

3 and 4 June, 2025.
Madrid (Spain)

International HIA conference

Institutionalising HIA in Europe for better supporting decision-making processes

Assembly Room, Ministerio de Sanidad,
Paseo del Prado 18 - 20, 28014



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the European Union

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BACKGROUND

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been proposed as an approach for implementing the **'health in all policies' (HiAP)** strategy, and for addressing health inequalities. HIA seeks to inform decision-makers as to the potential consequences that health and non-health sectors such as transport or housing can have on overall community health, which can help to maximize health gains and contribute to reducing negative impacts and health inequalities. It uses a wide range of evidence to inform an assessment and support improved policy making and practice. The climate change threat and 'cost of living' economic crisis are two of the main challenges that emphasise the need of integrated responses across many sectors to mitigate not only effects on health and inequalities, but also in the economy. A good proxy example to HiAP and HIA implementation, facilitating local and regional initiatives with communities, is the WHO initiative of Healthy Cities.

Institutionalization of HIA implies the systematic integration of HIA into the decision-making process. Four major elements are proposed in order to analyse the diverse forms for attaining HIA institutionalization across Europe: stewardship, financing, resource generation, and technical leadership for delivering it. **Policy formulation** is one of the tasks comprising the category "stewardship". The existence of a legislative framework for HIA would provide permanent rules and legitimacy for HIA within the policy process. However, some critical sectors believe that legislative mandates would simply convert HIA into a mere bureaucratic 'tick-box' exercise, stripping it of much of its potential to transform and generate the development of healthy policy.

Other limitations identified for a more extensive HIA institutionalization refer to the lack of adequate resources (guidelines, tools, evidence, access to data) and qualified personnel with experience in HIA. Developing proper **capacity-building programs** seems crucial, which should include aspects such as tools facilitating intersectoral collaboration, as well as knowledge of **evidence review, methods, and available data sources** that can be used for conducting good quality HIAs.

Furthermore, health has been proved to play an important role in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, the integration of health into **urban planning** can improve health and health determinants through more compact, efficient design of housing, transport, green spaces and other infrastructures. Thus, not only it ensures healthy lives and promotes well-being for all at all ages (SDG3) but also supports achieving sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), builds resilient infrastructure, promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialization (SDG 9) among others.

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It's important to understand that **other impact assessments** coexist with HIA, such as Environmental Assessments (EIA and SEA), and Social Impact Assessments (SIA). Analysing the pros and cons of integrating these assessments is crucial for achieving the ultimate goal of improving population health and equity, regardless of the context. This integration should ensure that health is considered in all policies while avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy or obstacles to economic development.

The aim of this conference is to exchange experiences and opinions on all these relevant topics in order to improve an effective and useful institutionalisation of HIA in Europe.

Piedad Martín-Olmedo

President of EUPHA-HIA section



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TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2025

- 8:00-9:00 **Registration-HALL of the Ministry of Health**
- 9:00-9:30 **WELCOME AND OFFICIAL OPENING**
Authorities from the Spanish Ministry of Health (to be appointed)
Piedad Martin-Olmedo & Odile Mekel (president and vice-president of EUPHA-HIA section)
- 9:30 – 10:15 **INAUGURAL CONFERENCE: “How far have we come with HIA and what are the challenges to move forward?”**
Chair: Liz Green, programme Director for HIA Unit, Public Health Wales (UK)

Margaret Douglas, consultant in Public Health, Public Health Scotland and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, University of Glasgow
- 10:15-10:45 **Coffee break- Poster Walk**
- 10:45-12:00 **ROUD TABLE ONE: Mapping legal frameworks for HIA institutionalisation in Europe**
(Simultaneous translation English-Spanish will be provided)
Chair: Ben Cave, founder & partner at Ben Cave Associates Ltd (UK) & BCA Insight Ltd (Ireland)
Co-Chair: Sofia Ribeiro, president of EUPHA-Public health Policy and Politics Section and Public health consultant (Lisbon, Portugal)

