



EUROPEAN HEALTH CARE OUTCOMES,  
PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY

# Very-low-birth-weight infants – Does it matter where you give birth?

**Giovanni Fattore**

**Bocconi University, Milan, Italy**

**On behalf of the EuroHOPE group**

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**EUROHOPE**

## Background

- Very Preterm (below 32 weeks of gestation) and Very Low Birth Weight Infants (birth weight below 1501g)
- account for 0.8 to 1.4% of newborn infants in Europe (EURO-PERISTAT Project, 2008)
- although not a disease *per se*, it significantly affects the neonatal and infant mortality rates
- VLBWI more likely suffer from long-term morbidities
- high costs for treating VLBWI (Almond et al., 2010)

## VLWI Prevalence in EuroHOPE countries



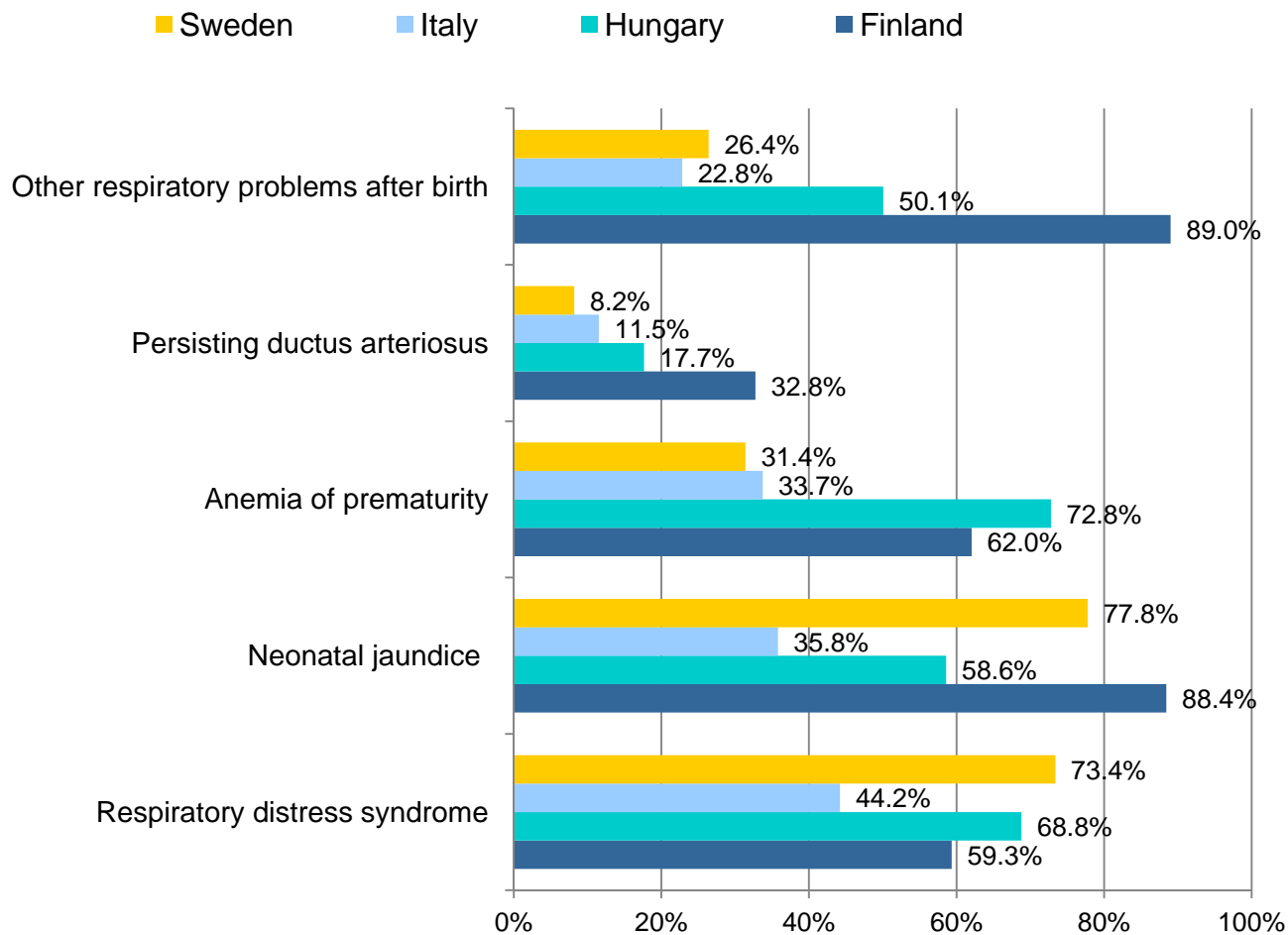
Country	Number of births	VLBWI	%
FIN	58915	528	0.9%
HUN	94069	1690	1.8%
ITA (Rome)	39270	486	1.24%
SWE	107421	1098	1.02%

