch projects. Some issues of common interest are: how to recruit a large number of participants through a random sample? How to minimize attrition in the cohort? How to limit the burden on the participants? What use can be made of external data coming from various registers or statistical sources?... If all this information was available a large amount of time and difficulty could be saved by the newcomers, as well as mistakes in the subsequent comparative analyses.

The experience of the various teams might also allow preparing common questionnaires, or at least common questions, for each defined age of the child. For example, a common questionnaire for teenagers and their cultural practices could lead to comparisons on the European culture to the teenagers.

Contributing to the EU research policy objectives

The network will contribute to creating and fostering a community of European researchers on cohorts, and long-term collaboration between the members of the steering committee as well as with the participants to the workshops. The support provided by the network is necessary to rapidly increase the number and the scope of the collaborations in this domain, to structure them, to allow access for all to the cohort methodology. After five years, the European Child Cohorts Network will ensure a sizeable increase in the quality and the probable duration of the collaborations established. Because the focus of this network lays on large scale pluri-disciplinary cohorts, the network will also support the convergence between different scientific disciplines of medical, environment and social sciences.

Contributing to policy-relevant research

The availability of comparative data on such a topic will result in producing new scientific and policy-relevant research on theme related to the social determinants of health and the consequence of child development, the environmental impacts on children's health and development, or their nutrition and obesity...

The issue of child health and development has become recently a sensitive political concern within EU policies, with issues such as child obesity, impact of environmental factors on development or social determinants of health being at the top of the policy concern. In this light, the objectives of the network are immediately relevant to several priority areas for EU and International policy, including the EC Public Health and Environment and Health Programmes, or WHO's Children and Adolescent health and development plans.

The network will involve an **advisory body** composed of stakeholders from international organisations. Their participation will ensure that operational and more policy-oriented actors are involved in the reflection on cohort development and use. It will also lead to raise the discussions on how to involve international organisations in supporting cohort development, and possibly for planning large scale projects where the expertise of the European Cohort Network could be sought. Members of the advisory board could be :

- A representative of the WHO European programme Children and Environment
- Representatives from the European Commission : DG Research; DG SANCO
- Possibly a representative of the Millennium Objectives programme of the United Nations.

Their participation could help bringing other aspects into the discussions of the EUCCONET, such as a reflection on the usefulness of cohorts on developing countries.

4. European context :

Relevant R&D networking activities

There is no European network that brings together large-scale generalist cohorts in Europe. There are however several more focused networks in the field of epidemiology or medicine, such as the GA2LEN Network (Asthma and allergies), the ChildrenGenoNetwork (Exposures to environmental genotoxicants), EARNEST (early nutrition), or the international Childhood Cancer Cohort Consortium... Links will be established.

Already existing or planned collaborations

The more experienced scientists in the field of child cohorts are undoubtedly to be found in UK, especially associated with those run by the CLS (see above). There are a dozen cohorts currently running elsewhere in Europe, but existing contacts are most often taken on a bilateral basis. **The international conference on child cohort studies** held in Oxford in September 2006 has constituted a first attempt to bring together the world cohort community. Contacts for the preparation of this application have been taken during this event. **A Website on European Birth Cohorts** (www.birthcohorts.net) had also been developed earlier in collaboration between two projects: ChildrenGenoNetwork and EARNEST, coordinated by Anne-Marie Nybo-Andersen (Copenhagen). We plan to continue and develop this site.

How the programme would complement their activities ?

The programme would not only complement the bilateral activities that are taking place, it would help structuring them and bring the necessary support for a long-term European cooperation. We will also associate as from the beginning, outside EU experts that are essential contributors to the methodological and scientific discussions of this network.

5. Proposed activities, key targets and milestones

In a first phase, exchange of experience and knowledge will be sought (Year 1, 2, 3). In a second phase of the project, discussions on methodological issues and data comparability will take place (Year 2, 3, 4). Finally, the third phase will allow for the development of more in-depth comparative research projects (Year 3, 4, 5). Several activities will serve this purpose :

- Steering Committee meetings

The steering committee will bring together once per year the main cohort leaders, on the basis of one representative per cohort. They are selected on a project-based approach and not on nationality ground. It includes as well representatives of three outside EU cohorts. The steering committee will be responsible for the scientific direction of the project.

