



### **CV Silke Mader, Germany**

Silke Mader is the Chairwoman of the Executive Board and co-founder of EFCNI. Her professional background lies in elementary educational theory, mainly focusing on the linguistic support of migrant children and remedial educational theory.

In 1997, her twins were born in the 25th week of pregnancy, and were not given the appropriate care. Unfortunately, one of them died a few days after birth, leaving the parents and the sibling behind. During her time in hospital and afterwards, she was faced with the non-existence of support of any kind, the absence of public awareness and the lack of information and education for parents during pregnancy. She felt that no parents should ever undergo such an awful experience again. Therefore, in 1999, she decided participate and head the Munich-based local parent group. In 2001, she became Chairwoman of the German umbrella parent organization. Together with experts, Silke developed declarations, guidelines and information material for parents with preterm children.

As the situation throughout Europe is distressingly similar and preterm children urgently need a voice not only within Europe but also worldwide, she decided to give up her job as a teacher and to take on the role of chair on the Executive Board of EFCNI.

Silke Mader is author, co-editor and technical editor of reports and publications on the situation of preterm birth and newborn health in Europe and beyond.

Since 2014 she is Honorary Lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland.