

# Promoting Health in the Age of ICT

*ICT = Information and communication technology*

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## Abstract

In contrast to my colleagues who described a whole set of organizations, I will concentrate on a specific organization, the [CIANE](#) (Collectif interassociatif autour de la naissance), as an example of the possible future evolution of POs. A few words about this organization:

- 1st point: the CIANE is not per se a « patient » organization, for it is concerned with childbirth issues, and is very keen to promote the idea that pregnant women are not sick and should not be considered as patients, even if pregnancy and childbirth are highly medicalized in western countries.
- 2nd point: it is a « collective », which means that it takes the form of a coalition of several childbirth organizations. The CIANE was created in 2003 in the aftermath of a conference organized by obstetricians (« the National Council of French Gynaecologists and Obstetricians »), in a general context of a movement towards the democratization of health. A law had just been passed (in 2002) that institutionalizes the participation of patients/ users representatives in any health committee or in the governance of any health organization.
- Since its creation, the CIANE functions almost exclusively through email exchanges: until 2007, it was not even a formalized organization and had no legal status. This mode of communication allows the organization to be quite efficient despite the absolute lack of resources (the annual budget hardly reaches a few hundred euros), and the limited number of active members.
- I am taking part in the CIANE's activities since a few years, and I am thus in a privileged position of observer and of participant.

Amongst its realizations, it should be mentioned that:

- The CIANE representatives are participating to several institutional groups (at the Ministry of Health, at the High Health Authority, in Perinatal networks, in Professional societies).
- Several members have published articles under the CIANE's signature in professional and academic journals (including critical reviews of obstetricians' papers).
- The CIANE representatives have participated to several professional- and health policy meetings.
- The CIANE organized the « Etats Généraux de la Naissance » which gathered 450 participants (half were professionals and half citizens)
- The CIANE has created and maintains a huge website, giving access to all the actions and the productions of the CIANE.
- It also takes public positions (through open letters and press releases) on specific issues.