



HIA and Health in all Policies - Supporting municipalities in the Netherlands

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Presentation concerns
the following areas:

- Intersectoral
working and HIA
- Embedding HIA



Contents

- Dutch Health Policy
- Health in all Policies
- Examples



The revised Dutch Prevention Act (2003)



- States all 443 Dutch municipalities to produce a policy paper every four years on health policy.
- In this policy paper
 - The municipalities give insight in the local health situation,
 - describe their health policies and interventions *and:*
 - explore the health effects of policies outside public health.
- So, HIA has a statutory basis in NL.

Health Inspection

- In 2005, the Health Inspection produced a report in which it concluded:
 - the first two aims were mainly OK,
 - but that the municipalities nearly completely failed in reporting the health effects of other policies.
- For NIGZ a motivation to support the Dutch municipalities to take a step forward towards a more integrated municipal health policy.



Health in all Policies



Policy outside the strict domain of public health,

But nevertheless aiming at health promotion or avoiding health damage

Features



- Co-operation between public health and one or more other sectors
- Aiming at influencing one or more determinants of health
- Participating: the local government and others (citizens, institutions, industries)

Instruments to facilitate health in all policies

1. How to tackle a specific problem?
 - > **Determinants and Policy Screening** explores the determinants of the problem and the policy sectors influencing these determinants
2. Where are opportunities for co-operation?
 - > **Quick Policy Scan** decides on the substantive, instrumental and political feasibility
3. What are the health effects of a certain policy?
 - > **Health Impact Assessment** analyses the effects of a policy on health



An example

Limburg:
Tackling Overweight
in all policies



Limburg: tackling Overweight in all policies 1

- Conference May 2006: tackling overweight is priority #1; use an integrated approach
- Autumn 2006: Master Classes by NIGZ on integrated health policy and a training in three instruments facilitating this policy:
 - Determinants and Policy Screening
 - Quick Policy Scan
 - Health Impact Assessment
- April 2007: a formal meeting with certificates distributed
- 8 municipalities decided to join, participating policy makers of the municipalities, health promotion officers and NIGZ.

Limburg: tackling Overweight in all policies 2

- Steps taken:
 - A quick scan of the municipality to discover possibilities
 - A intake discussion with the alderman resulting in a promising idea
 - The development of an initial working plan, including the choice for one of the instruments
 - The forming of an intersectoral project group
 - A go-no-go meeting with the alderman
 - The start of the project (2007-2008)



Limburg: tackling Overweight in all policies 3

- Examples:
 - Valkenburg
 - Reconstruction of the city centre
 - Participating: Public Health and Urban Planning
 - Instrument: HIA
 - Landgraaf
 - Make the environment of the schools more walking and bicycle friendly
 - Participating: Public Health and Urban Planning
 - Instrument: HIA
 - Maastricht
 - Establish the most important factors for Overweight
 - Participating: Public Health and Urban Planning
 - Instrument: Determinants and Policy Screening

Health in all policies



- After Health Education (60 and 70's) and Local Health Promotion or Community Approach (80 and 90's) we are entering a third stage: Health in all Policies
- Features:
 - Investing in sectors outside Public Health
 - Policy, not projects
 - Sustainable
 - A changing role of the health promotion officer: from supplier to mediator
- A practical and realistic way to implement the Ottawa Charter and the Healthy Cities principles



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