



## EURO-URHIS 2 NEWSLETTER

### Who are the Project Partners?

#### UK

- \* University of Manchester
- \* University of Liverpool
- \* North West Regional Health Brussels Office

#### The Netherlands

- \* Municipal Health Service, Utrecht
- \* National Institute for Public Health & The Environment
- \* Municipal Health Service, Amsterdam

#### Romania

- \* The Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Epidemiology Department

#### Norway

- \* The Norwegian Institute of Public Health

#### Lithuania

- \* Kaunas University of Medicine

#### Slovenia

- \* Regional Public Health & Health Promotion Centre

#### Germany

- \* Institute of Health and Work, North Rhine-Westphalia

#### Slovakia

- \* Slovak Public Health Association

#### Turkey

- \* Hacettepe University, Department of Public Health

#### Vietnam

- \* Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine

#### Latvia

- \* Centre of Health Economics of Latvia

#### Macedonia

- \* South East European University

#### France

- \* National Federation of Regional Health Observatories

## URHIS Final Conference Announced

### Save the date!

Professor Arnoud Verhoeff from the Amsterdam Health Service and University of Amsterdam, is leading the final conference of the European Commission co-funded project, **European Urban Health Indicator System 2 (EURO-URHIS 2)**. **The final conference will take place in the Felix Meritis European Centre for Arts, Culture & Science, Amsterdam on 12-14 September 2012** and will showcase the results of this European Commission co-funded project. At the conference one of the highlights is certain to be the publishing of city and country profiles, allowing comparison between urban health indicators in urban areas across Europe. Training will also be provided on how to use these profiles and other results and tools created by the project, with the ultimate aim of project recommendations being truly integrated into policy making at local, regional, national and European levels.

Professor Verhoeff is leading the local organisation committee. The conference organisers will work closely with the International Society of Urban Health, the European Society of Public Health, and the Healthy Cities Network of WHO Europe in the build up to the conference and will encourage best practice showcasing from urban areas, urban health projects and networks at the conference itself. All parties

interested in urban health across Europe will be invited to attend or contribute.

Dr. Arpana Verma, the EURO-URHIS 2 project leader from the University of Manchester commented *"Through the EURO URHIS 2 project we hope to raise awareness and promote the use of urban health indicators by providing easy-to-use tools for evidence based policies affecting urban populations. These urban health indicators are vital for informing the public and decision-makers about key urban challenges and can be used as tools for creating a strategy to support urban sustainability. Our final conference in September 2012 will present the tools, recommendations and wider results from four years of hard work and research in this area."*

**Make sure that you save the date, and visit [www.urhis.eu/conference](http://www.urhis.eu/conference)**



### Project Objectives

- \* To collect data at urban area level
- \* To provide tools for evidence based policy
- \* To develop methods for cross-sectional and longitudinal assessment for urban population health, including all relevant determinants of health
- \* To validate these tools and methods by using existing population-based registries and databases
- \* To apply the tools in the field and ensure they are easy and intuitive to use by policy makers

#### Acknowledgements

This project was co-funded by the EU Commission.



## EURO-URHIS 2 NEWSLETTER

### PROJECT PROGRESS

#### Policy Maker Workshop planned for Brussels

EURO-URHIS 2 partners are currently working on an exciting new workshop, due to take place in Brussels in September this year. This is part of a series of workshops aimed at helping the development of tools and supporting scientific decisions within the project. Workshop D will focus on testing the viability and usefulness of urban health indicator tools through focus groups. Policy makers will be the prime audience for this and subsequent Workshops. The focus groups will explore what policy makers want and what they are prepared to use in terms of indicators. There will also be an element of training on indicators and tools to inform on indicator use and which tools /indicators tools may be more useful to their work. Information gathered as part of the workshop will inform future workshops and important project developments as we enter the final year of the project.

#### Youth Survey data begins to arrive

We would like to congratulate our colleagues at the University of Liverpool and other EURO-URHIS 2 partners for the completion of the first stage of youth data collection that they have been working extensively on over the past months. This much needed data, collected from young people across Europe, will feed valuable information from the local urban areas, including Merseyside, into the URHIS 2 project results and tool development.

In Merseyside, a second phase of the Youth Survey will take place which will analyse the Merseyside boroughs and follow up unanswered questionnaires to try and improve response rates. An analyst will be brought in to take forward fu-



ther work with local schools and local health authority (PCTs) reports.

