



Project

***“Ob.Surve: surveillance system
occurrence of urinary incontinence in women
as a consequence of inefficient
or inappropriate obstetric care”***



1. The project - Overview

Urinary Incontinence (UI) is a *prevalent, bothersome and costly condition* affecting *primarily women*. Incontinence is not a lethal condition, but it deeply affects a woman's quality of life. The issue of UI has been well documented and there are national and international networks focusing on the condition. However, *there is a lack of systematic, reliable and consistent data* particularly with regards to *certain sections* of the female population.

The project proposes to lay the groundwork for the setting up of a surveillance system to monitor the occurrence of UI incontinence in women in the EU as a consequence of inefficient or inappropriate obstetric care, with a view ultimately, to formulating appropriate strategies, policies and actions to achieve a high level of human health protection and thus improving the quality of life of particular sections of the female population.

The project duration is 34 months, the **project partners** are the following:

- ◆ ULSS20 Verona (project leader)
- ◆ AZIENDA OSPEDALIERA Verona
- ◆ AUSL Ferrara
- ◆ BECKENBODEN ZENTRUM MUENCHEN – Pelvic Floor Centre – Urological Department
- ◆ SZEGED University
- ◆ LJUBLIANA Medical Centre
- ◆ The Hope Project

The **collaborating partners** are:

- ◆ KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET, Stockholm, Sweden
- ◆ AZIENDA OSPEDALIERO UNIVERSITARIA, Udine, Italy

Project Objectives

In addition to formulating appropriate strategies, policies and actions to achieve a high level of human health protection and thus improving the quality of life of particular sections of the female population, the project proposes:



To set a baseline and assess the magnitude of the problem:

- ◆ Collection of data and information on the condition of UI as suffered by women in Europe with a focus on obstetrics and obstetric care.

To elaborate operational recommendations for the development of a surveillance system:

- ◆ Analysis and consensus on the structure of a surveillance system to monitor UI in women in EU with a focus on obstetrics and obstetric care.

Expected Results

- 1) A better definition of the social/economical aspects of UI
- 2) Opening of a dialogue in the public domain on a medical condition that tends to be considered as minor/embarrassing.
- 3) Creation of new contacts and links across European Institutions who did not have contacts previous to the project.
- 4) Exchange of information between European Institutions on good practices which could be applied to other European realities.
- 5) A comprehensive level of preparatory work enabling the establishment of a Europe-wide monitoring system.
- 6) Elaboration of prevention measures that consider also social and cultural factors