# ECOLE DE BRUZELLES SANTE BONTE

TRAJECTOIRES MIGRATOIRES ET SANTE AUTOUR DE LA NAISSANCE 2<sup>nd</sup> –3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, Brussels

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## UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF PERINATAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN A MULTICULTURAL URBAN SETTING: THE ROLE OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES. A research protocol

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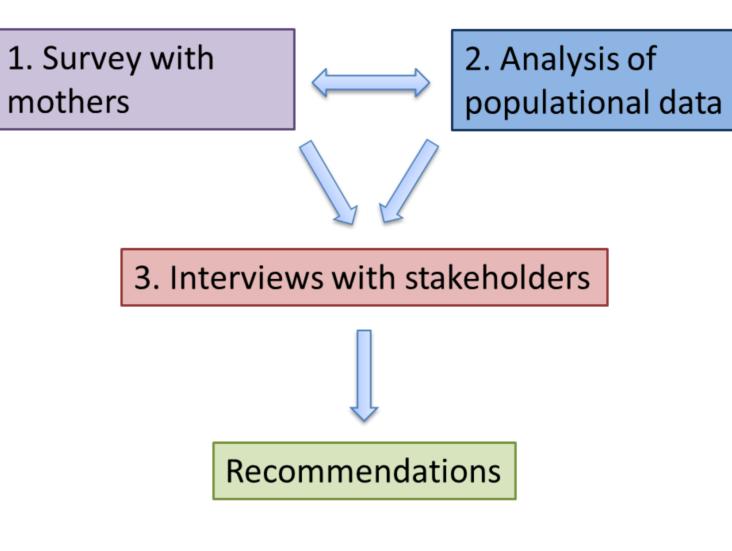
#### BACKGROUND

- More and more babies are born in a country different to their parents' country of birth (1)
- In high-income countries, migrant women's perinatal health outcomes differ substantially from those of non-migrants (2).
  In Brussels for example, babies of Sub-Saharan African origin are particularly at risk of pre-term birth and perinatal mortality; babies from the Maghreb are protected against pre-term birth, yet also experience higher mortality (3).
  The effect of migration on perinatal health is influenced by the mother's socioeconomic characteristics (4).
  The mechanisms underlying perinatal health inequalities remain unknown and underresearched.
  One hypothesis is that they are partly explained by differences in the access and use of perinatal health services and differences in women's experiences of care

#### **OBJECTIVES**

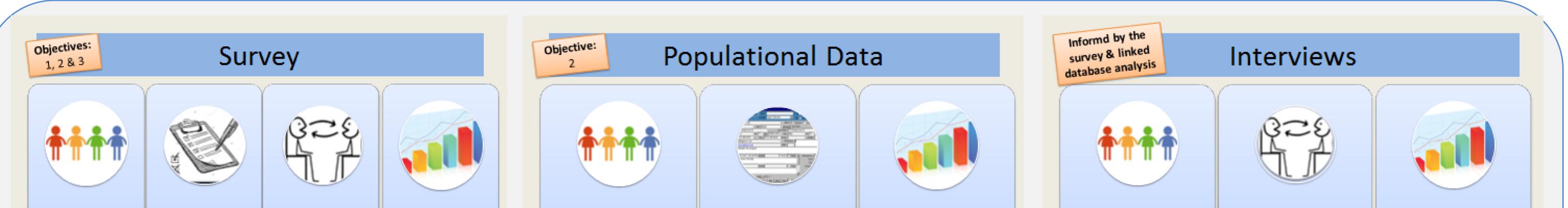
1. Describe and measure the social inequalities in the way maternity services are accessed, used,

