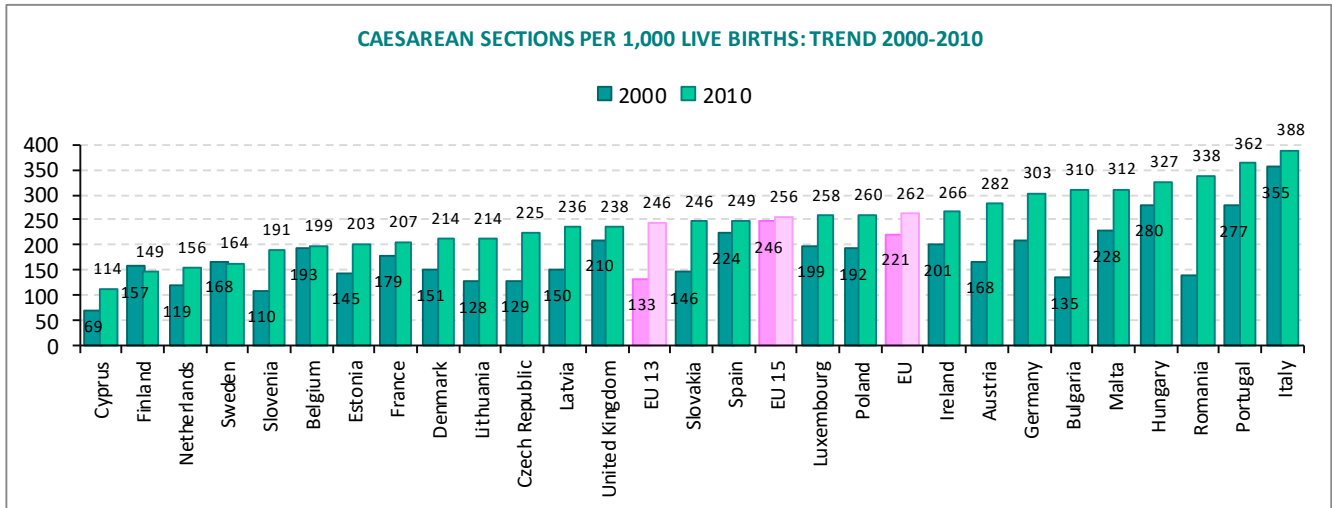


### HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES: CAESAREAN SECTIONS

In the last fourteen years the rate of caesarean sections per 1,000 live births increased on average by 24%, in EU 28. The most relevant increases were registered in EU13 countries, namely Bulgaria, Cyprus and Czech Republic where the indicator grew respectively by +191%, 124% and 97%. The less relevant rates of increase were registered in Belgium (+7%), Italy (+9%), Spain (+3%) and Sweden (+11%). In 2013, about the 28% of children on total live births in the OECD countries were delivered by means of caesarean sections. In 2014, this percentage rise up to about the 30% of the total deliveries in several EU13 countries such as: Malta (32%); Poland and Hungary (36%); Bulgaria (39%) and Romania (41%). The EU15 countries registering the highest percentage on caesarean sections on total live births in the same year are Germany (31%) and Italy (36%)



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 period 2000 – 2014 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 period 2000 – 2014 the early neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births decreased by a little more than one unit in the EU. A particular improvement was registered in EU13, where the deaths per 1,000 live births drop off by 3 units. The trends converge and the difference between EU13 and EU 15 reduces.

