

## Final report for granted project

<b>Submission Date</b>	2017-03-13 18:17:10
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<b>Title of the granted project</b>	Emergency contraception in Albania: A multi-methods study of awareness, attitudes and practices
<b>Amount granted by the ESC (in euro)</b>	4875
<b>Project number:</b>	P-2015-B-04
<b>Allocated mentor:</b>	S. Rowlands
<b>Date project actually started:</b>	30-05-2016
<b>Date of completion:</b>	20-09-2016
<b>Please provide a report of your findings and data.</b>	<p>Community-based survey: We launched the online, community-based survey in June 2016 and kept the survey open until the end of September 2016. We collected 162 responses, of which 115 were complete and included in the analysis. Preliminary analysis of the data indicates that knowledge of emergency contraception among Albanian women is limited. Also, fear of judgment and shame were among the biggest obstacles for women needing or wanting to access EC.</p> <p>Structured interviews with retail pharmacists: We conducted 16 interviews with local retail pharmacists in the district of Tirana. Some pharmacies were located in urban areas, while others in more rural locations. The interviewer spoke with pharmacists from a variety of backgrounds, educational level, and experiences. From visits to different pharmacies in Tirana, we have discovered that emergency contraceptives are widely available in pharmacies. However, pharmacists evince considerable misinformation with regard to EC timeframe for use, efficacy, and safety. Most pharmacists could not give accurate directions on when and how to use EC, and would not recommend EC to women who may be in need of it.</p> <p>Key informant interviews: We conducted 19 interviews with public health specialists, non-governmental organization representatives, physicians, researchers, etc. Key informants expressed positive attitudes toward EC, however some of them lacked knowledge when it comes to availability, accessibility, efficacy and/or safety of this medication. In addition, most of the interviewees expressed concerns about women's potential "irresponsible" use of EC, and specifically the possibility of women using EC too frequently and/or as a primary method of contraception.</p> <p>Focus group discussions: We conducted six focus group discussions in four different cities across the country to explore women's experiences with accessing reproductive health care services in general, and EC in particular. Discussions with married and unmarried women in the country revealed that knowledge of emergency contraceptives is limited among women in Albania. Young women were more likely to have heard of it, yet very few had actually used it. Focus group discussions revealed that fear of judgment and shame were among the biggest obstacles for women needing or wanting to access EC. Women frequently described their interactions with providers as uncomfortable, and described social pressure as a potential barrier to obtaining counselling or reproductive health care services.</p>

**Please provide a final detailed budget on how much you have spent. Was any money not spent? Receipts may be requested.**

Flight: 1100 Euro  
Accommodation: 2000 Euro  
Meals: 2800 Euro  
Survey compensation: 75 Euro  
FGDs compensation: 370 Euros  
Others (including research assistants, guides, local transportation etc.): 2000 Euro  
Total: 8,345 Euro

**How will your findings be presented?**

Publication in journal  
Presentation

**Was your paper published? Indicate journal and acceptance date**

We are planning to disseminate the findings from this study in several peer-reviewed journal articles. Later this spring we intend to submit manuscript to both Contraception and The European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care. In addition, our findings from the key informant interviews formed the basis of a book chapter that will be included in an edited volume on mifepristone (forthcoming, Palgrave Macmillan). We will forward all articles to ESC once published.

**Presentation – note meeting organisation and date**

We presented the preliminary findings from the study at the EC Jamboree/International Consortium for Emergency Contraception annual meeting in September 2017, in Washington, DC. We will also be presenting a poster on the findings at the upcoming National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting in April 2017 in Montreal, QC. Additionally, we have submitted an abstract to the 2017 North American Forum on Family Planning in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Add any other information you feel we should have**

Finally, we have worked with the European Society of Emergency Contraception to explore the possibility of getting a package insert in Albanian. Those discussions, and that advocacy, is ongoing.

**Full Name**

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**Date**

13-03-2017

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