

# Round table Mapping Hia institutionalisation in Europe

**Chair:** : Ben Cave, *founder at BCA Ltd (UK & Ireland) & Honorary Professor,  
University of Liverpool (Manchester, UK)*

**Co-Chair:** Sofia Ribeiro, *president of EUPHA-PHPP section (Lisbon, Portugal)*

HIA seeks to inform decision-makers as to the potential consequences that health and non-health sectors can have on the overall community health. It aims at maximizing health gains and contributing to reducing negative impacts and health inequalities.

This session aims to share and discuss about:

- Experiences on HIA implementation in Europe
- Type of legal framework applied for implementing HIA
- Options for improving HIA institutionalization in Europe
- Role of public health workforce in HIA

## SPEAKERS

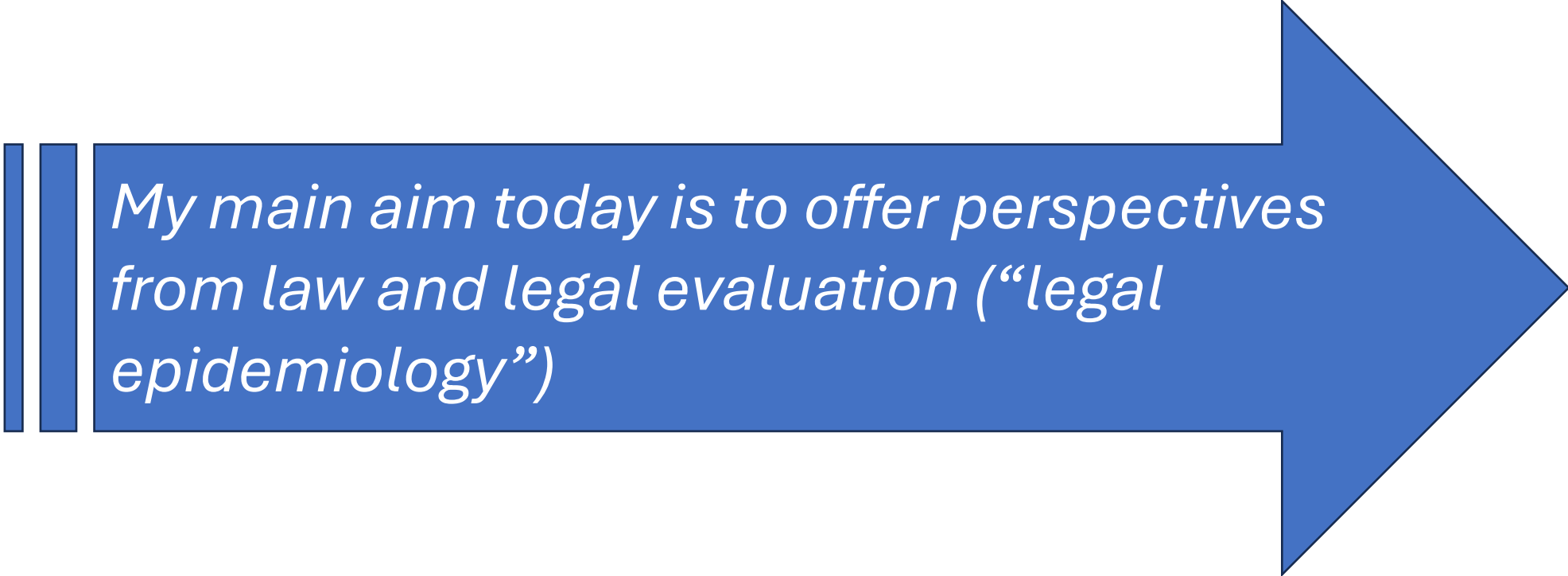
- **Scott Burris**, *Center for Public Health Law Research. Temple University (Philadelphia, USA)*
- **Nicola Evans**, *Health of Health Inequalities, Public Health Division, Welsh Government (UK)*
- **Gabriele Gruber**, *project coordinator in HIA, HiAP and health equity at the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Österreich)*
- **Nia Giuashvili**, *National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (Georgia)*

