

Commission on Health
and the Environment (CHE)



International Geographical
Union (IGU)

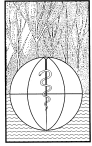
**International Geographical Union Commission on Health
and the Environment C 12. 19**

**Report 2012-2016 &
Proposal for a Renewal of the Commission's Mandate for 2016-2020**

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**Report compiled by Eva Pilot,
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1 IGU CHE Mandate & Strategic Foci

1.1 Mandate approved for the period 2012 – 2016

“Members of the IGU Commission on Health and the Environment carry out research on health and health care in the natural and built environment recognizing the importance of gender and diversity in a globalized world. Three strategic foci for the mandate period 2012 to 2016 are:

- 1) the analysis of quality of life with an emphasis on health, health care, and the environment at various geographic scales;
- 2) the links among global change, global health and the environment; and
- 3) urban health and the role of migration and immigration.

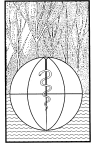
These foci reflect outcomes of the previous work carried out by IGU CHE and the strategic aim to strengthen with our contributions new initiatives like *Future Earth*, *One Health* or *Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment*. CHE members continue to represent IGU in these and many other international initiatives over the mandate period 2012-2016 contributing as health geographers to the international efforts to improve global health.”

1.2 Mandate proposed for the period 2016 – 2020

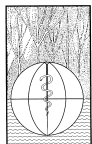
“Members of the IGU Commission on Health and the Environment carry out research on health and health care in the natural and built environment recognizing the importance of gender and diversity in a globalized world. The strategic foci for the mandate period 2016 to 2020 continue to be:

- 1) the analysis of quality of life with an emphasis on health, health care, and the environment at various geographic scales;
- 2) the links among global change, global health and the environment; and
- 3) urban health and the role of migration and immigration.

These foci reflect both the continuation of the previous work carried out by IGU CHE and the strategic aim to further strengthen with our contributions important international initiatives like



Future Earth, One Health, Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment as well as the necessary scientific contributions to the environmental health components of SDG agenda. The CHE members continue to represent IGU in the aforementioned and many other international initiatives over the mandate period 2016-2020. They contribute as health geographers to the international efforts to improve global health and global health governance. IGU CHE provides a platform for its members in collaboration with the members of the various national and regional (health geography) specialty groups to discuss, define and further develop concepts, conceptual frameworks and curricula related to health geography and the emerging fields of global health and planetary health.”



IGU CHE Commission composition

IGU CHE Steering Committee 2012 - 2016

Co-Chairperson:

Prof. Wuyi Wang, Co- Chairperson (China)

Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) / e-mail: wangwy@igsnrr.ac.cn

Prof. Thomas Krafft, Co- Chairperson (Netherlands)

University of Maastricht / e-mail: thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Steering Committee Members:

Prof. Gerard Salem, Steering Committee Member (France)

University Paris Oeust / e-mail: gerard.salem@u-paris10.fr / salem.gerard@gmail.com

Prof. Raul Guimares, Steering Committee Member (Brazil)

State University of São Paulo / e-mail: raulguimaraes@uol.com.br

Sarah Lovell, Steering Committee Member (New Zealand)

University of Canterbury / e-mail: sarah.lovell@canterbury.ac.nz

Prof. Izabella Lecka, Steering Committee Member (Poland)

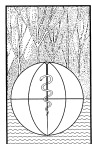
Warsaw University / e-mail: kray001@fiu.edu

Prof. Svetlana Malkhazova, Steering Committee Member (Russia)

Moscow State University / e-mail: sveta_geo@yahoo.com

Prof. Sarah McLafferty, Steering Committee Member (USA)

University of Illinois / e-mail: smclaff@uiuc.edu



Prof. Giovanni De Santis, Steering Committee Member (Italy)

University of Bergamo / e-mail: giovanni.desantis@univr.it

Prof. Liliana Dumitrache, Steering Committee Member (Romania)

University of Bucarest / e-mail: dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com

The IGU CHE thanks very much Wuyi Wang for his strong commitment as Co-Chair for the commission for the last decades. He will hand over his responsibilities to Paula Santana from Portugal at the IGC in Beijing, China in August 2016.

