

Urban Development and HIA: WHO European Healthy Cities experience

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Questions to address

- 1. How is HIA being applied in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, and what has been the strength of HIA in contributing to healthy public policy?**
- 2. Is HIA a good mechanism for addressing inequalities in health?**
- 3. What is the future use of HIA in Health in All Policies (HiAP) and how can we ensure that this will be developed?**

Applying HIA in European Healthy Cities: main challenges

Lack of:

- **history and knowledge of, or experience in, HIA**
- **understanding of what HIA can offer**
- **training**
- **skilled personnel/experts and capacity for HIA**
- **a legislative basis for HIA**
- **political and sometimes professional support**
- **resources/competing demands for resources**

Complexity of concept especially in a local government setting

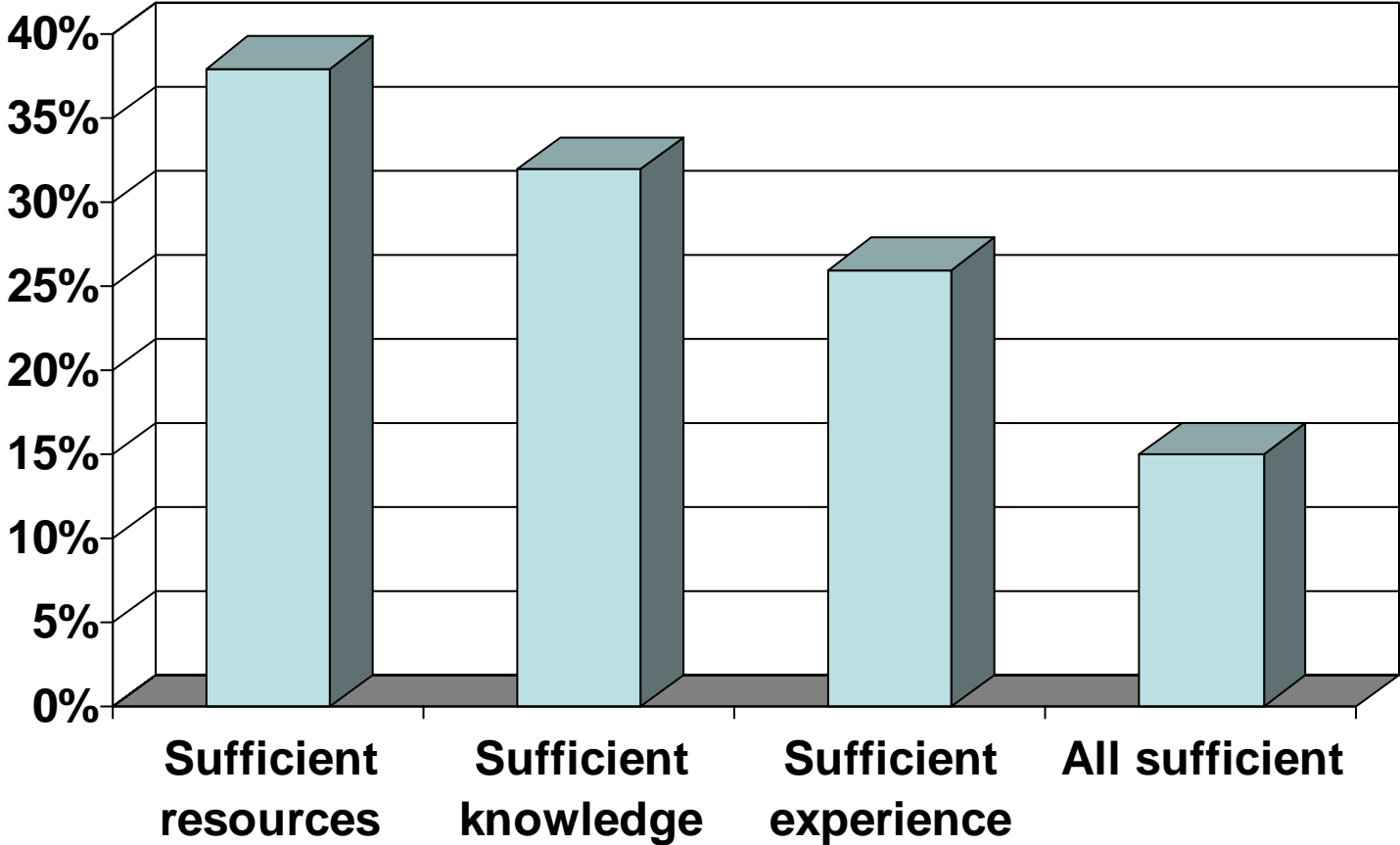
Applying HIA in European Healthy Cities: countries where HIA was a new concept

- **Albania**
- **Belgium**
- **Croatia**
- **Czech Republic**
- **Estonia**
- **France**
- **Hungary**
- **Latvia**
- **Lithuania**
- **Poland**
- **Russian Federation**
- **Slovenia**
- **Spain**
- **Turkey**

Objectives for HIA in Phase IV

- 1. Raise awareness & create a common understanding of HIA for politicians & administrators in city**
- 2. Identify entry points for HIA & build on skills, provide leadership and strengthen capacity to apply HIA**
- 3. Share learning & provide evidence of HIA's contribution to health development**
- 4. Work towards mainstreaming HIA**

Meeting Phase IV objectives for HIA



Applying HIA in European Healthy Cities: facilitating factors

- **Political support**
- **Supportive national policy context for HIA**
- **Training**
- **Link with an academic or public health institution**
- **Collaboration with a local health agency**
- **Materials supplied by WHO Copenhagen or Sub-Network in HIA**
- **Access to Expert Adviser in HIA**
- **Belonging to the Sub-Network in HIA, a national network or the HC Network**
- **Pre-existing culture of intersectoral working**
- **Previous experience of HIA**