## SLIDO Questions

1. What type of legal framework applies in your region to the practical application of the HIA?
  - a. Voluntary
  - b. Compulsory
  
2. What elements do you consider would help in facilitating a broader HIA institutionalization in your region? **(multiple answers possible)**
  - a. Making HIA compulsory
  - b. Providing resources and training on HIA to public health and other consultants
  - c. Setting a HIA unit at national level Training at a conference
  - d. Other

# HIA in Context: Thinking from Policy Development through Evaluation

Scott Burris, JD



*My main aim today is to offer perspectives  
from law and legal evaluation (“legal  
epidemiology”)*

## HIA Institutionalization and Evaluation from a Public Health Law Perspective

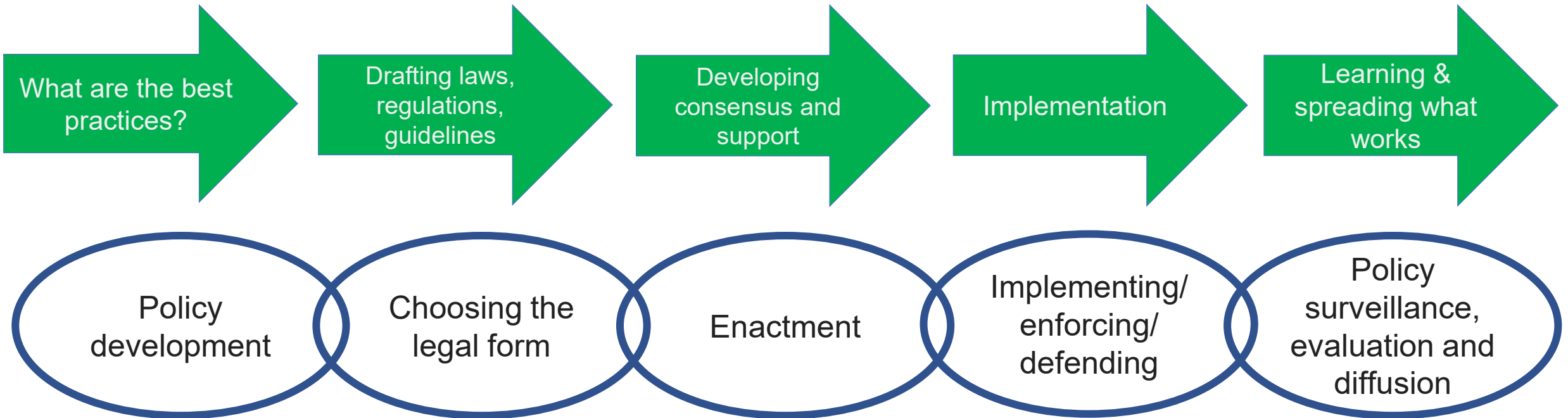
- Devising rules and governance structures for HIA is itself a policy process
- HIA is one form of knowledge process that can inform policy development and implementation decisions

My remarks place HIA in both these aspects  
within a public health law framework to inform  
strategic thinking



# The Five Essential Public Health Law Services

## *A Chain of Considerations for Legislating HIA*





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## Public Health Law Datasets

High-quality, open source legal data developed or  
curated by the Center for Public Health Law  
Research at the Temple University Beasley  
School of Law.

Search for a public health topic or dataset below

DATASET SEARCH

Health Impact Assessment



### Popular Public Health Topics

PUBLIC HEALTH TOPIC

**Environmental Health**

Air Quality Laws Pertaining to Oil and Gas Development, Disclosure of Environmental Conditions, Induced...

