

8th International HIA Conference: Healthy Public Policy - Is HIA the Cornerstone

Intersectoral
Working in HIA:

*“Where does
Health / HIA fit
with SEA”*



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International Association for Impact Assessment

An International forum for advancing innovation and to advance the practice and science of IA in applications ranging from local to global.

Founded in 1980, nearly 1,500 members + 2,500 affiliated members in ca. 120 countries.

A network of Practitioners and Users (Industry & Consultants, Academics, Government) of various types of Impact Assessment (IA).

- 5% HIA professionals, 60-70% involved in Health Impact issues**

Annual International Conference



Role & Purpose of Strategic Environmental Assessment

- **A systematic decision support process** ensuring that environmental (& other sustainability aspects) are considered in PPP making:
 - supporting public planning authorities/private bodies
- **An evidence based instrument**
 - adding scientific rigour to PPP making
- The provision of **a structured decision making framework**
 - supporting more effective and efficient decision-making, sustainable development and improved governance

SEA does not provide THE ANSWER
- it assists in identifying an optimal outcome
or strategic direction for the PPP to pursue

Locating 'Health' within the broader school of IA thinking

- EIA/SEA have traditionally addressed health issues.
- Assessment of health effects usually biased towards:
 - Acute risks in short term timeframes in EIA
 - Chronic bio-physical health determinants in SEA & EIA
- Scope of health issues usually reflects the physical industrial impacts background to EIA:
 - air pollutants, dust emissions, road use/accident predictions, land contamination
- HIA - 'Prevention better than Cure'
- IA - 'Avoidance better than Remedy'

EIA & SEA focus on 'Need' and Impacts associated with its resolution

- Holistic viewpoints are rare in EIA & SEA, so is a detailed assessment of wider health determinants.
- Background regional/national statistics or local health conditions rarely addressed
- Rarely time to gain detailed health breakdown of local populations



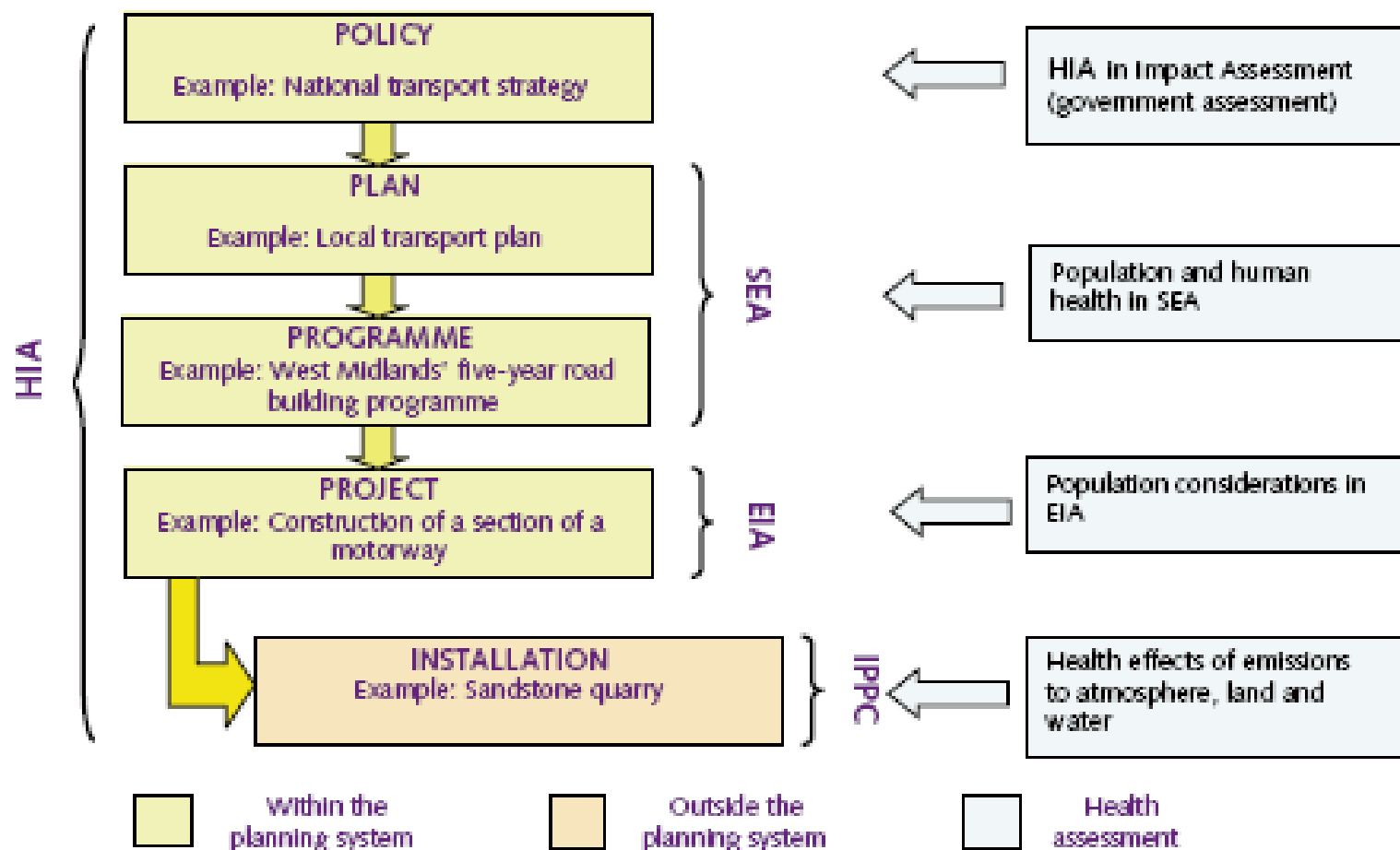
Who is the Minister for Health?