- Advisory board meetings

The advisory board will meet with the steering committee once per year, in a specific session aiming at widening the methodological and research discussions and at introducing more policy-driven considerations on child cohorts development.

- Scientific workshops

Each year, 3 scientific workshops on pre-selected themes will take place. The themes are to be selected by the steering committee on the basis of the needs for information sharing expressed by the participants to the programme in the course of formal or informal consultations. Issues, at the core problematic of the cohort activities could include :

- the choice of the sample in a longitudinal study : the different modes of inclusion used and the specificities of each country

- the choice of the observation tools: structure and content of the questionnaires according to the age of the population interviewed, interview duration, self-completion modules, father interview, mother interview
- participation rates, attrition rates, respondent rates and ways to communicate to interviewees; representativeness issues
- the place of biological samples in multithematic samples
- Ethical issues: how to protect privacy and personal data. It would be interesting to compare the functioning of ethical committee in European countries
- National / Regional cohorts' specificity
- Building standardized questionnaires on specific themes, or preparing comparative sets of already collected data
- comparative studies: try to find the best time-point (age of the children) through the different longitudinal studies when a common study and questionnaire should be expected and set up

Participants to these meetings will be selected on the basis of their expertise in the field, possibly following individual invitations or calls for participation. They will be national/regional cohort leaders, leaders of very specific cohorts in the medical or environmental field, survey methodology experts from research centres, administration or national statistic institutes, specific thematic networks...

The key contributions to these meetings will be made available through the website. When appropriate, specific publications can be prepared, such as synthesis papers to be submitted to scientific journals.

Short-stay grants and travel grants

Short-stay grants will allow some of the participants to benefit from a financial allowance to meet for 5 days with other network participant(s). These face-to-face meetings between a limited number of researchers should enable these researchers to go deeper in their understanding of the data generated by their cohort, or on the questionnaire used. These meetings will serve the purpose of defining comparative study in the first place, and to develop some of its aspects. Their results could be presented during the project workshop meetings and at the final conference of the project. A total of 25 short-stay grants will be available to the networks' participants. In addition, we will encourage other exchanges between participants for longer durations, but we do not expect support from ESF, except for transportation. A total of 25 travel grants will be available as well.

Website development

A website will be developed in order to strengthen and establish the visibility of the network, based on the existing site developed by the Danish team (birthcohort.net). It will be an instrument to attract additional potential network participants. The website will be the official platform of the network, and will be used to advertise activities, open calls for attendance to network workshops, and outcomes of workshops (research papers, presentations).

A second essential purpose will be to disseminate information on the network participants and their cohorts, and on existing literature and methodology on Child Cohorts.

6. Duration :

The total duration of the programme will be of 60 months.

7. Budget estimates (in €) by type of activities and per year of Programme :

Steering committee – The steering committee meetings will bring together up to 15 persons, including the programme coordinator, plus two representatives from the ESF. Except for the first meeting which will last for 2 days in month 1, each steering committee meetings will take place towards the end of the projects' year and will last for 1 day. The budget for these meetings is based on an estimate 400 € per trip and 150 € per diem. Participation of the US, Canadian and Australian researchers in the steering committee, while very valuable for the whole Network, will be covered by external sources.

Workshops – Each workshop is planned to allow for the participation of 20 persons. Workshops will last for 2 days. In year 1, 2, 3 and 4, three scientific workshops will be organised each year. There will be 2 workshops in year 5. The budget for these meetings is based on an estimate 400 € per trip and 150 € per diem.

Conference – A final conference of the network's activities will be planned towards the end of year 5. It is expected that the final conference will bring around 60 participants. It will last for two days and will take place in Paris. The budget for the final conference is based on an estimate 400 € per trip and 150 € per diem. An additional 1000 € has been budgeted for room and equipment renting for two days.