PUBLIC HEALTH TOPIC

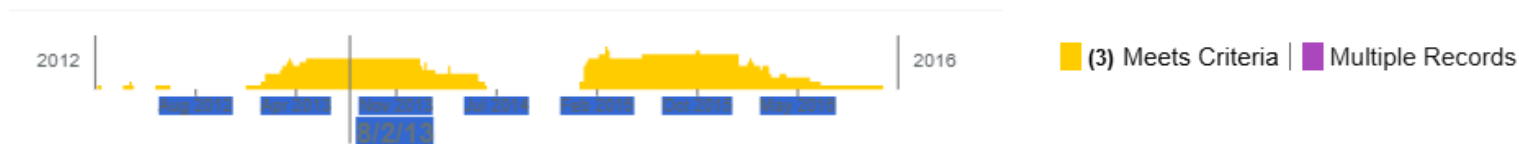
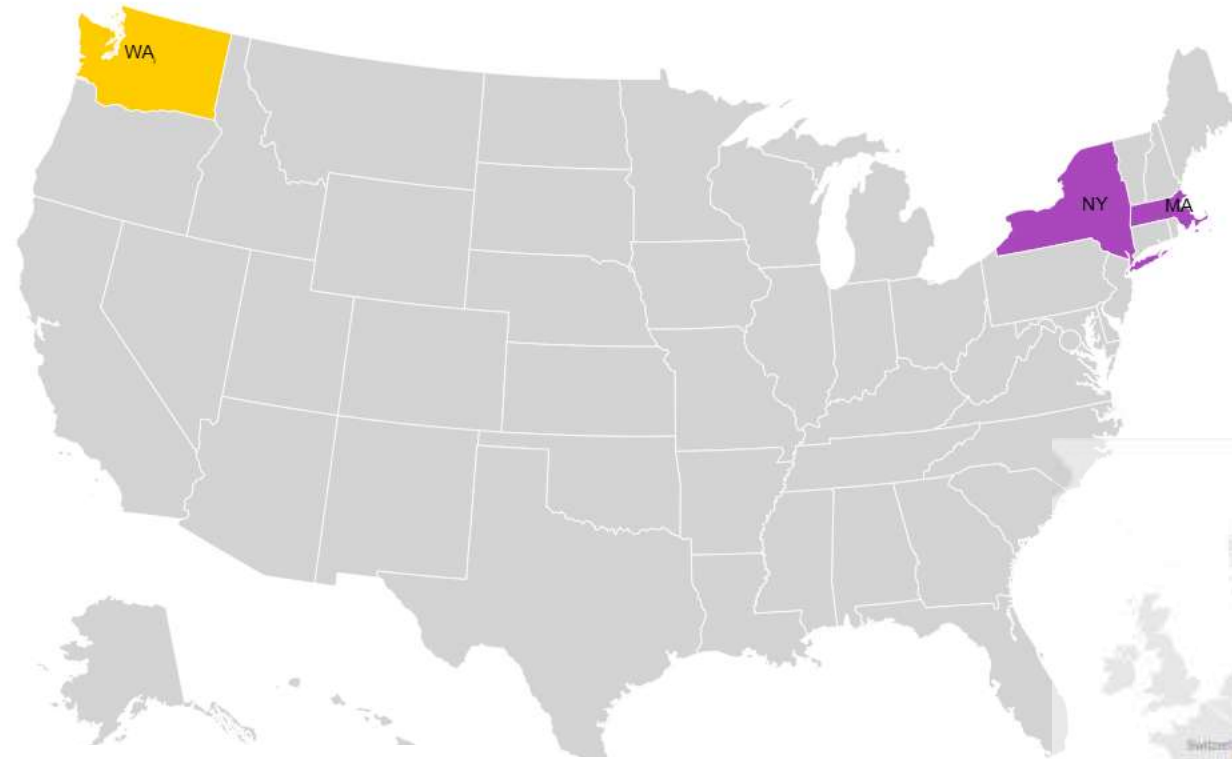
**State and Local Governance**

Certificate of Need Laws, Promoting Health and Cost Control in States Initiative: State Policy Project, Sentin...

