

EURO-URHIS

European Urban Health Indicators System



the EURO-URHIS update

EURO-URHIS NEWSLETTER 2 – DECEMBER 2007

Welcome to the second edition of URHIS News!

This electronic newsletter will provide you with up to date information on all objectives, news and work packages of the EURO-URHIS project throughout its duration.

As we highlighted in the first edition of URHIS News, from 2007, more than half of the world's population will be living in cities. The health needs of urban dwellers, and the ability to monitor urban health will become increasingly important priorities in Europe in the coming years. As a result of this challenge and following previous European work such as ECHI, ISARE, ECHIM and others, a group led by the University of Manchester, UK, is now working on the development of a system of urban health indicators,

co-funded by the European Commission, through the EU Public Health Programme work plan 2005.

Progress on the project is reported through the URHIS News publication and is regularly posted on our website www.urhis.eu. All those who have an interest in this topic are invited to contact the project coordinator, Professor Dick Heller.

Contact details:

lesley.patterson@manchester.ac.uk

EURO-URHIS Update

Following the excellent work of Work Packages 4 and 5 (WP4 and WP5), Work Package 6 (WP6) was set up to develop an instrument to collect information on member state's current use of measures of urban health. The resulting instrument is currently being used to assess what urban health data are being collected in urban areas across Europe, and equally importantly, to identify which urban health data are not currently being collected.

Development of the Data Collection Instrument

From November 2006 to March 2007 the data collection instrument was developed by Jude Robinson (UK) and Roger Harrison (UK), working closely with Eric van Ameijden (WP4, The Netherlands) and Kaspar Bams (WP4, The Netherlands). Expert advice was also sought from Pieter Kramers (ECHIM, The Netherlands). In accordance with the Description of Work for this work package, the indicators selected for inclusion in the draft data collection instrument were drawn from other projects developing health indicators, such as ECHIM, WHO Healthy Cities, and were structured using the ECHI health indicator framework.

The Pilot

In March 2007 a pilot was undertaken of the draft list of health indicators, Euro-URHIS 55, with partners in four EU countries: Greece; UK; Netherlands; and Germany. The primary objective was to test whether the instrument was 'fit for purpose' to use in other European countries. Detailed responses were received from respondents in all four countries, supplemented by comments from all project partners, including those partners from new and potential EU member states, and further comments on the urban health indicators included in the Euro-URHIS City 55 were sought during a series of specific and directed workshops at the Euro-URHIS All Partner's Meeting in Athens in April 2007. During May 2007, Jude Robinson (UK), and Kaspar Bams (The Netherlands), used the feedback from the pilot on the Euro-URHIS City 55 to ensure face, content and criterion validity of the final version of the data collection instrument.



The Euro-URHIS 45

The resulting data collection instrument, Euro-URHIS 45, consists of 3 parts:

Part I : List of the Euro-URHIS 45 Urban Health Indicators (UHIs)

Part II : The Euro-URHIS 45 Questionnaire

Part III : The Euro-URHIS 'Wish list'

A further document, Overview of Euro-URHIS 45, has also been developed to provide an introduction to the three parts of the data collection instrument, the Euro-URHIS 45, and provides a link to websites that may assist the completion of the Euro-URHIS 45.

Future work

During 2008, the team from WP6 will continue to provide any advice and support needed to administer the questionnaire during Work Package 7 (WP7), and in the preparation of the summary reports in Work Package 8. WP6 will also be involved in the presentation of the urban health database in May 2008 and the preparation of a user-friendly report for health information experts.

Continuing European Urban Health Indicators – New Network!

To further the excellent progress of EURO-URHIS, the partners at the Helsinki meeting, in October 2007, have decided to form a new network as a section of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA <http://www.eupha.org/>) and associated to the International Society of Urban Health (ISUH <http://www.isuh.org/>).

The network will bring together all persons interested in European urban health. The aims are:

- to build infrastructure through collaborations and networking
- to apply for future grants and tenders
- to continue the work on urban health indicators

Several members of the EURO-URHIS team are currently setting up the section with EUPHA and have already received support from ISUH. The ISUH hold conferences every year and the theme for 2008 is “*Knowledge Integration: Successful Interventions in Urban Health*”. The conference will be in Vancouver on 29-31 October 2008. Further details can be found on <http://www.icuh2008.com/>. The conference organisers would like European issues to be strongly represented and have given us a workshop as well as encouraging abstracts on European urban health (deadline 31st May 2008). Prof Arnoud Verhoeff, University of Amsterdam, has kindly offered to help with developing the network and is a member of both organisations as well as organising the very successful ISUH conference in Amsterdam in 2006.

Many thanks to everyone who is contributing to the next phase of EURO-URHIS.

To help develop and support the network, we are investigating funding sources and would appreciate any suggestions on potential grants that may be available. Please e-mail arpana.verma@manchester.ac.uk if you are interested in joining the network or have information on potential sources of funding.

There are several partners who have expressed interest in supporting our new network and we hope to welcome them to the group over the next few months.

We look forward to working with you!

EURO-URHIS Final Conference 2008

Our final conference will take place in Brussels on 28th-29th May 2008. Further information concerning the agenda and venue will be available shortly. If you require any further information, please e-mail euro@urhis.eu

Objective of conference

To present a system of urban health indicators to all policy makers and users of data:

- To **increase the awareness** of the need of urban health indicators
- To **obtain feedback**, suggestion and revisions of the EURO-URHIS indicators
- To **develop a plan for implementation** of an urban health indicator system
- To advocate **inclusion of urban health** in all policies

Contact Details

More information on the project, its objectives and progress to date will be posted on our website www.urhis.eu. All those who have an interest in this topic, are invited to contact the study coordinator, Professor Dick Heller.

Contact details: lesley.patterson@manchester.ac.uk