

Summary

This thesis is based on action research which sits at the interface of midwifery and the management of health and social organizations. It maps the development of a local network of community midwives in Brno between 2021 and 2022. In the beginning, a Brno community midwife had a dream to work in a birthing house (midwifery unit). However, as this is currently impossible in the Czech Republic, she looked for different ways to work with her colleagues to provide accessible and quality care to women who demanded it.

Thanks to a grant from the Brno-Centre district, five facilitated meetings of midwives were held. These meetings explored the motives and needs of midwives, the obstacles they face and their experiences in their practice. In this way, a service was being gradually designed that could provide women with individualised comprehensive support and care during pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period, provided by midwives.

Today, the original dream has taken concrete form - Nest. It is a (for now informal) group of midwives who meet regularly, have a defined common vision, shared values and principles of care, collect statistics from births, have regular supervision and gradually implement a system of substitution. They are becoming recognised among other professionals in their locality and the general public as well. Finally, yet importantly, they share a vision of working together in the future.