Applying HIA in European Healthy Cities: successes

- *Undertaking HIA:* pilot HIA; more than one HIA; a series of HIAs; HIA on all major proposals; mainstreaming HIA; developing local tools
- Impact that HIA had had on *decision-making:* influence on important proposals; “better informed”; “added value”; suggestions were implemented; transparency
- Putting health & HIA on the agenda of other organisations
- Helping other organisations to mainstream HIA

Applying HIA in European Healthy Cities: successes

- **Strengthening intersectoral working**
- **Raising awareness of health for politicians & professionals**
- **Training**
- **Stakeholder consultation including the community**
- **Integrating HIA/health into other impact assessments**

Strengths of HIA in contributing to healthy public policy

- **Systematic framework**
- **Encouraged stakeholder engagement, particularly with the community**
- **Improved partnership working to achieve health gain**
- **Integrated with concepts behind work of Healthy Cities**
- **Incorporated existing activities on the Healthy Cities agenda**

Advantages of HIA as a methodology

HIA allows for specificity

HIA is undertaken on:

- **an individual proposal**
- **that will impact on a particular community**
- **living in a particular set of circumstances**

Advantages of HIA as a methodology

HIA provides a scientific framework

- **Uses data as a primary baseline**
- **Systematic interrogation of:**
 - **relevant determinants of health**
 - **Specific population groups**
 - **Characteristics of impact**
- **Mechanism to identify differential effects**

Advantages of HIA as a methodology

HIA is flexible and adaptable

- Range of techniques
- Range of tools
- Use of different types of information: research from the published literature, grey literature, data and statistics about the community affected, and stakeholder knowledge and experience
- Evidence base/case-studies
- Increased understanding of other sector's language and problems
- Intelligence of what's happening in other fields or sectors

Advantages of HIA as a methodology

- **HIA provides an appropriate and effective tool to deal with the way in which health or ill health are generated**
- **Approach to the determinants of health and the interactions and inter-relationships between and among them is not dealt with appropriately or effectively in:**
 - **Sustainability appraisal**
 - **Strategic environmental assessment**

Applying HIA in European Healthy Cities: successes

“Establishing the intersectoral working groups meant that municipal departments saw HIA as a new, fruitful way of thinking or planning – not a must-do task”

Horsens Healthy Cities

HIA as a mechanism for addressing health inequalities

One of the most important features of HIA is the capacity to identify:

- Inequalities in health
- Sources of inequity

This brings the capacity to address:

- Health and related inequalities
- Sources of inequity

Phase V European Healthy Cities

**Overarching Goal: Health and Health
Equity in all Local Policies**

**Cities are expected to address
systematically the health impacts of
policies and strategies, as well as
health inequalities, social inclusion and
the needs of vulnerable and
disadvantaged groups**

**HIA is a systematic tool to help Healthy
Cities deliver on this goal.**

HIA and HiAP

The main technical questions

- How are HIA and HiAP related?**
- What are the differences?**
- What are the resonances?**
- What can we learn from our experience of HIA to help us start with the process of HIAP?**

HIA and HiAP

Differences in emphasis and message

- The emphasis in “selling” HIA is “how to get health gain” or additional health gain as an outcome from non-health *and* health-related proposals
- The main message from HiAP is how to achieve the “other” sector’s outcomes together with achieving health gain, which involves:
 - Agreement up front to work together
 - Agreed route map that both sectors will follow

HIA and HiAP processes

	Engagement
Screening	Engagement
Scoping	Doing it
Appraisal & Reporting	Doing it Production
Supporting Decision-makers	Navigation
Monitoring & evaluation	

HIA and HiAP

Differences in process

- **Emphasis on “Engagement” and “Navigation” – HIA is moving in this direction**
- **Engagement was incorporated into the Community HIA process developed by Belfast Healthy Cities**
- **Navigation tends to be the missing element, identified by Belfast Healthy Cities and partners as an area for development**

HIA and HiAP

Resonances

- **HiAP is using HIA as a tool, by taking main elements of the process**
- **HiAP uses HIA methods/key skills to identify potential health impacts and ways to address those impacts with the difference that they don't use – HIA is used during “Doing it” and “Produce”**

HIA and HiAP

What can we learn from HIA to use in the HiAP process?

- **Systematic**
- **Determinants of health core to any tools/assessment**
- **Most promising tool for identifying health and other inequalities**
- **Has a baseline of the communities affected**
- **Proposal analysis and context analysis**

A future for HIA?

Arguments against HIA

- The burden of impact assessments
- Lack of legislation
- Lack of resources, especially in a post-Credit Crunch world
- Health imperialism

A future for HIA?

Where did we go wrong?

- **Lost sight of the original objective – health, and the potential for health gain**
- **Promotion of the methodology almost as an end in itself**
- **HIA is a “tool” not a universal panacea**

A future for HIA?

- **HIA is still evolving**
- **HIA as a foundation or backbone – taking elements of the process and applying those in the routine practices and procedures of an organisation or partnership**

A future for HIA?

- Take it back to the science
- What is the question or series of questions we want to ask?
- Is it appropriate to use HIA to answer these questions?
- Will it be effective to use HIA to answer this question?

A future for HIA?

- Using the basic format or framework for HIA to answer a variety of related questions

For example, URBACT II project in Belfast:

- Using HIA to identify appropriate indicators to track the impact of regeneration on health and well-being

A future for HIA

Darwin's finches:

- Evolution
- Speciation,

Evolution – variation on a theme into many different forms