Short-stay and travel grants – 25 short-stay grants (including daily allowance and travel) will be made available to the network's participants in order for them to undertake short-term stays (5 days) within another partner's institute. Another 25 travel grants, covering only travel costs will be available to the network participants all over the period. The budget for short-stay grants is based on an estimate 400 € per trip and 85 € per diem, an average of 165 € per day. The budget for travel grants is based on an estimate of 400 € per trip.

Website – A budget of 5000 € is proposed for the first year of the network for the development of the website (based on the Danish website). For the remainder of the project year, 3000 € have been budgeted. It will cover the maintenance of the website.

External administrative costs – The 10 % rate allowed by ESF regulation has been included. The amount will cover the additional costs the network will create for INED (hosting the programme coordinator, communication, administrative costs related to the organisation of workshops and final conference).

External coordinator – A part-time external coordinator, will be hired by INED in order to assist the network leader in his tasks, and to provide a constant contact availability for the partners and collaborators. The coordinator must be able to respond on research related questions and tasks, as well as to aggregate and prepare the information received from the project partners. The budget is based on INED's salary rate for a post-doc : 4 000 € per full-time month.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
Steering committee meetings	15750	5250	5250	5 250	5 250	36 750
Participation of advisory committee members	5250	5250	5250	5 250	5 250	26 250
Science meetings						
Scientific workshop	42000	42000	42000	42 000	28 000	196 000
Conference					72 000	72 000
Short-stay grants and travel grants	6125	615	6125	6 125	6 125	18 375
Website	5000	3000	3000	3 000	3 000	17 000
External Programme Coordinator	24000	24000	24000	24 000	24 000	120 000
External administrative costs (10%)	9812,5	8011,5	8562,5	8 563	14 363	49 312
ESF administrative charge (7,5%)	8 095	6 609	7 064	7 064	11 849	40 682
TOTAL	116 033	94 736	101 252	101 252	169 837	576 368

Annex I – Full coordinates and CV of the main applicant(s)

Henri Leridon (main applicant 1)

Head of the ELFE project, INED (Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques)

Head of the mixed INED-INSERM research unit (U569)

Membre Correspondant of the *Académie des Sciences* (Institut de France), Paris

Background

- Ph D (*Doctorat d'Etat*) in Economics, (University of Paris I), 1972
- Expert Démographe, *Institut de Démographie* (University of Paris I), 1966
- Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, 1964

Positions

Director of research at INED since 1979

Member of the French Scientific Interest Grouping on Longevity (GIS-Longévité), since 2002

Editor in chief of *Population* (1996-2002); Member of Editorial Board, *International Studies on Demography* (1990-2003), Oxford University Press; Member of Editorial Board, *European Journal of Population*, Elsevier; Editor in chief of INED's collections (1989-1996)

Member of the French High Council for Public Hygiene (Conseil Supérieur d'Hygiène Publique), 1997-2002

President of INSERM inter-committee 5 on "Demographic evolutions and human health", 1995-1998

Recent research interest

Human reproduction, fertility, infertility and births regulations

Sexual behaviours and AIDS, reliability and coherence of data

Family structures, adults and child points of view

Population dynamics, projection methods, pedagogical aspect, perspectives

Previous major projects

Enquêtes EMF, ERN, ESFE, ACSF, CSF (French national surveys on families, on contraception, and on sexual behaviour)

Selected recent publications

- LERIDON (H.), VILLENEUVE-GOKALP (C.), *Constance et inconstances de la famille. Biographies familiales des couples et des enfants*. PUF, Cahier INED n° 134, 1994
- LERIDON (H.), TOULEMON (L.), "Trends in family formation and the new role of woman : France", in: *The New Role of Women. Family Formation in Modern Societies* (ed. par P. Blössfeld), p.77-101. Boulder : Westview Press, 1995, 266 p.
- LERIDON (H.), *Les enfants du désir*. Julliard, 1995, 278 p. (republished by Hachette-Littérature, *Pluriel*, 1998)
- LERIDON (H.), *Human Reproduction Update*
- SAUVAIN-DUGERDIL (C.), LERIDON (H.), MASCIE-TAYLOR (N.), eds. : *Human Clocks: The Biocultural Meanings of Age*. Bern : Peter Lang, 2005, 350 p.

