



**EU Funded 7th Framework Programme *INPAC* Project**  
*INtergrating Post-Abortion family planning services*  
*into existing abortion services in hospital settings in China*

**Press Release**

**EU Funded Project - INPAC Final Dissemination Meeting and Achievement Highlights**

INPAC, a collaborative research project funded by the European Union, is pleased to announce their final Dissemination Meeting being held today (January 14, 2017) in Beijing, China. In attendance were honorable guests from the European Union, Embassy of Belgium in China, national and international healthcare organisations, along with experts of INPAC’s Scientific Advisory Board, Ethics Advisory Board, Policy Advisory Board, INPAC’s 7 Consortia members and representatives of 90 participating hospitals from 30 provinces in China.

**What is INPAC**

The INPAC Project was launched in 2012 in order to test the integration of Post Abortion Family Planning (PAFP) services into existing abortion services in hospital settings in China with the aim to reduce unintended pregnancies and repeat abortions. The resulting policy recommendations focus on health systems organization with the aim to improve equitable access to reproductive healthcare and Family Planning (FP) services.

The project echoes the remarks made by President Xi Jinping at a national meeting on health in 2016 which stressed public health should be given priority in the country’s development strategy. INPAC met this priority through developing standardized PAFP services within hospitals which has the potential to effectively decrease the long-term costs associated with abortion in China. The results of this research will also be of interest to other countries with high abortion rates.

**Who we are**

INPAC is a collaborative research project funded by the European Union under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP7). The consortium consists of seven groups led by the International Centre for Reproductive Health at Ghent University (ICRH-UG, Belgium), working together with Chinese Society for Family Planning – Chinese Medical Association (CMA-CSFP, China), Fudan University – School of Public Health (FU, China), National Research Institute for Family Planning (NRIFP, China), Sichuan University (WCSUH, China), Aarhus University – Danish Epidemiology Science Centre (AU-DESC, Denmark) and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM, UK).

**Achievement Highlights**

**Characteristic women undergoing abortion**

Data collected in 2013 across 30 provinces in China showed a **repeat abortion rate of 65.4%** among 79,174 women from the age of 13 to 58 (Average 28.9) undergoing abortions within 12 weeks of pregnancy. The primary reasons for a current unintended pregnancy were contraception failure (50.3%) and non-use of contraception (44.4%).

**INPAC Intervention**

The cluster randomized trial took place within 90 hospitals across 30 provinces between 2014 and 2016. There were two intervention groups and one control group, the intervention group 1 included interventional package: training of abortion service providers; providing to the service users through education and communication (IEC); face-to-face counselling and continuous counselling during follow-up period; making free contraceptive methods available in hospitals; emphasizing the involvement of male partners. The intervention group 2 included providing incentives to service providers for offering PAFP services, in addition to the intervention package of group 1. The control group received normal care, with no intervention.

The preliminary results indicate that after 6 months follow-up :



1. The rates of modern contraceptive methods use in both intervention groups are higher than the control group.
2. The unintended pregnancy rates in both intervention groups are lower than the control group (intervention group 1 : 1.18%, intervention group 2 : 1.16%, control group : 3.22%)
3. The repeat abortion rates in both intervention groups are lower than the control group (intervention group 1 : 0.90%, intervention group 2 : 0.82%, control group : 1.60%)

#### **Policy recommendations based on INPAC implementation experience and expert opinions**

1. Integrate PAFP services into existing abortion services guidelines. Provision of reproductive age women (including women in the post-abortion period) with contraceptive devices and related guidance, consultation, follow-up visits should be included in the formulation of FP policies or PAFP service guidelines.
2. Amend the Operating Department Establishment Guidance for Maternal and Child Health Care Service Institution at All Levels.
3. Increase financing for PAFP services.
4. Strengthen PAFP service providers' capacities.
5. Integrate PAFP information into the existing abortion care information system.
6. Focus on promotion and application of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC).
7. Focus on prevention for unmarried youth' abortion and repeat abortion

#### **Dissemination**

# Published scientific papers	4
# International conferences presented	28
# National Dissemination meetings	7
# Students trained through INPAC	PhD: 1 Masters: 3
INPAC Book	Published January 2017

For more information, please contact the project coordinator.

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