PUBLIC HEALTH TOPIC

**State and Local Governance**

# Results of a project tracking HIA legislation in the US, 2013-2016



(We can track European law too)

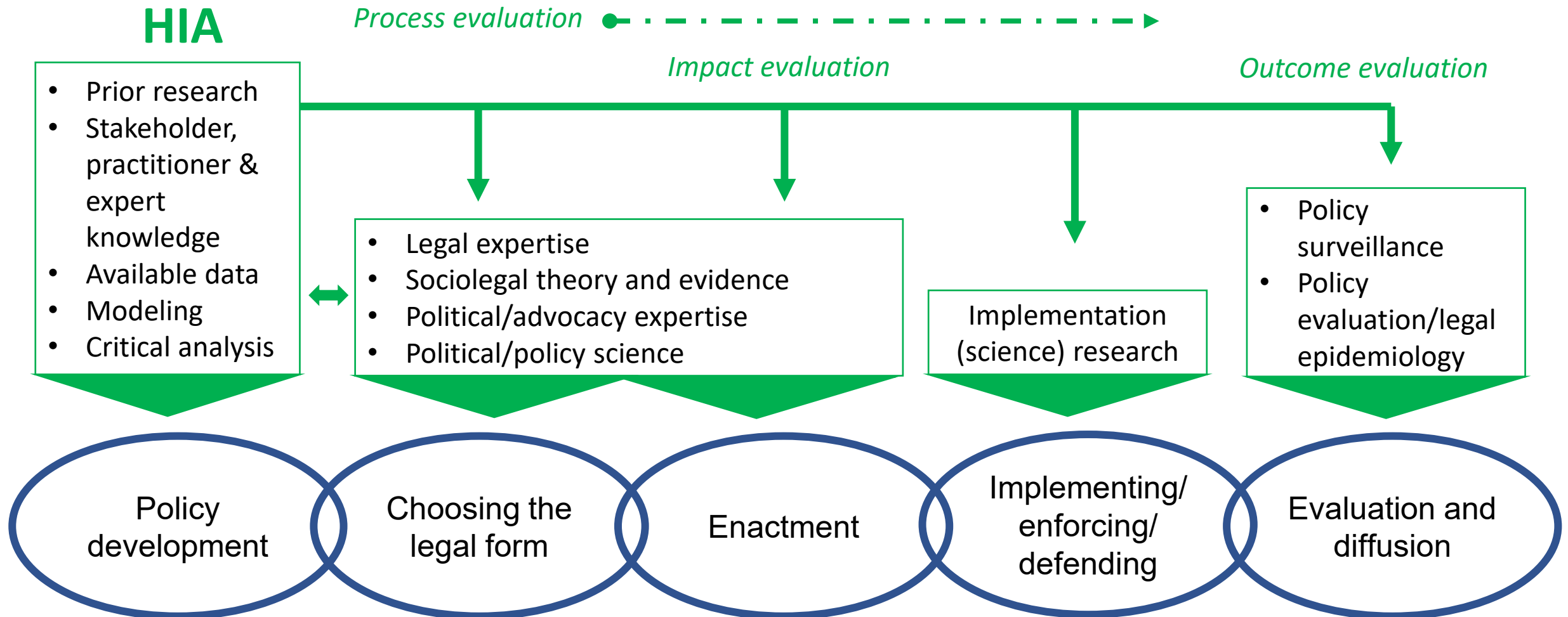
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**Criteria:**

