

Mainstreaming HIA in WHO Healthy Cities Network: *Vision and Reality*

Joan Devlin

*Programme Director, Belfast Healthy Cities,
Chair, WHO European Healthy Cities HIA
Sub network*



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Healthy City Principles

- **Intersectoral Working**
- **Community participation/Governance**
- **Inequalities**

**This provides an excellent platform for
HIA**



Phase IV (2003-2008)

- Health Impact Assessment
- Healthy Urban Planning
- Healthy Ageing

Sub networks on each of the above themes

- Physical Activity
- Migrants & Health



Role of Sub networks

Sub networks are primarily for cities experienced in core theme or who have a special interest and strong commitment to implement core theme

Sub network members are expected to demonstrate achievements at a faster pace of development than non-member cities



HIA Sub network: Terms of Reference

- Further develop tools and guidance
- Experiment with and promote the introduction of HIA in decision making processes at a local level
- Develop case studies
- Organise training and learning for all WHO Network cities
- Build on WHO EU PHASE Project on HIA that produced HIA Toolkit



Overall Goal: HIA

To integrate health impact assessment as a systematic framework in cities which enable decision makers to take account of peoples' health and well-being during policy, programme or project developments



WHO Objective 1

Raise awareness of HIA and create a common understanding of HIA, the contribution it can make to policies and plans for improved health, and to providing convincing arguments to politicians and administrators in cities of the usefulness of the approach

City requirement

Translate the WHO HIA Toolkit into country language. Cities will **create awareness within decision making processes of the broad determinants of health, inequalities in health and HIA** and identify within cities the number of impact assessments already being carried out within the legislative frameworks in cities



WHO Objective 2

To **identify entry points** and to build on existing skills, **provide leadership** and **strengthen capacity** within cities to provide a firm foundation to apply HIAs at the city level

City requirement

Cities will **gain political and administrative support** to conduct an HIA on an emerging city policy, programme or project and **give commitment to integrating the results** of the HIA into the proposal



WHO Objective 3

To provide results and evidence from HIA practice in cities and **share the learning** with other European cities and to **provide evidence of the value of HIA's contribution to health development within cities** including strengthening healthy urban planning and healthy ageing

City requirement

Cities will provide **case studies** to WHO on the results of the HIA and **identify the barriers and successes** in applying HIA and the **further steps required to mainstream HIA methodology**. A number of self-selected cities will conduct a HIA on a proposal relating to urban planning and to older people



WHO Objective 4

To work towards **mainstreaming HIA as a systematic framework** to integrate the health and well being impacts into all new city policies and projects and improve health within cities

City requirement

Cities will **examine ways of mainstreaming HIA to inform the majority of policy, programme or project developments**, while balancing quantity with quality of impact assessments. A number of routes will be considered: legislative; integrating with existing impact assessments/ other legislation as well as developing structures and capacity to undertake HIAs



WHO HIA Sub network Members

- Bologna, Italy
- Brighton & Hove, UNK
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Geneva, Switzerland
- Helsingborg, Sweden
- Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Turin, Italy
- Turku, Finland
- Yalova, Turkey

Lead city: Belfast

Belfast Healthy Cities and Institute of Public Health

Ireland

WHO HIA Expert Adviser: Erica Ison



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Role of HIA Sub network

Steer the technical and strategic agenda for the delivery of Phase IV HIA objectives

- **Understanding the policy environment within which HIA processes could be introduced**
- **Understanding the pre conditions for the application of HIAs**
- **Cross link with other WHO core themes**
- **Developing capacity for HIA**
- **Setting quality standards for HIA**
- **Linking/integrating HIA with other assessment processes**



What have we done?

- **HIA Training – Beginners, Advanced & Training the trainers**
- **Meetings**
 - Belfast & Paris 2005
 - Lodz & Turku 2006
 - Belfast & Helsingborg 2007
 - Geneva March 2008





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Draft Tools & Guidance by Sub Network

- HIA Available Website Resources
- HIA Case Study Template
- Step by Step Guide to doing HIA, Volume 1
- Step by Step Guide to doing HIA, Volume 2: HIA Case Studies
- Proposal Analysis for HIA
- Process Evaluation of HIA
- Process for Peer Review of HIAs within WHO European Healthy Cities
- Integrating HIA into EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)
- Integrating health into SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment)
- Integrating health into Sustainability Appraisal