Heather Joshi (main applicant 2)

Professor of Economic and Developmental Demography Institute of Education, University of London
Fellow of the British Academy

Background

St. Antony's College, Oxford 1967-1969: M.Litt. Economics
St. Hilda's College, Oxford 1964-1967: B.A (M.A.) Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Positions

Director of the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, since 2003
Director of the Millennium Cohort Study since 2000
Deputy Director, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education (1998-2003)
Deputy Director, Social Statistics Research Unit, City University (1993-1998)

Recent research interest

Gender, paid and unpaid work over the lifecourse
Child development
Neighbourhood influences on human development
Exploitation of administrative longitudinal data

Previous major projects

"The Changing Home: Outcomes for Children" - funded under ESRC Programme Children 5-16, 1996-1998
"Dimensions of Health over Persons, Time and Place" - funded under ESRC Health Inequalities Programme, 1997-1999
"Longitudinal Study User Support Programme" – ESRC and ONS, 1996-2001
"Living Arrangements and Livelihoods over the Lifetime" – Leverhulme, 1994-1997
"Health Inequalities among Women and their Families" – ESRC, 1990-1993

5 Selected recent relevant publications

Dex, S and Joshi, H (eds) (2005) *Children of the 21st Century: From birth to nine months*. Policy Press, Bristol.

Hansen, K, Joshi H. and Verropoulou, G.V (2006) Childcare and Mothers' Employment: Approaches in the Millennium. *National Institute Economic Review*, 195, 84-99

Tate, A.R., Calderwood, L., Dezateux, C., Joshi, H. and the Millennium Cohort Study Child Health Group (2006). Mother's consent to linkage of survey data with her child's birth records in a multi-ethnic national cohort study. *International Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*

Joshi, H. (2002) Production, Reproduction and Education: women, children and work in contemporary Britain. *Population and Development Review*, 28(3), 445-474.

McCulloch, A. and Joshi, H. (2002) Child Development and Family Resources: an exploration of evidence from the second generation of the 1958 Birth Cohort. *Journal of Population Economics*. 15, pp. 283-304

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INED – Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques

Background

Master degree in Demography, IDUP (Institut de démographie de l'Université de Paris I). Essay on "The evolution of spacial and social repartition of large families" (September 2003)

Master degree of Expert Demographer, IDUP (June 2002)

Positions

Coordinator for social sciences aspects of the French Children Longitudinal Study, since 2006

Study of abortion in France: analysis of data sources on abortion, research assistant at INED (January 2005-April 2006)

Partial statistical treatment of the national survey on "Family history" and working paper on French children residence (November 2003 – December 2004)

Recent research interest

Children and family mobility, territories, housing

Fertility, family, sexuality

Selected recent publications

ROSSIER Clémentine, PIRUS Claudine, « Combien d'interruptions volontaires de grossesse en France ? Une analyse de sources de données divergentes ». A paraître.

PIRUS Claudine, « Bibliographie sur l'Ile-de-France », réalisée dans le cadre du séminaire de recherche 'La métropole parisienne, un laboratoire'. A paraître septembre 2005.

PIRUS Claudine, « Lieux de vie des enfants », 2005, Recherches familiales, UNAF.