At the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow Robin Kearns (New Zealand), a long term member of the CHE steering committee, handed over to Sarah Lovell (New Zealand).

The steering group members Izabella Lecker, Sahra McLafferty and Gerard Salem will rotate out of the steering group in August 2016.

The commission members have extended their appreciation and gratitude to all outgoing steering group members for their strong commitment and valuable input during the past years.

New Steering Committee Group members for 2016-2020 (proposal)

Co-Chairpersons:

Prof. Thomas Krafft, Co-Chair (Netherlands) (last term)

University of Maastricht / e-mail: thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Prof. Paula Santana, Co- Chair (Portugal) (first term)

University of Coimbra/ e-mail: paulasantana.coimbra@gmail.com

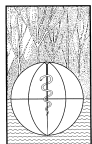
Steering Committee Members:

Prof. Yang Linsheng, Steering Committee Member (China) (new SC member)

Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) /e-mail: yangls@igsnr.ac.cn

Prof. Svetlana Malkhazova, Steering Committee Member (Russia) (till 2018)

Moscow State University / e-mail: sveta_geo@yahoo.com



Prof. Raul Guimares, Steering Committee Member (Brazil), (last term)
State University of São Paulo / e-mail: raulguimaraes@uol.com.br

Dr. Sarah Lovell, Steering Committee Member (New Zealand), (new SC member since 2014)
University of Canterbury / e-mail: sarah.lovell@canterbury.ac.nz

Dr. Julie Vallee, Steering Committee Member (France), (new SC member)
CNRS, Paris, France / e-mail: julie.vallee@parisgeo.cnrs.fr

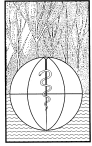
Prof. Susan Elliott, Steering Committee Member (Canada) (new SC member)
University of Waterloo / e-mail: susan.elliott@uwaterloo.ca

Prof. Liliana Dumitrache, Steering Committee Member (Romania) (second term)
University of Bucarest / e-mail: dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com

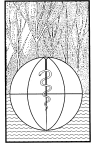
Prof. H. Blaise Nguendo Yongsi, Steering Committee Member (Cameroun) (new SC member)
School of Health Sciences, Catholic University of Central Africa / e-mail:
sir_nguendoyongsi@hotmail.com

Prof. Aminata Niang-Diene, Steering Committee Member (Senegal) (new SC member)
Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal/ aminata.niang@ucad.edu.sn

The proposed composition of the new CHE steering committee 2016-2020 was agreed at the regular commission meeting at the IMGS 2015 in Vancouver and prepared and followed up by additional electronic communication with those SC members who could not attend. With the composition of the new SC the commission follows the strategy to keep a fair balance between continuity and the regular integration of new and younger colleagues. The 2016-2020 steering committee is comprised of 7 women and 4 men. 7 new members join the SC for the first time (Sarah Lovell already in 2014), but all 7 have already actively contributed to the commission work in the last period. The geographical distribution of the affiliations of the SC members shows a fair global coverage: with Brazil, Canada, Cameroun, China, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Romania, and Senegal. The two new colleagues from Africa, Prof. Niang-Diene and Prof. Nguendo Yongsi, had a leading role in



successfully setting up an African network of health geographers and urban health researchers since 2013. With this proposed SC membership IGU CHE also continues its successful strategy to include regular members and SC members from Medical and/or Public Health Schools when they actively and explicitly work in the fields covered by the commission's mandate and get involved in the commission's scientific activities.



Health Geography Researcher Network

Since 2012 the commission has created a Health Geography Researcher Network as a regular sub-commission to enhance the direct interaction between researchers and to specifically reach out to young scientist. The intention of the group is to actively contribute to the exchange in the field of health geography research and teaching and to support health geographers in their early career. Currently 17 researchers are jointly steering the group coordinated by a chairperson. The researchers are from the Netherlands, USA, Portugal, Nigeria, China, UK, New Zealand, Malaysia, France, Argentina, Russia, Australia, Germany and Canada. The steering group is composed of 9 female and 8 men. Some 50 researchers across the globe have joined the Health Geography Researcher Network in addition to the IGU CHE members. More information can be found on the International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment Researcher Network homepage <http://www.healthgeography.org/>.