Increasing understanding of HIA: technicians, politicians & policy- makers

- **Belfast, UK**
- **Bologna, Italy**
- **Dresden, Germany**
- **Geneva, Switzerland**
- **Jurmala, Latvia**
- **Kinel-Cherkassy,
Russian Federation**
- **Newcastle, UK**
- **Sandnes, Norway**
- **Sant Andreu de la
Barca, Spain**
- **Seixal, Portugal**
- **Sheffield, UK**
- **Sunderland, UK**



HIA Training within WHO Cities

- Avanos;
- Aydin;
- Belfast;
- Bologna;
- Brighton & Hove;
- Brno
- Geneva;
- Helsingborg;
- Horsens;
- Kinel-Cherkassy;
- Leganes;
- Liverpool;
- Ljubljana;
- Lodz;
- Pecs;
- Poznan;
- Rijeka;
- San Fernando;
- Sant Andreu de la Barca;
- Seixal;
- Stavropol;
- Stockholm;
- Sunderland;
- Turku;
- Viano do Castelo;



Cities that have undertaken HIAs

15 cities undertook work towards one or more HIAs during 2006-2007:

- Arrezzo, Italy
- Aydin, Turkey
- Belfast, UK
- Bologna, Italy
- Brighton & Hove, UK
- Bursa, Turkey
- Helsingborg, Sweden
- Kirrikale, Turkey
- Kuopio, Finland
- Liverpool, UK
- Manchester, UK
- Seixal, Portugal
- Sheffield, UK
- Sunderland, UK
- Turku, Finland



Types of proposals on which cities have conducted HIAs

- Waste management, treatment, or disposal proposals
- Bid for funding/Series of bids for funding
- Masterplan for an urban area
- Urban planning
- Core Strategy of Local Development Framework (a planning instrument in England)
- Urban development – briefs to guide technical consultant
- Port redevelopment
- Transport Plan
- Library Plan
- Bicycle Plan
- Road Safety
- “Health on Wheels” Project
- Schools for the Future
- Homeless Strategy
- Decent Homes Strategy (series)
- Antisocial Behaviour (with IMPACT)
- Citizens’ Jury (with IMPACT)
- Distribution of past sell-by date food to charities from supermarkets



Strategic use of HIA within WHO cities

18 cities have used or plan to use HIA strategically

- Aydin
- Bologna
- Brighton & Hove
- Celje
- Dimitrovgrad
- Dresden
- Galway
- Pecs
- Geneva
- Horsens
- Liverpool
- Ostfold County
- Rijeka
- Sandnes
- Sheffield
- Yalova



Equity & Participation

- 3 cities have taken and/or plan to take an **explicit** equity focus in HIA
- 16 cities have taken a participatory approach in HIA



Links with Healthy Urban Planning

- HIA on urban planning proposals
- HIA on a “Guide for Development”/Local Development Framework
- Health integrated into Social IA on urban planning proposal
- Sustainable development standard for planning proposals



Links with academic or public health related institutions, and national governments

- **11 cities have made links or intend to make links with academic or public health-related institutions with respect to HIA**
- **Cities in countries with developing economies have been lobbying national government for the adoption of HIA**



Integrating health or HIA into other impact assessments

- **Belfast**
- **Brighton & Hove**
- **Helsingborg**
- **Kuopio**
- **Manchester**
- **Rennes**
- **Sheffield**



Areas for further work

Understanding of health determinants and HIA

Capacity/resources to apply HIA

Political support for HIA

Translation of WHO HIA Toolkit

Number of Impact Assessments & legislative base for HIA

Variety of sociopolitical contexts across WHO European Region



Challenges for HIA Sub network

- HIA new methodology across WHO European Region
- Few WHO cities with HIA experience
- Ability of cities to participate in HIA training/Sub network Meeting
- Language and translatability
- Capacity/ability of Sub network cities to support all WHO Network cities



Progress so far

- **Significant developments in HIA for some WHO Healthy Cities**
- **Political willingness to engage with HIA & its results**
- **Draft tools developed and piloted by practitioners in Sub network cities for further development throughout the Network**



Reflecting on experience of HIA in WHO Healthy Cities ...

- Better or improved access to information and information systems at a local level
- Pro-active identification of policies that will have major impacts on health, and health inequalities, and initiate engagement
- Where does leadership for health and for HIA lie?

