

R. Fehr: Key conclusions of EHIA paper, July 26, 1998

For harvesting the beneficial impacts of locomotion and minimizing negative health impacts, Environmental Health impact assessment (EHIA) is a powerful tool. A comprehensive and integrated assessment is a challenging task, however, cutting across several disciplines. Public Health professionals should regularly be involved. Specific guidelines for each type of transport project are desirable. Strengths and weaknesses of current EHIA approaches should be evaluated systematically, deploying quality criteria and including both the scientific basis and the practical implementation. In addition to "acceptability" assessments, the "alternatives assessment" should be fostered. The interrelation of EHIA and surveillance deserves further study. An international EHIA initiative to harmonize approaches and to improve "integration" is worth considerable effort.