Advisory Group Member of IGU CHE in 2016 - 2020

The IGU CHE will - as a further sub-commission - set up a senior advisory group of experts. This will be further discussed based on the renewed mandate and after the new SC has been constituted. Currently two advisory group members are nominated:

Urban Health with the specific tasks to link to the ICSU initiative and to ISUH:

Prof. Gerard Salem (France)

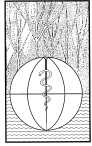
University Paris Oeust / e-mail: gerard.salem@u-paris10.fr / salem.gerard@gmail.com

Environmental Health and Ageing Societies with the specific task to link with the various international initiatives on health and aging.

Prof. Wuyi Wang (China)

Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) / e-mail: wangwy@igsnrr.ac.cn

NN, Big data, Health GIS



Honorary Members of IGU CHE

To honor and recognise their valuable contribution to the scientific field and their longterm leadership the IGU CHE has extended honorary memberships to:

Prof. Yola Verhasselt (Belgium)

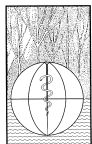
Académie Royales des Sciences d'Outre-Mer / e-mail: kaowarsom@skynet.be

Prof. David Phillips (Hong Kong)

Lingnan University / e-mail: apias@fn.edu.hk

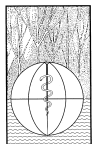
Prof. Mark W. Rosenberg (Canada) Queen's University / e-mail:

mark.rosenberg@queensu.ca



CHE Commission Members list by Country

Country	<u>Number of Members</u>
Argentina	5
Australia	4
Austria	1
Bangladesh	5
Belgium	2
Benin	1
Brasil	4
Brunei	1
Burkina Faso	1
Canada	22
Chile	1
China	4
Cuba	3
Czech Republic	4
Egypt	1
Estonia	1
Fiji	1
Finland	2
France	19
Germany	12
Hong Kong	1
Hungary	3
India	24
Indonesia	1
Ireland	3
Israel	1
Italy	7
Ivory Coast	1
Jamaica	2
Japan	4
Jordan	1
Kenya	1
Korea	2
Mauritius	2
Mexico	3
Netherlands	4
New Zealand	9
Nigeria	6
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Poland	3
Portugal	5
Romania	1
Russia	6
Saudi Arabia	1



Slovenia	1
South Africa	12
Spain	3
Sri Lanka	1
Sweden	4
Switzerland	6
Taiwan	2
Thailand	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	17
USA	21
Zaire	1
Total	257

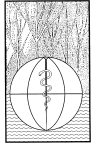
This list (see above) represents the membership status at the starting point of the renewed mandate in 2012. Commission communication is provided for the listed members.

The CHE is pleased to note that it has members from some 58 countries, from all populated continents of the world.

Finance / Budget

The IGU CHE budget development in 2016:

January 2012	2218.22\$
IGU yearly contribution 2013	1000.00\$
IGU webpage & Domain	- 309.00\$
Young Scientist webpage & Domain	-309.00\$
Support for Young scientist from developing country to join	
GEOSAUDE conference in Portugal	-1000.00\$
Interest and transaction cost	-2.88\$
Transaction cost	-17.43\$
Balance	1579.91\$



Meetings and Activities supported and/or co-sponsored by the CHE and activities with IGU representation by CHE in 2012-2016

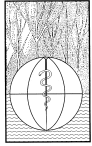
During 2012-2016 IGU CHE has continued to actively support and/or co-sponsor key meetings and activities for the scientific community. A short overview on the main activities is provided in the following:

2016

- The 2016 33rd International Geographical Conference – Shaping Our Harmonious Worlds will be held in Beijing, China. Business Meeting IGU Commission on Health and Environment are requested for the 25th of August 2016 8:00-9:30 am.
- Pre-Conference on Shaping Geographies of Health, Health Care and Environment in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province from 18-21 August 2016. Around 50 participants will participate. The event is organized in collaboration with the Geographical Society of China (GSC) Commission on Medical Geography and co-sponsored by IGU CHE.
- IGU CHE took an active role in the 13th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH 2016), San Francisco, USA
- Gerard Salem, on behalf of IGU CHE, was involved in the preparation of a dedicated workshop with the title: “The Future of Healthy Cities: The Role of Action Research in Training” at University of California Berkeley, USA. Commission member took an active role in this workshop as part of the ongoing commitment to urban health.