Scott Burris, Director of Center for Public Health Law Research. Temple University (Philadelphia, USA)
Liz Green, programme Director for Health Impact Assessment Unit, Public Health Wales (UK)
Gabriele Gruber project coordinator in HIA, HiAP and health equity at the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Österreich)
Nia Giuashvili, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (Georgia)
- 12:00-13:15 **ROUND TABLE TWO: HIA institutionalisation in Spain ((Simultaneous translation - Spanish-English will be provided)**
Chair: Piedad Martín-Olmedo, president of EUPHA-HIA section; professor at Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública (Granada, Spain).
Co-Chair: Rosina M. Olaso Jveschuk, Technical Officer- Spanish Ministry of Health (Madrid, Spain)

Fracisco Vargas Marcos, Technical Officer-Ministry of Health (Madrid, Spain)
Mercedes Febrel, Head of Health Promotion Area- Public Health Directorate. Regional Ministry of Health of Government of Aragon (Zaragoza, Spain)
Mercedes Castillo, Technical Officer in Environmental health- Regional Ministry of health of Generalitat Valenciana (Valencia, Spain)
Elena Cabeza, Head of Health Promotion Area- Public Health Directorate. Governs de les Illes Balears (Mallorca, Spain)

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Luis Moya Ruano, *Expert in HIA, Public Health Directorate. Regional Ministry of Health of Andalusia (Seville, Spain)*

13:15-14:30 **Lunch service / Poster Walk**

14:30-15:45 **ROUND TABLE THREE: Impact assessment integration: health assessment beyond HIA**
Chair: **Gabriele Gruber**, *Austrian National Public Health Institute (Vienna, Österreich)*
Co-Chair: **Miguel Angel Casermeiro**, *Lecturer at Univ. Complutense Madrid, secretary of the Spanish Society of EIA (Madrid, Spain)*

Luis Moya Ruano, *Expert in HIA, Regional Ministry of Health of Andalusia (Seville, Spain)*

Henk Hilderink, *EUPHA-Foresight section, top expert on Population Health Foresight at Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Welfare and Sport (RIVM, Netherlands).*

Ana Gil Luciano, *Head of the Health Promotion and Equity Area, Spanish Ministry of Health (Madrid, Spain)*

15:45-17:00 **ROUND TABLE FOUR: Towards healthier urban planning**
Chair: **Catherine Pérez**, *Vice-President EUPHA-Urban Public Health Section; Head of the Department of Health Promotion. Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona (Spain)*
Co-Chair: **Piedad Martín-Olmedo**, *president of EUPHA-HIA section; professor at Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública (Granada, Spain).*

Marta Rofin, *architect, founder and Director of the urban planning and health consultancy Healthy Cities. Director of the Postgraduate Urban Planning and Health (UPC) and professor of the Master in Health Promotion (UPV-EHU).*

Mark Drane, *Founder & Director, Urban Habitats and Senior Research Fellow in Public Health, Centre for Health & Wellbeing, (UWE Bristol, UK)*

Carmen Devesa, *Innovation and Internationalization Director. AEICE-Cluster of Efficient Habitat. (Valladolid, Spain).*

Elena Marañón, *Plans and process office. City council of Bilbao (Bilbao, Spain)*

17:00 -7:30 h **CONCLUSIONS FOR THE DAY**

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WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2025

- 9:15-10:30 **ROUND TABLE FIVE: Evidence and data needed for conducting HIA**
Chair: **Odile Mekel**, vice-president of EUPHA-HIA section, Head of Department at LG-NW (Germany)
Co-Chair: **Francesca Villiani**, Health section of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)

