



# BigO: big data against childhood obesity

Christos Diou <sup>(1)</sup>, Ioannis Ioakeimidis <sup>(2)</sup>, Evangelia Charmandari <sup>(3)</sup>, Penio Kassari <sup>(3)</sup>, Irini Lekka <sup>(1)</sup>, Monica Mars <sup>(4)</sup>, Cecilia Bergh <sup>(5)</sup>, Tahar Kechadi <sup>(6)</sup>, Gerardine Doyle <sup>(6)</sup>, Grace O'Malley <sup>(7)</sup>, Rachel Heimeier <sup>(8)</sup>, Anna Karin Lindroos <sup>(9)</sup>, Sofoklis Sotiriou <sup>(10)</sup>, Evangelia Koukoula <sup>(11)</sup>, Sergio Guillén <sup>(12)</sup>, George Lymperopoulos <sup>(13)</sup>, Nicos Maglaveras <sup>(1)</sup>, Anastasios Delopoulos <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, (2) Karolinska Institute, Sweden, (3) Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, Greece, (4) Wageningen University, Netherlands, (5) Mando Group, Sweden, (6) University College Dublin, Ireland, (7) Temple Street Children's University Hospital, Ireland, (8) Internationella Engelska Gymnasiet Södermalm, Sweden, (9) National Food Agency, Sweden, (10) Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Greece, (11) Ekpedeftiria Mpakogianni, Greece, (12) Mysphera, Spain, (13) Cosmote, Greece

BigO will collect and analyze big data on children's behaviour and their environment to enable public health authorities to plan and execute effective programs against childhood obesity

**Motivation:** Despite ongoing efforts, ~ 2.8 million deaths per year in the EU result from causes associated with overweight and obesity

### Global Increase in Obesity



Overweight, body mass index (BMI) ≥25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; obese, BMI >28 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (Asian) or >30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. James WP. J Intern Med. 2008;263(4):336-352.

# **Policy advisor (aetiology):**

What makes the population of a specific neighborhood of Athens scarcely use public means of transportation?

# (easy)

What makes the population of a specific neighborhood of Dublin exercise less than average? (more interesting)

Why do students at IEGS eat their lunch too fast?

# **Measurements: Devices + Apps**



**Indicators of behavior:** Physical activity, eating, transportation, sleep





**Policy planner (prediction):** 

What will be the effect of adding a bus line to the use of public means of transportation of the population of a specific neighborhood in Athens?

**Approach:** 

• Big data

Citizen science

# **Environment measurements:** Maps **Statistical Authorities** Images Machine Learning Information Retrieval

Computer vision

# Example: Estimate local **employment** rate



BigO evidence

Thousands of children

### Aetiology

Why bad habits are being adopted Not in general! Here, at a local level

#### Prediction

What is the effect of an adopted policy Estimate it before it is adopted Quantitatively

Participating schools Wider school networks Clinics Volunteers/communities

# Challenges

Engagement Privacy Scalability Accuracy Validity