2015

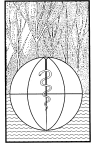
- IGU CHE organized several well attended thematic sessions and a steering group meetings at the IGU regional conference 17-21 August 2015 in Moscow, Russia. The Researcher Network on Health Geography organized a special session for young researcher as part of the young scientist program of the IGU regional conference.



- Steering Commission member Svetlana Malkhazova together with Dmitry Orlov organized an IGU CHE Pre-Conference from the 14-16 August 2015 in Vladimir, Russia. The topics included: Geography of Infectious Diseases, Urban Health, Health Systems and Access to Care, Global Health and Health Geography and Education in Health Geography and Human Ecology. More than 40 scientist participated in the pre-conference.
- The 2015 GEOSAUDE, the Health Geography Congress of Latin American and Portuguese speaking countries was organized in cooperation with the ICSU programme on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment and the French embassy to Brazil. The congress took place in Brasilia with Brasilia Public Health Institute, FIOCRUZ, as local organiser. IGU CHE was actively involved in the conference and related back-to-back meetings. As official co-sponsor IGU CHE provided travel subsistence for young health geographers to present a paper at this conference that was attended by some 300 scientists for the Americas, Africa and Europe.
- The 16th International Medical Geography Symposium, 16th IMGS, was hosted at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. Some 250 participants attended the symposium. IGU CHE is co-sponsor and coordinates together with the national health geography specialty groups of UK, US, Canada, France, Germany, and New Zealand the biannual meetings. IMGS has evolved as an excellent platform for young scientists to present and discuss their research and also to present and discuss new ideas and work in progress in an workshop discussion format. Selected papers will be published in *Health and Place* or *Social Science Medicine*. The Health Geography Researcher Network presented IGU activities in the closing session and invited interested participants - in particular the young scientist - to actively join the network.

2014

- The International Conference on Urban Health was held from the 4-7 March 2014 in Manchester, United Kingdom also in collaboration with the ICSU programme on *Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment*. The commission was actively participating in the Healthy-Polis Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability.
- From 21-24 April 2014 the GEOSAUDE Health Geography Congress for Portuguese speaking countries was hosted by the University of Coimbra, Portugal. IGU CHE was a

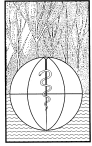


key sponsor of this meeting and supported financially the participation of young health geographers from Africa in this meeting. The meeting was instrumental to further extend the CHE network within Sub-Saharan Africa.

- As a IGU CHE pre-conference to the 2014 IGU Regional Conference a medical geography symposium was hosted at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies of the University of Warsaw on 14-17 of August. SC member, Izabela Lecka, organized with her team a pre-conference that was attended by some 30 participants. With a single stream of papers the meeting provided an excellent opportunity to extensively discuss new research in health geography. A half-day excursion in Warsaw and a full day field trip (on the way to Krakow) completed the scientific programme.
- The 2014 IGU regional conference was held in Krakow, Poland from the 17-21 of August. The commission organized four health sessions and many members participated also in other sessions. A business meeting of the SC joint by quite a few other IGU CHE members that were attending the regional conference complemented the deliberations.
- During the World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany, in October 2014 IGU CHE participated in the organization of a workshop on “Trade Agreements: Challenges for Global Health?” in collaboration with World Federation of Academic Institutions for Global Health.
- The XIth International Seminar of Medical Geography (Geomed) with the thematic focus on health management was organized from 18-20 December 2014 in Rom, Italy. IGU CHE was co-sponsor of this thematic conference.

