

# Socioeconomic inequalities in mortality: evidence and policies in cities of Europe

Recognising the increasing importance of cities in Europe and worldwide, this programme focuses on mortality inequalities and their social and economic determinants within European cities of different size and location. In order to reduce these inequalities, specific and effective interventions should be designed and a well-based description of mortality inequalities can largely help this process.

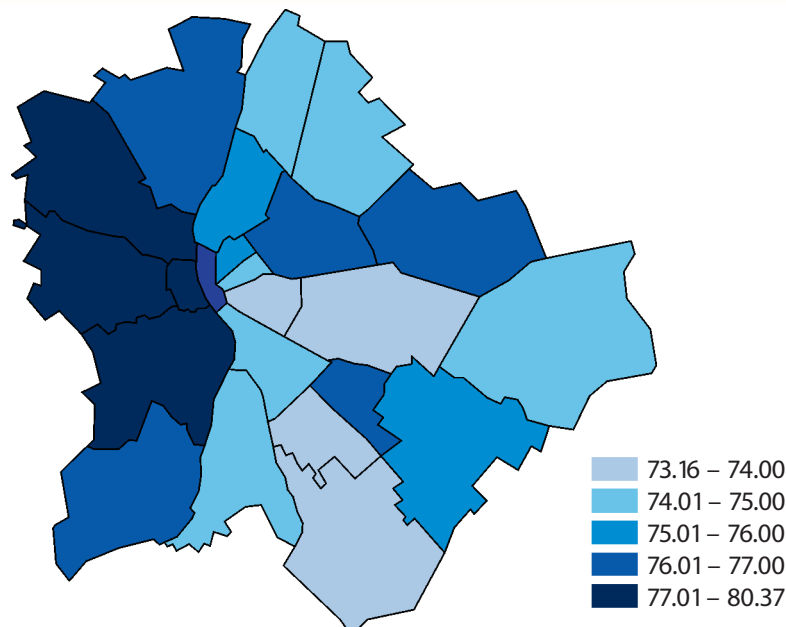
Consequently, the project aims to describe mortality inequalities between small areas (census tracts or districts) of cities in 13 European countries.

The estimation of mortality inequalities will be carried out in this project, which lasts from September 2009 till August 2012, by using Bayesian smoothing for 60 different causes of death, overall mortality and avoidable mortality. Inequalities in mortality will be studied in connection with several indicators of deprivation at small area level.

Furthermore, the program collects information on interventions carried out in the participating cities in order to reduce inequalities in health. Those interventions that used the means of the European Structural Funds are of special interest. The usage of the financial assistance of the Structural Funds will be studied via the analysis of documents and through interviews with local health policy makers and managers of funds. Three case studies will also help to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the European funding procedures within the context of city policies.

This map shows the differences in life expectancy between the districts of Budapest and it will be updated and detailed during the INEQ-CITIES project. Thanks to this project we will be able to better explain differences in life expectancy at birth between the 23 districts. Indeed, life expectancy is much higher in the western part of the city (the Buda side), where the general standard of living is higher, than in the eastern part.

## Life expectancy at birth in the 23 districts of Budapest between 2005 and 2009



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