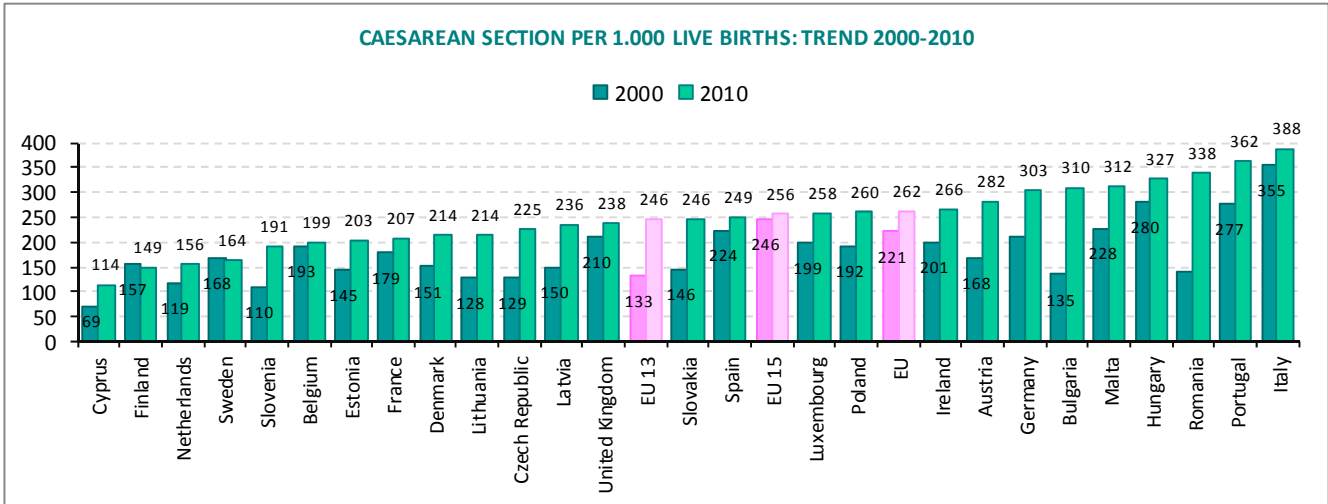


HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES: CAESAREAN SECTIONS

In the last decade the rate of caesarean sections per 1.000 live births increased significantly in most European Member States. It doubled or more than doubled in some EU13 Member States like Romania (+139,9%) and Bulgaria (+130,3%). The less relevant rates of increase was registered in Belgium (+3,0%), Italy (+9,3%), Spain (+11,1%) and United Kingdom (+13,3%). In 2010, about the 25% of children on total live births in the EU Member States were delivered by means of caesarean sections. This percentage rise up to about the 30% of the total deliveries in several EU13 countries such as: Romania (+36%), Malta (+34%), Hungary and Bulgaria (+33%).



The indicator concerning the caesarean sections is normally analysed by international institutions like WHO and OECD, which work on identifying the different kinds of reasons for these increases, correlating them to health benefits and cost effectiveness. Looking at some data and indicators concerning the general health status of infants and mothers it is possible to have a clear picture. The number of live births per 1.000 inhabitants in the decade 2000 – 2011 shows a general stability all over the European Union Member States. The early neonatal deaths indicate the numbers of deaths in infants under 7 days of age in a year. In the decade 2000 – 2011 the early neonatal deaths per 1.000 live births decreased by a little less than one unit in the EU. A particular improvement was registered in EU13, where the deaths per 1.000 live births drop off by less than 2 units and the difference between EU13 and EU 15 reduces.

