



# European Urban Health Indicators System Part 2



*"I am amazed that 6 years have passed since EURO-URHIS 2 first began. Looking back at our very first newsletter when we discussed the development of data collection tools, I am so proud to see how far we have come in a relatively short space of time.*

*I am incredibly grateful to you all for completing our final report, and especially Greg Williams for ensuring the smooth running of all communications between us and the Commission for a successful outcome.*

*I would also like to thank our Project Officer, Ramona Balanean, who has worked tirelessly to help the project out and ensure that everything was handled correctly.*

*Going forward, it will be exciting to see the development of health policies in cities across Europe that are a direct result of the research undertaken as part of EURO-URHIS 2."*

reports Dr Arpana Verma, coordinator and principal investigator of EURO-URHIS 2.

The project was co-funded by the European Commission FP7 Programme and has developed methodology and validated tools useful to policy makers at all levels to make health gains via evidence based policy decisions for urban populations.



## New website online now!

Although the funding for EURO-URHIS 2 from the European Commission has ended, the wealth of information that has been collected and published, along with the project's influence, will live on. To ensure that the project's information remains visible, Greg has created a new look website - [www.urhis.eu](http://www.urhis.eu) and the results website <http://results.urhis.eu>.

Please visit the new website to find out more about the team members, details of the 10 work packages that formed the project, information about the future of URHIS and information about EURO-URHIS 1. We will keep the website up to date with more information as we continue our work analysing the data and creating further collaborations. You can also download the Health Profiles for 26 of the EURO-URHIS 2 cities.

## Dr Arpana Verma adds to her job titles

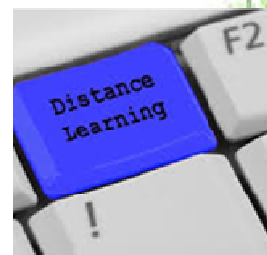
Dr Arpana Verma, PI for EURO-URHIS 2, has now taken on the role of Programme Director for the Master of Public Health at the University of Manchester.

The MPH/MRes is available as a full masters programme, a shorter diploma/certificate, or single units for top-up training/CPD opportunities. From September 2015, students are now offered a larger range of options to maximise their future earning and career opportunities.

Studying online offers opportunities for students from across the globe to access the resources of one of the world's most prestigious Universities. Online distance learning is flexible and enables students to partake in studies in a place and time of their choosing.

The programmes offer a number of opportunities for students to come to Manchester, a vibrant and exciting city, if they wish to experience the largest student campus in Europe, the best football and sporting teams in the world, the vibrant student community, restaurants and nightlife. There is a two day induction at the beginning of the academic year as well as short online induction sessions. Students can also select to attend face to face units on 'Emergency Humanitarian Assistance' and a range of other courses including 'UK Public health leadership and strategy'.

Email [pgt.medicine@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:pgt.medicine@manchester.ac.uk) for more information



## Acknowledgements

This project was co-funded by the EU Commission.

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

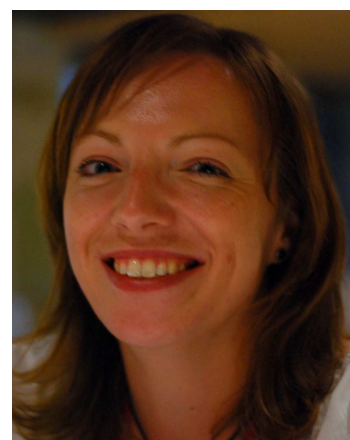
## from the EURO-URHIS 2 team

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Urban Health attracted over 1200 delegates from 62 different countries across the 4 day event, attending over 500 different presentations and events. The conference helped to raise the profile of the University of Manchester, the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences (FMHS), the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) and Global Health. The conference hosted talks from world leading experts including Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity; and **Dr Howard Koh, the US Assistant Secretary for Health**. The conference received significant online, print, radio and television media coverage including articles in The Guardian and the Manchester Evening News, and features on BBC North West Today, BBC Radio Manchester, BBC Radio 4 Today and BBC Radio Lancashire. Many discussions from ICUH have led to new peer-reviewed publications, grant applications and collaborations.



### Meet The Team - Martina Behanova

Martina Behanova started as a junior researcher at the Kosice Institute for Society and Health at Safarik University, Kosice (Slovakia) in 2009 where she was involved in the EURO-URHIS 2 project. At the same time she started her PhD at the University of Groningen (the Netherlands). Her main tasks within the project were logistics and data collection from the youth and adult population and collection of health indicators on a national and urban level in Slovakia; data analysis, presentation of results at national and international conferences and their dissemination in teaching process at the Safarik University. Participation of both countries in the project – Slovakia and the Netherlands – offered a unique possibility to explore how urban context shapes the life of citizens in Central European and Western European cities.



Martina's PhD thesis *"Area and individual-level socioeconomic differences in health and health-risk behaviours: a comparison of Slovak and Dutch cities"* assessed the association of neighbourhood-level and individual-level socioeconomic characteristics with self-rated health, mental health and health-risk behaviours in the urban context of these two countries. It further explored whether differences could be explained by the socioeconomic characteristics of citizens. This thesis shows that huge disparities are present in various health outcomes by area deprivation in Slovak and Dutch cities.

According to the results, local policy makers in Slovakia should focus on low socioeconomic groups in any type of neighbourhood and on vulnerable populations like elderly people. In the Netherlands, local policy makers should be aware of the negative impacts of both neighbourhood socioeconomic disadvantage and unfavourable individual-level socioeconomic status on the health and health behaviours of the residents of their cities.



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