## VLBWI data specificity

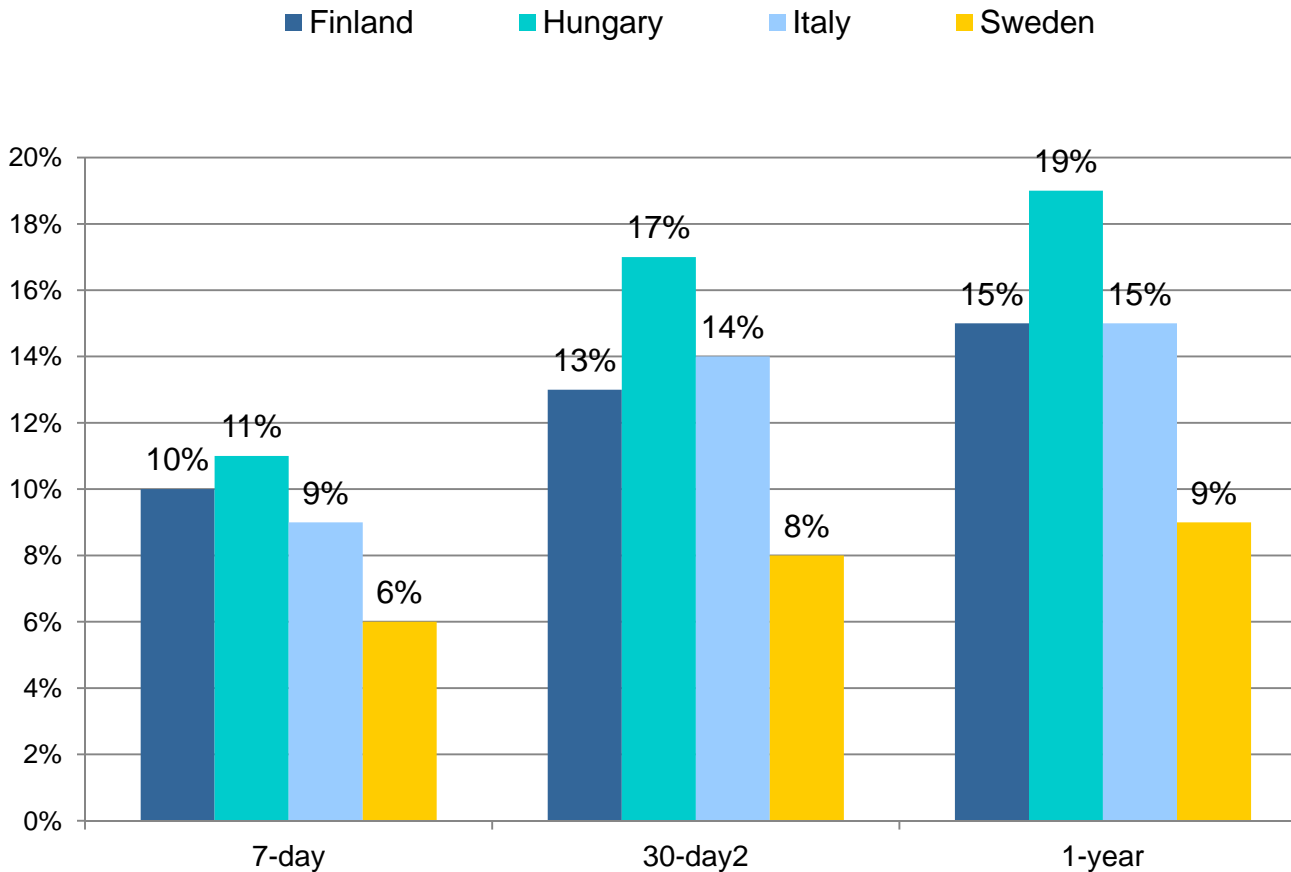
- the use of Medical Birth Registers and its problematic linkage