2013

- At IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto, Japan from 4-9 August 2013 IGU CHE organized four thematic sessions coordinated by Wuyi Wang.
- The International Conference on *Intra Urban Dynamics and Health* held in Paris, France from 11-13 September 2013 was co-sponsored by IGU CHE. This conference was the first in a sequence of four planned conferences in the context of the ICSU programme on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment. The conference was very successful with some 400 participants from 49 countries. IGU CHE members were prominently represented giving key lectures and chairing panels and

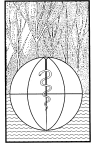


workshops. During the conference IGU CHE steering committee members met with a group of health geographers from 14 African countries to discuss future collaboration and to support the set-up of an African health geography working group.

- The 2nd GRF *One Health Summit* (Theme: *One Health-One Planet-One Future*) held on 17-20 November 2013 in Davos Switzerland was supported by IGU CHE. GRF has established the One Health Summit as regular scientific and professional platform that discusses global health issues with an holistic view encompassing human health, animal health, environmental health, food safety and agriculture.
- IGU CHE was one of the key sponsors of the 15th International Medical Geographical Symposium (IMGS) at Michigan University, USA (7-12 July 2013). IMGS is now fully established as one of the most important events for our community bringing together senior researchers, scholars and junior scientists from mainly North America, Asia, Oceania and Europe. Health geographers from Latin America and Africa are still underrepresented due to limited funding for scientists from these regions. During this conference the IGU CHE held a regular business meeting and a joint meeting together with the chairs of the national specialty groups that support IMGS.

IGU CHE supported initiatives in 2012-2016:

- Following a proposal by the CHE member Gerard Salem, IGU CHE is supporting a new initiative to set up a new *International Centre for Urban Health in Developing Countries*. The objectives of the new centre will be to organize seminars, intensive trainings to promote academic and professional training, multidisciplinary approaches, and bridges between decisions makers, stakeholders and researchers. The proposed centre is to be set up in Mbour, Senegal.
- IGU CHE is also supporting to develop a *network of researcher* working on topics related to African studies. The leading Institution will be the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. This activity is lead by the steering group member Gerard Salem.
- Since 2008 IGU CHE members have been involved first in the initial ICSU Planning Group on *Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment* and since the official

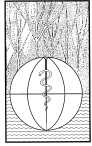


launch of the programme by the ICSU 30th General Assembly in 2011 in the scientific committee of the programme. IGU CHE strongly supports this ICSU initiative that has - after a delayed start - taken on real momentum in 2013. In 2014 the IPO was established in Xiamen, China. In December 2014 commission members participated at the first ICSU urban health conference in Xiamen, China. Through the IGU CHE members IGU is currently the most active ICSU member supporting this programme.

- In conjunction with its support for the ICSU programme IGU CHE has set up an interdisciplinary European group on *Urbanization and Health* linked to the ICSU's Program on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment. This group is intended to function as the European regional group for the ICSU programme and also as dedicated partner for an African group that was established as one result of the International conference on *Intra Urban Dynamics and Health* held in Paris in 2013. In regard to joint research a few flagship project EURO-HEALTHY lead by IGU CHE member Paula Santa from Coimbra University, Portugal has started in January 2015 and will run till December 2017. The project includes a couple of IGU CHE health geographers from across Europe and will lead, in addition to the project outcome, to enhance network activities between Public Health and Health Geography in Europe. The funding was provided under the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.
- *Future Earth* as Global Change Research Initiative that has been launched by ICSU together with other partners to replace IGBG, DIVERSITAS and IHDP fully emerged in 2014. The role of health as a cross cutting theme within *Future Earth* remains unclear and the existing dedicated project of Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH) might be discontinued without any substitute. IGU CHE will continue to play an active role in advocating the need for a strong health component within *Future Earth*.

