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**Coordinator, Leader contact and partners**  
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- Universidade de Coimbra, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Coimbra  
- Interface Demography Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
- Univerzita Karlova v Praze (Charles University in Prague)  
- Universidad de Girona  
- Agencia de Formación , Investigación y Estudios Sanitarios de la Comunidad de Madrid "Pedro Laín Entralgo"  
- Univerzita P. J. Safarika  
- Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale  
- Universitatea Babes-Bolyai  
- Erasmus MC  
- University College London  
- Karolinska Institute  
- Népességtudományi Kutatóintézet, Központi Statisztikai Hivatal  
- Helsingin yliopisto  
- Azienda Sanitaria Locale TO3  

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SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITIES IN MORTALITY: EVIDENCE AND POLICIES IN CITIES OF EUROPE

JA2015 - GPSD [705038]

START DATE: 01/09/2009

END DATE: 01/09/2012

DURATION: 36 month(s)

CURRENT STATUS: Finalised

PROGRAMME TITLE: Second Programme of Community action in the Field of Health 2008-2013

PROGRAMME PRIORITY: -

CALL: Promote Health (Hp-2008)

TOPIC: Preparation of initiatives to increase healthy life years across the life cycle and tackle health inequalities

EC CONTRIBUTION: 549533.08 EUR

KEYWORDS: Health Promotion, Inequalities, Living and working environment, Survey, Vulnerable Groups

PORTFOLIO: Social determinants and health inequalities
General objectives

The general objective of this project is to identify socioeconomic inequalities in mortality in census tracts of 14 European cities at the beginning of the XXI century (over a span of 5-10 years centred around 2005) and also to compare the social and health policies undertaken in these cities (including policies using EU structural funds) to address inequalities, in order to contribute to the improvement of methods to tackle health inequalities in cities.

Strategic relevance and contribution to the public health programme

Inequalities in health are a major concern for public health in the EU. Within all EU Member States, the most disadvantaged population groups have worse health and higher mortality. These inequalities have widened over the years. To tackle health inequalities and consider interventions and policies directed to these populations, it is important to describe mortality inequalities. In the last 2 decades, the number of studies indicating geographical area as a health determinant has increased. However, intra-urban inequalities in mortality have been infrequently analysed in European contexts, and interventions to tackle health inequalities at urban level have hardly been described.

Methods and means

The project will apply a cross-sectional ecological design using mortality data of census tracts in 16 cities in 13 EU Member States. The leading causes of death and the main causes of avoidable mortality for men and women will be studied, looking at the expected number of deaths in each small area using age-specific European mortality rates. Smoothed Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMR) will be estimated through Bayesian methodology, using generalised linear models, assuming a Poisson distribution for the observed deaths. The estimated SES indicators and mortality indicators will be related in each city using BYM-type models to obtain the measures of association (Relative Risk) between the SES indicators (including indexes of deprivation) and mortality. Social and health policies to reduce and tackle health inequalities at city level will be reviewed using a review of the published literature and documents produced by the city’s authorities (“grey literature”), and a questionnaire. The documents will be analyzed with a critical and comparative policy perspective in order to evaluate and compare the commitment of local authorities to reduce health inequalities; compare their respective strategies, objectives, methods and results; pinpoint the lessons learned from the successes and failures of past policies; and give recommendations about further policies to be implemented and compared between European cities. An inventory of social and health interventions using EU structural funds in the last 15 years will also be made. From these programs, three will be selected for further investigation, based primary on the criterion of transferability.
Expected outcomes period

It is expected that the project will provide an estimation of mortality inequalities at small area level in several cities of Europe, and describe policies undertaken at city level including those that use the EU structural funds. This information will be used to make recommendations on the information and indicators necessary for monitoring and tackling inequalities in health at city level. The methodology and recommendations will also be transferable to other countries.
COORDINATOR

Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona (Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona)
Plaça Lesseps 1
08023 Barcelona
Spain

PARTNERS

Universidade de Coimbra, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Coimbra
Street: Largo da Porta Férrea
City: 3004-530 Coimbra
Country: Portugal

Interface Demography Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Street: Pleinlaan, 2
City: B1050 Brussels
Country: Belgium

Univerzita Karlova v Praze (Charles University in Prague)
Street: Albertov 6
City: 128 43 Prague 2
Country: Czech Republic

Universidad de Girona
Street: Campus de Montivili
City: 17071 Girona
Agencia de Formación, Investigación y Estudios Sanitarios de la Comunidad de Madrid "Pedro Lain Entralgo"
Street: CL Gran Via, 27
City: 28013 Madrid
Country: Spain

Univerzita P. J. Safarika
Street: Moyzesova 16
City: 040 01 Kosice
Country: Slovakia

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale
Street: INSERM U707, 27 rue Chaligny
City: 75012 Paris
Country: France

Universitatea Babes-Bolyai
Street: Str. Mihail Kogalniceanu Nr. 1
City: 400084 Cluj-Napoca
Country: Romania

Erasmus MC
Street: 's-Gravendijkwal 230
City: 300 CA Rotterdam
Country: Netherlands

University College London
Street: 1-19 Torrington Place  
City: WC1E 6BT London  
Country: United Kingdom

Karolinska Institute  
Street:  
City: 17177 Stockholm  
Country: Sweden

Népességtudományi Kutatóintézet, Központi Statisztikai Hivatal  
Street: Buday Lászlo u., 1/3  
City: H-1024 Budapest  
Country: Hungary

Helsingin yliopisto  
Street: Unioninkatu 35  
City: FIN-00014 University of Helsinki  
Country: Finland

Azienda Sanitaria Locale TO3  
Street: Via Sabaudia, 164  
City: 10095 Grugliasco (Torino)  
Country: Italy
D01 - Protocol of specification of the collection of data and data files (EN)
Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona
SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITIES IN MORTALITY: EVIDENCE AND POLICIES IN CITIES OF EUROPE (INEQ-CITIES )
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D02 - Protocol of specification of interventions and policies to be collected (EN)
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D03-01 - Project Website (EN)
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D03-02 - Website abstract (EN)
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