



Fund “Nauka” Project № 21024 Resume – Competitive-based Session 2021:
“Infant mortality in Bulgaria – a resource of new approaches for optimizing the
child healthcare”

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Infant mortality (IM) is an established indicator of the health status of the population. It is a subject of permanent observation and registration. Routinely gathered information often conceals the existing health inequalities set at the beginning of life. To detect them, additional targeted studies are needed, which is the purpose of this project.

Aim:

Analysis of the dynamic of levels and specific of determinants of IM in Bulgaria and development of preventive interventions on individual level and public health level to reduce the preventable IM and to improve the health of children in early age (up to 1 year old).

Material and methods:

Application of a complex of methods – both qualitative and quantitative:

1. A comparative demographical and statistical analysis of infant mortality in Bulgaria in the European context;
2. Historical documental analysis of management and organization of child healthcare in Bulgaria;
3. A survey with mothers about their knowledge of raising a child;
4. Semi-structured interview with Roma mothers.

Expected results:

1. An analysis of infant mortality in Bulgaria for a 20 year period, revealing the unfavorable geographical regions in terms of infant mortality risk in Bulgaria and its link with basic determinants of health on population level;
2. Evaluation of the educational needs of women from the main ethnic groups in the country in relation to their preparedness for raising a child up to 1 year;

3. Developed content of basic educating materials in support of parents' knowledge and skills for child care up to 1 year, based on the identified needs of mothers included in the survey and the interviews;
4. Publications in scientific journals – national and international;
5. Defended PhD of a member of the project team.