

2 Nov. 2007 rf

Re: European Meeting on Health and Health Systems Impact Assessment (HIA/HSIA), Hotel Tivoli Tejo, Lisbon, 5-6 November 2007

Presentation to Workshop 1, “The quality of prediction in HIA and organisational constraints”

Short summary / Abstract of presentation Rainer Fehr

The presentation starts out with a reflection on the possible meaning and relevance of prediction, quality of prediction and organisational constraints in the HIA context. The systems character of health, health determinants, policy measures and (obviously) health systems is discussed. The concepts of variation and uncertainty are introduced.

Using examples, a second section briefly explores how the following sources can shed light on these issues: (i) existing HIA guidelines, (ii) EC-funded international HIA projects, (iii) the “family of impact assessments” such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

A third section identifies a few building blocks for high-quality predictions such as:

- integration of approaches, incl. literature reviews, stakeholder opinions / participation and mathematical modeling (classical and probabilistic)
- pathway diagrams, e.g. extended DPSEEA model
- existing comprehensive data sets, e.g. ENHIS information system.

There will also be some discussion on options for fostering high-quality predictions across the range of HIAs of different intensity.

Related practical examples will be presented by my colleague Odile Mekel in this same workshop.

For personal introduction:

Rainer Fehr is a physician (U Hamburg) and epidemiologist (U Berkeley, CA) who has since the late 1980s been working on HIA. At the Institute of Public Health North Rhine-Westphalia in Bielefeld, he is head of the Department of Environmental Medicine and Environmental Hygiene. He is also a professor of Public Health at the U Bielefeld.