





Health-related "Integrated programs" – their views on impact assessment, other policy tools, and inter-sectoral cooperation

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Tab. 1 Integrated programs - Overview	Membership base	Programmatic base and orientation
Healthy Cities network (HCN), 1989	c. 2000 European cities	primarily based on "Ottawa Charter" and "Health for all" thinking
Regions for Health Network (RHN), 1992	29 European regions	aiming at comprehensive health protection / promotion
(National) Environmen- tal Health Action Plans (NEHAPs), 1994, e.g. German EH Action plan (APUG), 1999	c. 40 countries of WHO's European Region	focus on environment and health "European Environmental Health Action Plan", 1994
Programme Social City (SC), 1999	c. 500 urban areas in D	aims at improving the local living conditions in disadvantaged urban areas, with health promotion as one of the different action fields
Network of German Health Regions (NDGR), 2008	16 regions in D, with c. 1,000 health-related enterprises	focuses on innovations for health care, health technology, prevention and health promotion strong interest in economic dimension

Context, objectives

In addition to traditional (health and health-related) policy approaches, there are "integrated programs", working across multiple topics. With a relative focus on Germany, we investigate how such programs establish inter-sectoral connections, and what policy tools and procedures are being deployed. Results can be utilized to explore common interests concerning HIA as well as to foster cooperation among the programs.

Tab. 2 Relationship with HIA and "Urban Planning"	
HCN	 Work programs of European HCN: Phase IV (2003-08): 3 themes incl. "Healthy urban planning" and HIA; Phase V (2009-13): "Health and health equity in all policies", 3 themes incl. "Healthy urban environment and design" EC-funded "PHASE" project on HIA linked to HCN Center of competence on "District-based & citizen-oriented urban development"
	 Website section dedicated to HIA Publications: "Healthy urban planning", related to HCN; "A healthy city is an active city: a physical activity planning guide" (2008)
RHN	16th annual conference at Varna (BG), 2008, discussed HIA, incl. contributions: HIA in Wales; Public health impact assessment experience in Kaunas (LT);HIA - implementation, barriers, enablers, context; WHO Venice: Health in all policies
NEHAPs	 Link to WHO's HIA website German EHAP ("APUG") website refers to the EC-funded APHEIS project North Rhine-Westphalian EHAP (APUG NRW): project on HIA-related planning instruments: "Synergy of local & regional planning instruments for city / transport planning"
SC	Website presents summaries of urban development projects in DK: "Kvarterlöft", UK: "New Deal for Communities", FR: "Politique de la Ville", IT: "Contratti di qurtierre II", NL: "Grotestedenbeleid", SE: "Outer City Initiative" & "Urban Development Programme"

Netzwerk Deutsche Gesundheitsregionen

Tab 3 O	ther (cross-sectoral) tools and (cooperative) program features ¹
HCN	World-wide presence; differentiation incl. national & regional HCNs, e.g. 14 cities / municipalities in NRW; Network of European National HCNs; [Advanced] European HCN City profiles: comprehensive health reporting Meetings of mayors
RHN	Joint projects, e.g. EC-funded Health indicators and management projects, e.g. Migrants & healthcare; Indicateurs de Santé (ISARE III), Benchmarking (BEN II) Participation in European Ministerial conferences, e.g. Tallinn 2008 ("10 theses") Regional Ministerial Forums
NEHAPs	 Environmental health action plans connecting across four levels: European / national / state / local (e.g. monitoring and surveillance) Cross-reference to HCN and "Local Agenda 21" initiatives Specific action plans, e.g. Children's Environment and Health Action Plan (CEHAPE)
SC	 13 substantive action fields, incl. employment, education, health promotion, etc. 7 management areas, incl. integrated concepts, participation, evaluation, etc. "Integrated action plans", "Neighbourhood management" Database of practice examples: > 500 entries, searchable by categories
NDGR	7 focus groups initiated on a range of topics, incl. internationalization, technological innovations, quality, prevention and rehabilitation ² Book publication on "Health economy", with 7 of 11 founding regions represented Project 2009: "India and Germany - Strategic partners for innovation"

¹ Not included: newsletters, (annual) status reports, (annual) meetings, steering groups, secretariats

Methods

Starting from an existing synopsis, 5 programs were selected. Using published information sources and the authors' expert knowledge, qualitative and quantitative criteria were applied to characterize the programs and their key approaches. The criteria used in this preliminary analysis include the following: basic features; relationship with HIA and urban planning; other (cross-sectoral) tools.

Results

Results are presented in Tables 1 to 3.

Conclusions

Without claiming to be "exhaustive", the comparative analysis of these selected integrated programs reveals numerous features of interest, incl. with respect to HIA and urban planning. Study results lead to the following conclusions:

- Each program has its **own profile** and specific merits, but in many respects they are closely related, with **overlapping goals and interests**
- Therefore, there is a potential to **transfer policy tools** from one program to the other this potential, up to now, is not widely utilized
- Along the same line, opportunities of **increasing cooperation** between the programs could be checked comprehensively; this may bring up questions of "transferabilty" of tools which are worth reflecting anyway
- Most of the programs have at least touched the theme of "HIA" and "urban planning", but up to now, only HCN has made it a focus.

Links and references: on reverse side of handout; and available from the authors

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