Country	Linkage of MBR with HDR
FIN	99%
HUN	76%
ITA (Rome)	87%
SWE	57%

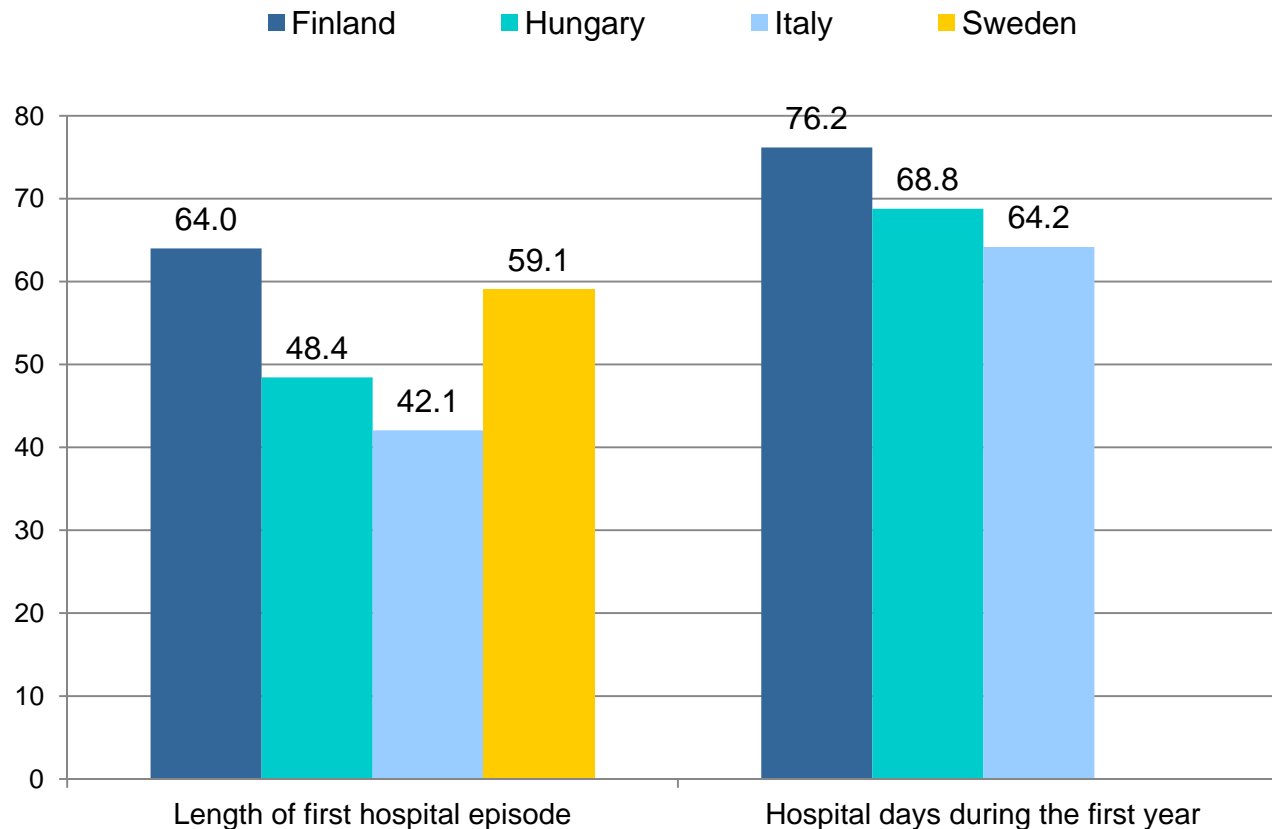
# Selected diagnoses among VLBWI



## Mean mortality (7-, 30-day and one-year (%)) of low birth weight infants by country, adjusted for gestational age and sex



## Mean hospital days of VLBWI during first hospital episode and the first year by country, adjusted for gestational age and sex



# Summary and conclusions

- significant differences across countries both in terms of mortality and LOS
- restructuration of the organization of care (e.g NICU levels) needed?

## Before the work with data starts

- facilitate the linkage procedure (national ID often missing at birth)
- promote high-quality of the process of data registration