PIRUS Claudine, 2004 « L'évolution de la taille et du nombre des familles nombreuses », Informations sociales, n°115

BROWN Elisabeth, JASPARD Maryse, PIRUS Claudine, 2003, « Les violences envers les femmes en Polynésie Française », IDUP (Institut démographique de Paris1)

Annex II – List of names and full coordinates of the envisaged steering committee members*DENMARK***Tine Brink Henriksen***Substitute: Carsten Obel*

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Annex III – Programme collaborations

EU national generalist cohorts

- DNBC (Danish National Birth Cohort) – Anne-Marie Nybo-Andersen, Danish Epidemiology Science Centre - <http://www.ssi.dk/sw9314.asp>
- ELFE (Etude longitudinale française depuis l'enfance, France) – Henri Leridon, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques - <http://www.elfe.ined.fr/liens/cohortetr.htm>
- NLSCI (National Longitudinal Study of Children, Ireland) – James Williams, The economic and social research institute - <http://www.esri.ie/content.cfm?t=NLSCI&mld=3>
- NMCCS (Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study) – Wenche Nystad, Norwegian Institute of Public Health - <http://www.fhi.no/artikler/?id=51488>
- Millennium Cohort Study, (United Kingdom) – Heather Joshi, Centre for Longitudinal Study - <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/studies.asp?section=000100020001>
- Growing up in Scotland (Scotland) – Paul Bradshaw, Scottish Centre for Social Research - <http://www.growingupinscotland.org.uk/>

EU subnational generalist cohorts

- Aarhus birth cohort – Tine Brink Henriksen, Danish Epidemiology Science Centre
- LISA (Lifestyle factors, Immune systems, Allergies) – Joachim Heinrich, Forschungszentrum für Umwelt und Gesundheit
- Generation R (Rotterdam) – Vincent Jaddoe, Erasmus Medical Centre - <http://www.generationr.nl/>
- INMA (Infancia y Medio Ambiente) – Jordi Sunyer, Respiratory and Environmental Health Research Unit, Municipal Institute of Medical Research - <http://www.infanciaymedioambiente.org/>
- ALSPAC (Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, UK) – Lynn Molloy, University of Bristol - <http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/>
- Born in Bradford (UK) – Neil Small, School of Health Studies, University of Bradford

Oustide EU national generalist cohorts

United- States

- The National Children's Study - Adolfo Correa, Centre for Disease Prevention - <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/>
- Fragile Families Study – Sarah MacLanahan, Princeton University - <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/>
- CDS-PSID (Child Development Supplement – Panel Study of Income Dynamics) – Robert Schoeni, University of Michigan - <http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/CDS/>
- N.L.S.Y (National Longitudinal Survey of Youth) – Elizabeth Cookley, Ohio University - <http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy79ch.htm>

Canada

- National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) – Satya Brink, Statistics Canada - <http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4450&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&dm=8&dis=2>
- ELDEQ (Etude longitudinale sur le développement des enfants du Québec, Québec, national) – Bertrand Perron, Institut de la Statistique du Québec - <http://www.jesuisjeserai.stat.gouv.qc.ca/>

Australia

- "Growing Up In Australia" / LSAC Longitudinal Study of Australian Children – Matthew Grey, Australian Agency for Families Studies - <http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/>

Specialised cohort networks

- GA2LEN Network of Excellence (Asthma and allergies) – Coordinator : Paul Van Cauwenberg, University of Gent - <http://www.ga2len.net/>
- ChildrenGenoNetwork (Exposures to environmental genotoxics) – Coordinator : Liesbeth Knudsen, University of Copenhagen - <http://cgn.pubhealth.ku.dk/childrengen/en/>
- EARNEST (early nutrition programming project) – Coordinator: Prof. Berthold Koletzko, University of Munich - <http://www.earlynutrition.org/en/pages/en.php>
- International Childhood Cancer Cohort Consortium

Annex IV – International dimension

Several cohort leaders from the US, Canada and Australia will be invited to participate in the steering committee of the European Cohorts Network. Their participation, on a self funding basis, will be highly beneficial to the general discussions of the network, as the three countries have a long-standing experience in children cohort study. The three targeted cohorts are generalists, and answer the definition of the targeted cohorts of this network. All of them seek to study social, environmental and health aspects of the child development on the very long-term and on a national scale.

Close contacts with some of the European steering committee members have already been established, as some of these cohorts inspired some of the European cohorts, and the other way round. In terms of experience and methodological exchanges, they will provide an invaluable source of information which qualifies them to participate in the networks' activities and possibly in future cross-country comparisons.