Capacity building activities of IGU-CHE in 2012-2016:

- Between 2012 and 2016 Annual Student Training Workshop on "Global Change and Health Research" have been organized at the Research Centre for Global Environmental Change and Health, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. The workshop is hosted by the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research and usually takes

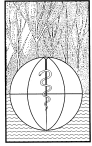


place in October/November. The main objective of the annual workshops is to provide advanced training to Ph.D. students through a series of lectures and participatory experiences that give the trainees a better understanding of theoretical and methodological issues related to environmental change and health risks affecting vulnerable populations. A further purpose is advanced training of skills required to support the student's research careers (e.g., peer-reviewed manuscript writing and research proposal writing). Participants get also the chance to learn about international programmes and initiatives in this field. The student training workshops remain an important component of IGU CHE's strategy of capacity building and of enhancing the visibility of health geography also in the upcoming period. It is therefore intended to continue with this format each October till 2020.

- As direct outcome of the IGU CHE's capacity building initiative a sub-commission was set up for the Health Geography Researcher Network of IGU CHE. This group was initiated by former participants of IGU CHE's international capacity building workshops and is currently chaired by Eva Pilot (Maastricht University). The goal of the group is to foster exchange of researcher in health geography.
- More information and contacts can be found on the webpage <http://www.iguhep.org/young-che.html> and in addition on a separate webpage organized by the Health Geography researcher Network <http://www.healthgeography.org>.
- IGU CHE is supporting the implementation of a Master of Geography of Health in Africa at the University Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Senegal) in collaboration with University Gaston Berger (Saint Louis du Senegal), Institut de recherché pour le development (IRD) and the University Paris Ouest Nanterre-La defense.

Planned conferences and related activities of IGU-CHE in 2016-2020 (preliminary overview)

- The 17th IMGS Symposium of Medical Geography will be held in Angers, France in 2-7 July 2017



- International Conference on Urban Health will be held in Coimbra, Portugal in 26-28 September 2017
- IGU CHE Pre-Conference coordinated by Queens University in Montreal, Canada August 2018
- Thematic health sessions at International Geographical Union Regional Conference “Accounting for Difference”, Quebec City, Canada in 6-10 August 2018
- Annual capacity building workshops in Beijing (October) 2016-2020

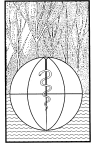
Upcoming capacity building activities 2016-2020 supported by IGU CHE

- *Student Training Workshop on “Health and Environmental Change in Beijing-Tianjin Mega City Area”* at the Research Centre for Global Environmental Change and Health, Beijing, China (October 2016): The workshop will be held following a scientific workshop hosted by the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research at the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS).
- As a capacity building activity the commission is supporting the initiative on a Health Geography Researcher Network. The aim of the network is to support networking in an early career and will provide ample information and resources on health geography. <http://www.healthgeography.org>.

Publications/ Dissemination:

IGU CHE Book:

Health and Environmental Changes Urban Areas. Editors: Wang W, Krafft T, Rosenberg M, Pilot E. Published in China Environment Press, Beijing, China, September 2014. The book consists of a collection of articles addressing important issues of urban health. The book originated in a series of scientific symposia co-sponsored by IGU CHE at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The book is a joint effort of members of the IGU CHE.



Journal Special Issue:

A special issue of the Journal Sustainability (<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability>) is prepared for the beginning of 2017. Contributions will mainly be taken from the papers presented at IGU CHE pre-conference at Xi'an in August 2016.

Webpage:

IGU CHE website <http://www.iguhep.org/> includes announcements, member information, reports and meeting minutes. Around 350 visitors are accessing the page on a weekly basis. All relevant announcements for the webpage can be sent to the webpage manager Eva Pilot (eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

The health geography Researcher's network of the commission can be found in addition to the IGU CHE webpage on <http://www.healthgeography.org>. Around 250 visitors are accessing the page on a weekly basis. All relevant announcements for the webpage can be sent to the webpage manager Eva Pilot (eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

Facebook

The Health Geography Researcher Network has initiated a Facebook page for Health geography researchers to interact and exchange vacancies and information on conferences and interesting publications and so on. The link to the open Facebook group page is <https://www.facebook.com/Health-Geography-Researcher-Network-779298652122288/>. Currently around 220 people are part of the group on Health Geography Researcher Network on Facebook.