### Methods

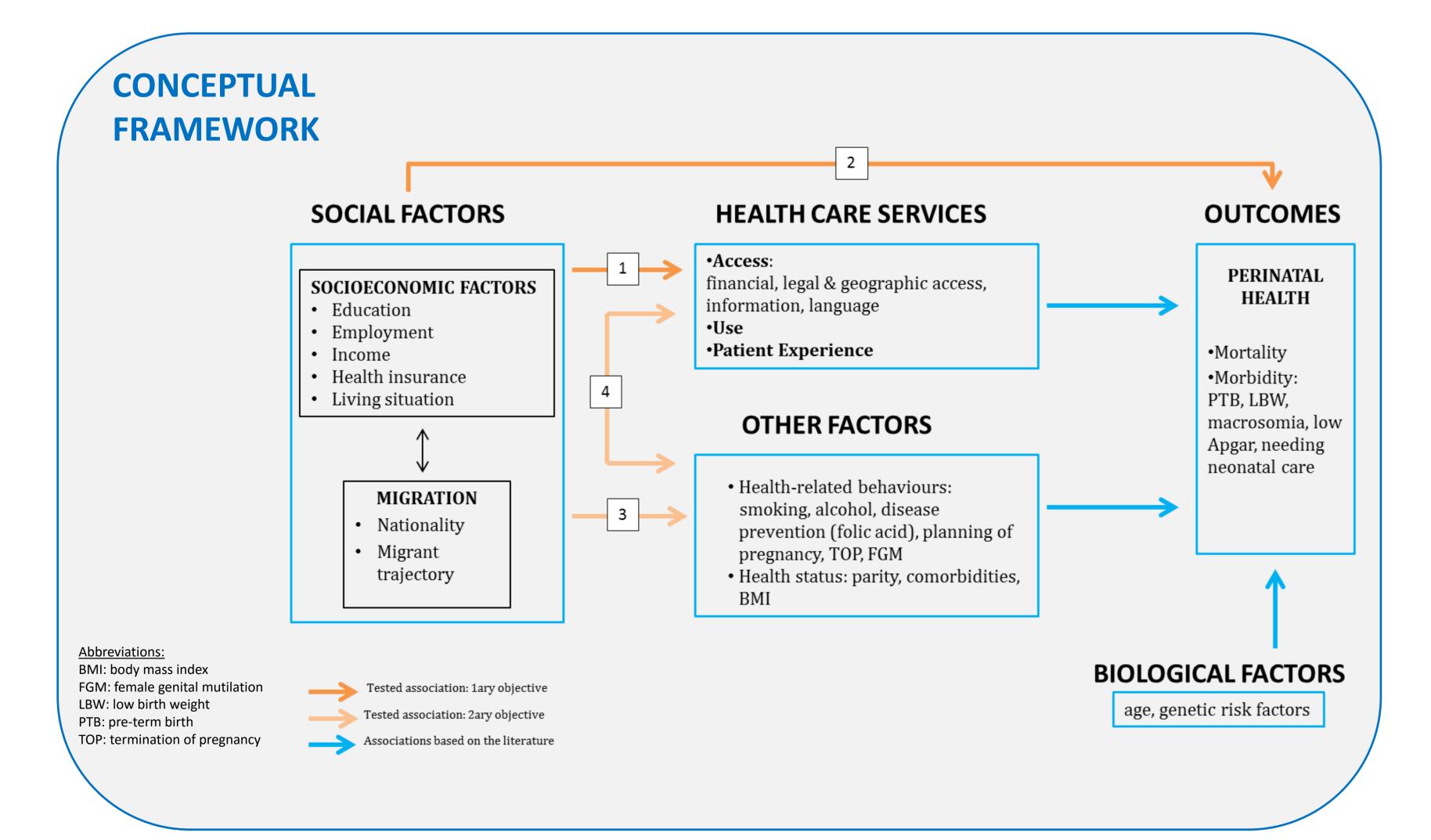


and experienced. (see conceptual framework, arrow 1)

- 2. Describe the social inequalities in adverse birth outcomes and explore whether the characteristics associated with lower use or worse experience with maternity services are also associated with adverse perinatal outcomes. (arrow 2)
- Analyse how a variety of factors including health, health behaviours, attitudes towards pregnancy and health literacy vary by (a) social characteristics (arrow 3), and (b) the use and experience of health services. (arrow 4)



Population	Questionnaire	Interviews	Analysis	Population	Database	Analysis	Population	Interviews	Analysis and output	
<ul> <li>750 migrant and non- migrant mothers</li> <li>From a variety of social backgrounds</li> <li>Speaking a variety of languages</li> <li>Recruited in 4 maternity wards in Brussels</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>"Migrant-Friendly Maternity Care Questionnaire"</li> <li>Tested and adapted to the Belgian context</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Within 14 days of giving birth</li> <li>In hospital, at home or on the phone</li> <li>Duration of approx. 40min</li> <li>Done by female interviewers</li> <li>Translators available</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Descriptive statistics</li> <li>Multivariable logistic and stratified regressions</li> <li>Factorial analysis</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All babies born in Brussels between 2004 and 2010</li> <li>117 000 births</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Stemming from the linkage between:</li> <li>1) Detailed socioeconomic data about both parents</li> <li>2) Migration data about both parents</li> <li>3) Perinatal health data: premature births, birthweight, mortality, and causes of death</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Descriptive statistics</li> <li>Multivariable logistic and stratified regressions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Healthcare professionals: gynaecologists/obstetricians, midwives, paediatricians, general practitioners, physiotherapists</li> <li>Social and NGO workers (Aquarelle, ONE)</li> <li>Health policy advisory bodies</li> <li>Politicians</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Semi-structured, concerning the professionals':</li> <li>1) experiences and points of view</li> <li>2) interpretation of results</li> <li>3) propositions of courses of action</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Content analysis</li> <li>Recommendations</li> <li>Dissemination</li> </ul>	



#### **EXPECTED RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Improve our understanding of the mechanisms influencing perinatal health inequalities
- Explain whether, and how, maternity services contribute to the social inequalities in perinatal health
- ✓ Identify the barriers to access and adequately use health services
- ✓ Explore the perceptions of care of service-users
- Produce recommendations for policy changes that could improve the use of maternity services and optimize the care to reflect the needs of migrant women
- Draw direct cross-national comparisons with other MFMCQ users

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