

EUROCAT network History and Funding

Project Leaders:

- Josephine Weatherall 1978-1984
- Michel Lechat 1984-1996
- Segolene Ayme 1996-1999
- Helen Dolk 1999 to 2014

From 1/1/2015 the Central Registry and the European-level coordination activities of the EUROCAT network were transferred to the **European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra, Italy.**

- Conceived in 1974, at a Workshop convened by the European Economic Community's Committee on Medicinal and Public Health Research to improve "the methodology of population studies throughout the Community". Congenital anomalies chosen as first topic for concerted action.
- EUROCAT (acronym derived from its original name "European Concerted Action on Congenital Anomalies and Twins") established in 1979 by Directorate General XII (Science Research and development) as a prototype for European surveillance aiming to assess the feasibility of pooling data across national boundaries, in terms of standardization of definitions, diagnosis and terminology and confidentiality. Central Registry in Department of Epidemiology, Catholic University of Louvain, Brussels.
- Funding transferred in 1991 to Directorate General V (Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, Health and Safety), to function as a service for the surveillance of congenital anomalies in Europe. Central Registry at Scientific Institute for Public Health, Brussels.
- Maintained by registry subscriptions 1998-2000. Central Registry moved briefly to London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK 1999-2000.
- European Funding re-established under the Programme of Community Action on Rare Diseases in 2000.
- Central Registry moves to University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, UK in 2000 where it remained until 2014.
- Funded under EC DG Health Public Health Programmes since March 2004 (http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/non_com/rare_diseases_en.htm).
- Funded by the Public Health Programme 2008-2013 of the European Commission - Joint Action 2011-2013.
- Funding was received from the European Union in the framework of the Health Programme (2008-2013) - Operating Grant 2014.
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