The URHIS 2 project also relies on the completion of an 'Adult Survey' in our partner urban areas. Subsequent URHIS Newsletters will report on the initial steps and findings from these surveys.

### WEB UPDATE

Alongside other exciting developments in the EURO-URHIS 2 project, our website

[www.urhis.eu](http://www.urhis.eu) has been dramatically updated and improved. We hope that this will improve partners' and interested stakeholders experiences on the site and help to attract new colleagues into the world of urban health indicators. Keep an eye out for press releases, newsletters and event information coming up on the site:

[www.urhis.eu](http://www.urhis.eu)

### Meet the Team: Dr. Erik van Ameijden



In this edition of the EURO-URHIS 2 Newsletter, we are profiling Dr. Erik van Ameijden, our Dutch colleague from the Municipal Health Service of Utrecht who is a key partner and leader in the EURO-URHIS 2 project

Dr. van Ameijden has over thirty years experience in the health field and initially started his career as an epidemiologist at the Municipal Health Service in Amsterdam, he also spent some time working in Baltimore in the USA furthering his knowledge before heading back to Europe. Specialising in infectious diseases and epidemiology, which is the study of health patterns in society, Erik became the head of the Department of Epidemiology at the Municipal Health Service in Utrecht. Dr. van Ameijden has an extensive CV of achievements and publications, and holds several positions at organisations across Europe, including in the as a Honorary Senior Scientist / Project Manager of the EURO-URHIS 2 project with the University of Manchester.



#### Acknowledgements

This project was co-funded by the EU Commission.





## EURO-URHIS 2 NEWSLETTER

### URBAN HEALTH RELATED EVENTS

#### 4th European Public Health Conference

The 4th European Public Health Conference entitled 'Public Health and Welfare – Welfare development and health' will take place from 10 to 12 November 2011 at The Bella Centre Copenhagen, Denmark. This event, as in previous years in being held in collaboration with the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), combining the 19th annual EUPHA meeting, the 33rd annual ASPHER meeting and the 5th annual Public Health days of DSOP. The Urban Health Section of EUPHA will meet at the event and EURO-URHIS 2 partners will be present. For more information: [www.eupha.org/site/upcoming\\_conference.php](http://www.eupha.org/site/upcoming_conference.php)

#### European Health Forum Gastein

From 5th to 8th October 2011 the 14th European Health Forum Gastein will take place once again in Bad Hofgastein, Austria. This year's theme is Innovation & Wellbeing - Europe's Health in 2020 and beyond. The main topics to be addressed at the conference include:

- Active & healthy ageing,
- non-communicable diseases,
- future of medicine,
- Health2020,
- social innovation and
- HTA



EURO-URHIS 2 partners are planning to attend and showcase urban health indicators work where possible at the conference. You can find more information on the programme by using this link:

[2nd programme announcement](#)

### ORGANISATION PROFILE

#### WHO Healthy Cities



WHO Healthy Cities engages local governments in health development through political commitment, institutional change, capacity-building, partnership-based planning and innovative projects. About 90 cities are members of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, and 30 national Healthy Cities networks across the WHO European Region have more than 1400 cities and towns as members.

The primary goal of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is to put health high on the social, economic and political agenda of city governments.

The Healthy Cities movement emphasizes:

- the need to address inequality in health and urban poverty
- the needs of vulnerable groups
- participatory governance
- the social, economic and environmental determinants of health.

### Interacting with EU activities.....

#### European Commission launches calls and consults on Research future

The EURO-URHIS 2 project is co-funded through the European Commission FP7 Programme. The latest call for project proposals is due to be launched on July 19 2011. An information day has already taken place in Brussels, prior to the launch and high attendance has proved the increasing popularity and competitiveness of the FP7 Programme. Meanwhile discussions are ongoing regarding the future of EU Research and Innovation funding, with the debate on FP7's successor well under way. A Green Paper has been launched with a consultation period. The Green Paper proposes major changes to EU research and innovation funding to make participation easier, increase scientific and economic impact and provide better value for money. The changes, to be introduced in the next EU budget after 2013, would bring together the current Framework Programme for research, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. The European Commission is now collating well over 1000 European responses and deciding on the next steps. To find more about this consultation and the responses submitted please see: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm)



#### Acknowledgements

This project was co-funded by the EU Commission.