

6 Years duration
2020-2026



10 International
partners

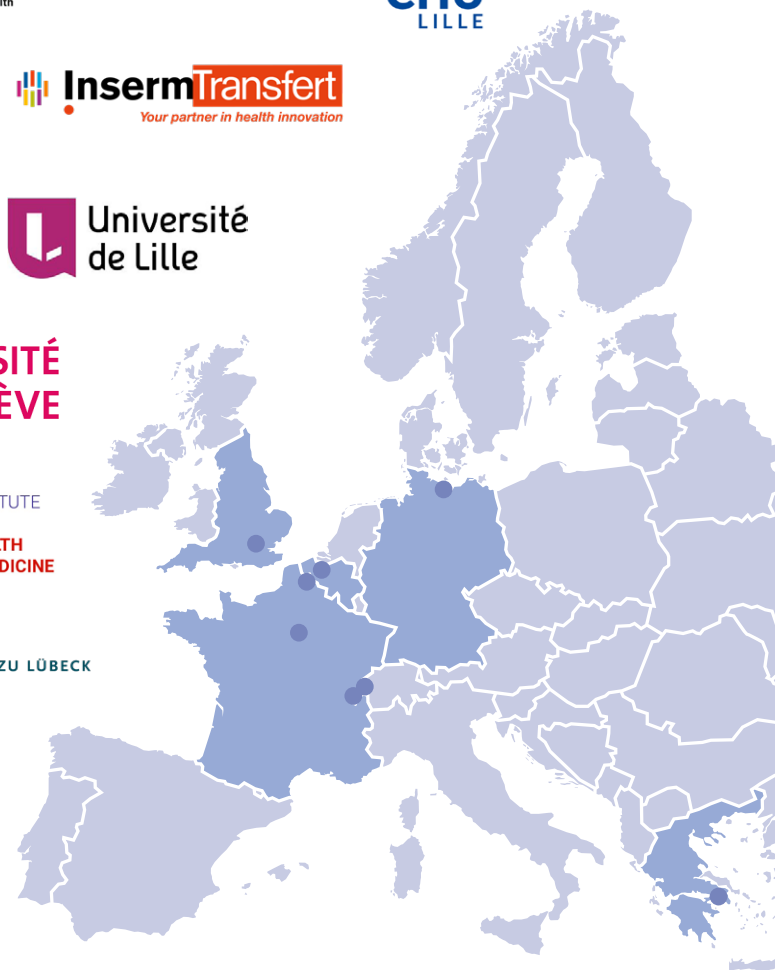


6 Countries



6,5 European
funding (M€)

Partners



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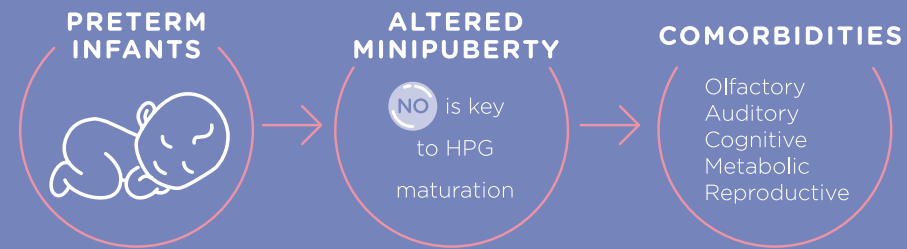
Fighting health risks induced
by premature birth in adults



The miniNO project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847941

Fighting health risks induced by premature birth in adults

The miniNO project is a European funded research initiative investigating why babies born prematurely have a greater risk to develop mental and non-mental disorders later in life. Prematurity is indeed associated with an aberrant hormonal maturation already during the first weeks of life, a time known as minipuberty, potentially also triggering an altered maturation of the infant brain. The miniNO project will research the missing link between prematurity and altered minipuberty while proposing novel strategies to prevent the comorbidities appearing in those prematurely born. Researchers hope to improve the quality of life of millions of prematurely born individuals in the world.



A multi-faceted approach

Research teams will first establish an experimental procedure to study the association between premature birth, infantile NO signalling and the activation of the hypothalamus-pituitary-gonadal (HPG) axis leading to the onset of minipuberty, as well as the association between altered minipuberty in preterm babies with preterm birth and certain mental and non-mental comorbidities appearing later in life. In parallel, teams will determine whether NO replacement therapy can correct minipuberty in those prematurely born and diminish the risk of them developing associated non-communicable disorders.

Prevention and therapy development

miniNO will develop novel diagnostic and preventive strategies to tackle altered minipuberty and associated developmental defects. Research teams will explore the development of basic screening tests and propose new toolkits assessing novel genetic factors as biomarkers to improve decision-making in therapeutic options while paving the way to personalized treatment and new prevention strategies very early in life.

Concept and objectives

