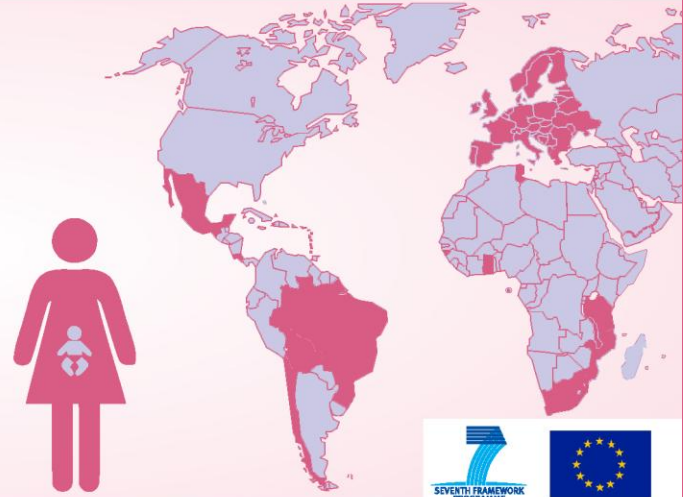




MASCOT

Multilateral Association for Studying Health Inequalities and Enhancing North-South and South-South Cooperation



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERING EVENT

The MASCOT International Event took place in Mexico City, Mexico during 25 and 26 September 2013. It was a unique opportunity to gather experts from different countries to understand the project results and openly discuss on what can be done to reduce MCH inequalities.

This partnering event is a major dissemination instrument in the framework of the MASCOT project. It is bringing together leading International experts from a multi-disciplinary background dealing with different aspects of health policy addressing inequalities particularly affecting mother and child health (MCH).

The event aims to provide a platform for participants to learn from the experience of other countries from North and South and to exchange and foster successful strategies aimed at reducing MCH inequalities.

More specifically the objectives of this event include:

- ◆ To present MASCOT's national and regional mapping results for MCH conditions, health research systems capacities and policies and programmes tackling inequalities
- ◆ To present MASCOT's results on best practices sharing and multilateral cooperation
- ◆ To promote and to strengthen multilateral collaboration beyond MASCOT

The event participants included a variety of stakeholders:

- ◆ Health authorities and decision makers from the three MASCOT regions
- ◆ International & national organizations involved in MCH
- ◆ Funding agencies and private sector
- ◆ Research/academic community
- ◆ Civil society and other professionals and organisations linked to MCH



The event was hosted by the MASCOT partner [INSP](#) (Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública).

During this event, participants presented MASCOT's results, including national and regional mapping results for MCH conditions, health research systems capacities and policies and programmes tackling inequalities. Interactive sessions for sharing results of successful initiatives and fostering multilateral collaboration between different regions were also organized. You can find all the details about the event in the dedicated website available [here](#).





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COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES WHAT AND WHAT FOR?

Collaboration refers to working together, to partnership, to communication, to transparency, to complementarity and a number of other adjectives that we could list here. Collaboration is also complex by nature as it touches different levels, different contexts, different motivations and/or different persons.

The basis for **collaboration** is however and always **trust and openness**.

MASCOT and Collaboration Activities

In the particular case of MASCOT, collaboration activities are crucial to promote knowledge transfer between countries and as such one can easily understand how collaboration activities are a key strategic goal for MASCOT.

Therefore and within MASCOT collaboration activities aim to:

Ensure an uptake of the project results by the countries which could benefit of improving MCH and reduce MCH inequalities.

MASCOT is already interacting with some countries to determine their needs and define what activities are to be done so that fruitful collaborations promoted by MASCOT are successfully implemented.

This interaction process aiming at establishing collaboration activities was further enhanced by the MASCOT International Event in Mexico where experts from different countries had the opportunity to listen and to get in contact with different realities and understand what MASCOT can do to fill in some gaps.

This process will nevertheless depend on an in-depth analysis of different topics such as the existence of solid and accurate

information, cultural context of each target country, the availability of resources and the existence of communication channels, target countries needs and as well on the establishment of clear and transparent expectations.



The targeted countries will soon be announced and this will also be an opportunity for anyone interested to contact us if you think your input could be of relevance.



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WHAT IS MASCOT?

MASCOT stands for “Multilateral Association for Studying health inequalities and enhancing north-south and south-south Cooperation”.

The main objective of the MASCOT project is to stimulate the cooperation between countries from 3 world regions (Africa, Latin America and Europe) in order to identify and implement adequate and efficient country-specific strategies for tackling health inequalities preferentially affecting children, adolescents and mothers.

MASCOT AIMS TO:

- ◆ Create links between North-South and South-South efforts in addressing maternal and child health (MCH) and health inequalities;
- ◆ Provide evidence on best practice and policy advice for the development of future public health and health systems interventions.

WHY ARE WE DOING MASCOT?

Inequalities and vulnerable groups' health, as well as the slow advances to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals, are concerns that need to be addressed, notably for low and middle-income countries. While some countries have made advances, these remain unknown to other ones which could still benefit from their experience. International collaboration can help addressing health inequalities – this is the starting point for MASCOT.

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