

Integrating Health Impact Assessment (HIA) with other Impact Assessments: Opportunities and Challenges

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Monica O'Mullane, Trnavská univerzita, Trnava (SK)

Gabriel Guliš, University of Southern Denmark, Esbjerg (DK)

Rainer Fehr, Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld (DE)

HIA “culture”

Rationale & methodology: similar to other IAs

Aims to integrate *all* determinants of health (H):
social, environmental, economic, ...

Implementations differ widely:

- narrow <-> broad H concept
- focus on risks and/or benefits and/or equity
- pragmatic <-> academic approach

HIA contributing to / enhancing IAs

H = (im-, explicitly) *required* topic in EIA / SEA;
actual coverage often inadequate

HIA brings in:

- H expertise (quali-, quantitative): morbidity, mortality, BoD, H (in)equity
- Evidence on H determinants: social & physical environment, behavior, biology, care system
- Drawing on: Public / Environmental / Urban H, Hygiene, (Soc) Epidemiology, surveillance, etc.

Stand-alone HIA vs. integration

Stand-alone HIA

- + Undiluted focus on H impact
- ⊖ IAs plethora overwhelming policy-makers

Integrating with other IAs

- + Reducing risk of contradictions, confusion
- ⊖ Potential dominance of other foci

Either way:

- Conflicts to be expected
- Flexibility, goodwill, QC/QA needed