

Report on the outcomes of a Virtual Mobility¹

Action number: CA18211

Grantee name: Daniela Drandić

Virtual Mobility Details

Title: Planning Home Birth During the Pandemic

VM grant start and end date: 1/08/2021 to 31/8/2022

MOTIVATION
FOR CHOOSING

HOME
BIRTH

AND WOMEN'S
EXPERIENCES
DURING THE
PANDEMIC
STUDY



Description of the work carried out during the VM

The work was conducted as described in the application. Specifically, Ms. Drandić prepared a protocol and study questionnaire in English. After the questionnaire was completed in draft form, it was circulated by email to members of WG7 to provide feedback and information, which was then implemented to complete the final questionnaire. Initial discussions about implementation of the survey in other countries are underway.

Description of the VM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

The VM achieved its main expected outcome, the preparation of a survey in English on why women in Europe planned home birth during the COVID pandemic, whether these reasons were related to previous birth trauma or whether the women reported negative experiences during planned home birth during the pandemic., collaboration and feedback, as well as a draft dissemination plan (attached as supporting documentation).

This contributed to the specific objective of developing a common understanding of factors that may make women vulnerable to perinatal mental health disorders (changes to maternity services based on

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

COVID measures that caused women to planned birth outside of facilities. During the follow-up, it will contribute to capacity building by building a multidisciplinary and European network of researchers in maternity care (different countries that will translate and distribute the survey in later phases), especially those in Central and Eastern Europe.

Regarding deliverables, this VMG has created a foundation on which, during its follow up it can contribute to:

- WG1. Although COVID was not specifically included in the project application (because the Action began before the pandemic), mapping why women planned out-of-hospital birth during the pandemic can, through follow-up activities (translation, data collection, analysis, presentation and publication), contribute to the research conducted in WG1.
- WG2, specifically the policy analysis in M2.4, by introducing information on what difficulties women who planned home birth faced during the pandemic.
- WG3, describing women's experiences in birth (mapping maternity service provisions for planned home birth during COVID).

These contribute to the achievement of the Action's overall objective because they add to the translation of knowledge and best practices and share them across Europe – why women in Europe planned home birth during the COVID pandemic, whether these reasons were related to previous birth trauma or whether the women reported negative experiences during planned home birth during the pandemic.

Planned follow-up activities

Invitations for participants who would like to run the study in their countries, preparation of timeline, preparation of translations and back translations for quality assurance, programming of questionnaire, distribution, analysis and publication. This plan will be ideally completed by the end of 2023.