Katie Hirono, School of Social and Political Science. Univ. of Edinburgh (UK)
Natalie Mueller, Assistant Research Professor at ISGlobal (Barcelona, Spain)
Alistair Hunt, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economics, Univ. of Bath (UK)
- 10:30-11:00 **Coffee break – Poster Walk**
- 11:00-12:15 **PITCH PRESENTATIONS: Sharing experiences**
Chair: **Andrea Pastor**, Ministry of Sanidad, Spain
Co-Chair: **TO BE LISTED**
- 12:15-13:30 **ROUND TABLE SIX: HIA capacity building**
Chair: **Rosina M. Olaso Jveschuk**, Technical Officer- Spanish Ministry of Health (Madrid, Spain)
Co-Chair: **Margaret Douglas**, Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, University of Glasgow)

Liz Green, programme Director for Health Impact Assessment Unit, Public Health Wales (UK)
Francesca Villiani, Health section of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)
Piedad Martin-Olmedo, president of EUPHA-HIA section; professor at Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública (Granada, Spain).
- 13:30-13:45 **CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE**

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Organizing Committee

- Piedad Martin-Olmedo, *president of EUPHA-HIA section; professor at Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública (Granada, Spain).*
- Santiago González Muñoz, *Deputy Director General of Environmental Health and Occupational Health. Spanish Ministry of Health*
- Liz Green, *Programme Director of HIA, Public Health Wales (UK)*
- José Velthuis, *Office & Administration manager. EUPHA - European Public Health Association*

Scientific Committee

- Piedad Martin-Olmedo, *president of HIA section; professor at Andalusian School of Public Health (Spain)*
 - Odile Mekel, *vice-president of EUPHA-HIA section, co-chair of EUPHA-HIA section, Head of Department at Landeszentrum Gesundheit Nordrhein-Westfalen (Germany)*
 - Liz Green, *Programme Director of HIA, Public Health Wales (UK)*
 - Ben Cave, *founder & partner at Ben Cave Associates Ltd (UK) & BCA Insight Ltd (Ireland)*
 - Alistair Hunt, *Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University of Bath (UK)*
 - Gabriele Gruber, *project coordinator in HIA, HiAP and health equity at the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Austria)*
 - Rosina M. Olaso Jveschuk, *Technical Officer. General Sub-Directorate for Environmental Health and Occupational Health. Spanish Ministry of Health (Spain)*
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Audience

Open to policymakers, public health and environmental officers, environmental and urban planner consultants, researchers, and other stakeholders interested in health impact assessment or in integrating health considerations into non-health sectors proposals

Call for abstracts

- You can participate in this insightful event by adding your point of view to the topics of the proposed roundtables, but also by sharing your ideas and experiences. To do this, send us an ABSTRACT to: euphahia@gmail.com
 - Template for abstract [available here](#)
 - Deadline for abstracts: **7th April 17:00 Madrid time**. You will be notified if your abstract is accepted for poster walk or pitch presentation by 20 April 2025 by E-mail.
 - Remote presentation will be facilitated for those communications selected for pitch presentations.
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Registration

- Registration open until **7th May** at: <https://forms.gle/y6uqUggTa7QVSLQd8>
- Options for registration:
 - **Participation in person**, being able to have a dynamic interaction with speakers and other participants. Conditions:
 - Registration fee: 30 EUR for coffee-breaks and lunch
 - Payment options:
 - PayPal: finance@euphaoffice.org
 - Bank transfer to EUPHA bank account at ING:
 - IBAN: NL29INGB0007315529
 - BIC/Swift: INGBNL2A
 - Facilitate your ID or passport number to get access to the venue
 - **Participation online**: you will be able to follow the presentations and debates but no interaction would be feasible, apart of sending questions throughout a chat. Organisers will provide a link close to the event to those who choose this option. Conditions:
 - You still must fulfil the registration form.
 - Free access
- Travel and accommodation: participants cover their own costs. Madrid is well connected to major European cities and offers a wide range of accommodation options.

Join Madrid!

Known for its stunning architecture, vibrant culture, and historical significance, Madrid provides the perfect setting for our mid-term conference. Don't miss this unique and intersectoral opportunity to contribute to improving healthier and more equitable policy, project, program and strategy formulation, and therefore improving population health and equity at your country, region or town. We look forward to welcoming you to Madrid in June 2025.