- Rarely is it the Health Minister who is the responsible or Obligated Authority for Consenting EIA-projects or SEA-Plans/Strategies.

Are we even talking the same language at times?

	IA	Health
Policy	Policy Appraisal	HIA
Plan / Programme	SEA	SEA
Project	EIA	HSE Assessments

Figure 2: Other assessments and their relationship to health



Source: DH and HPA

From Dept of Health (2007) Draft guidance on health in strategic environmental assessment: A consultation

Integrating HIA and SEA: Addressing common misunderstandings

- What's the point of SEA & EIA, HIA's purpose is clear
- It's just '*Environment*' not Human health
- SEA operates at policy level
- EIA & SEA doesn't actively seek out positive (health) impacts and improvements
- HIA mitigation makes suggestions re health improvements
- EIA only focuses on short-term impacts

Stakeholder engagement

- Consultation and engagement is a core skill for HIA & SEA-EIA practitioners
- Formal component of EIA & more so in SEA
- Many tools in the SEA-EIA toolkit
 - In depth approaches with statutory consultees
 - Objective translation of findings across all consulted
 - letters, door knocking, workshops, exhibitions, e-mails, etc - whatever is required to get to stakeholders
 - Best Practice seeks to demonstrate that consultees and public views taken on board
- As infrastructure decisions often result in Public Inquiry
 - Objective and transparent decision-making route
 - Statutory compliance
- Equality' is not a issue

So where does Health / HIA fit with SEA? - and what is its benefit to HIA practitioners!

- IAIA have a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Health Organization



- SEA and EIA are generic risk appraisal tools and process that can be used to improve health and population wellbeing
- It might feel like an uphill battle but please persevere in providing input to/commenting on SEAs (and EIAs). Learn our language. Teach us yours.

Conclusion

- The International Association for Impact Assessment :
 - welcomes greater interaction between all IA professionals
 - recognise that human and population health requires consideration when we are assessing the impacts of plans and programmes.
 - welcomes any attempt, mechanism or tool to promote equity and health improvement through inter-disciplinary collaboration.
- Help us, help you!