1. Has a health impact assessment (HIA) bill been introduced in the jurisdiction? ☒ Yes | ✕

# The Five Essential Public Health Law Services

## *A Chain of Learning Processes and Knowledge Products*



# Development of HIA Regulations in Wales

**Nicola Evans**

*Head of Health inequalities & Healthy communities  
Welsh Government*



# Legislative and Strategic Framework



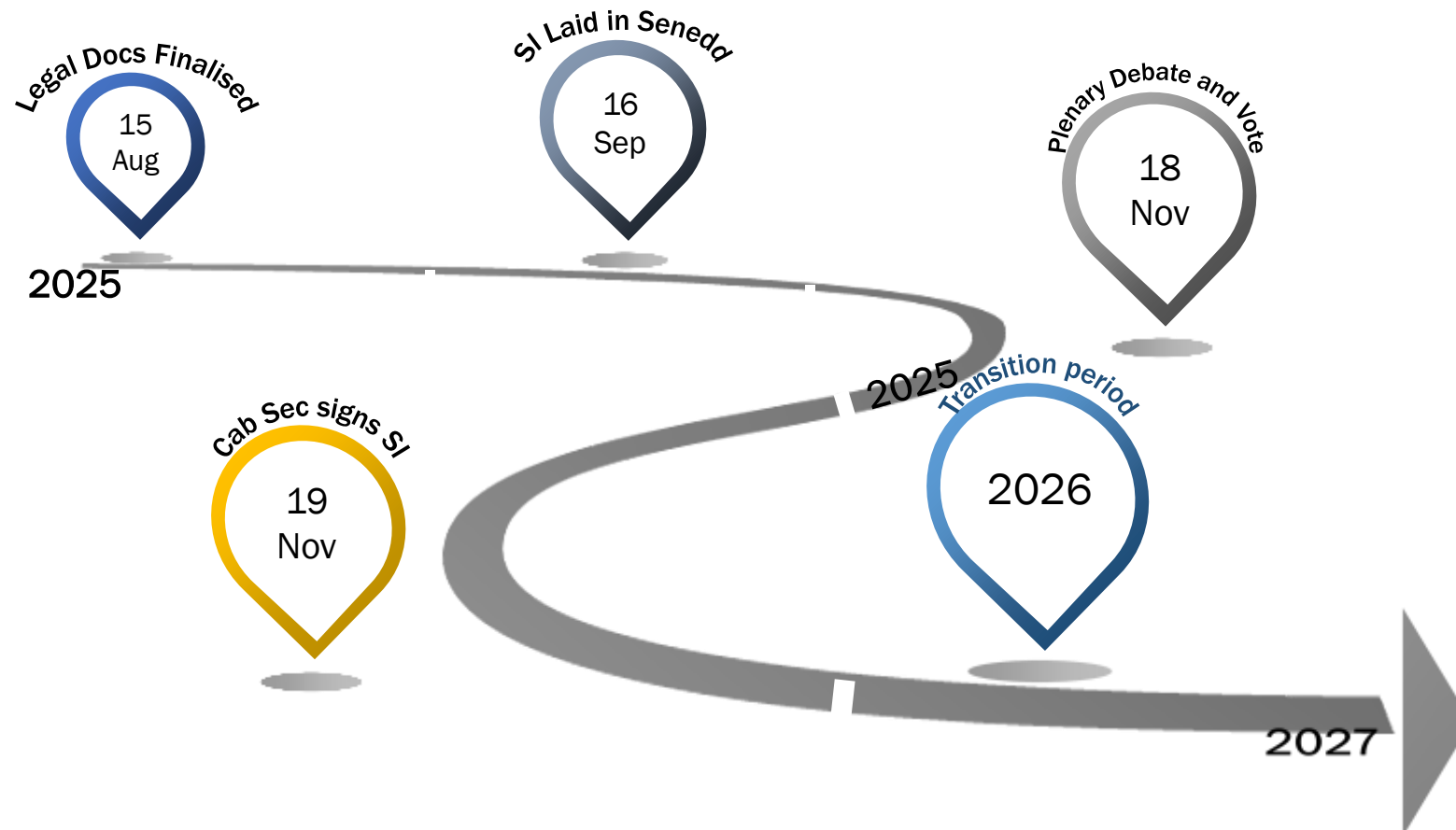
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WELL-BEING OF  
FUTURE GENERATIONS**



# Scope of the HIA Regulations

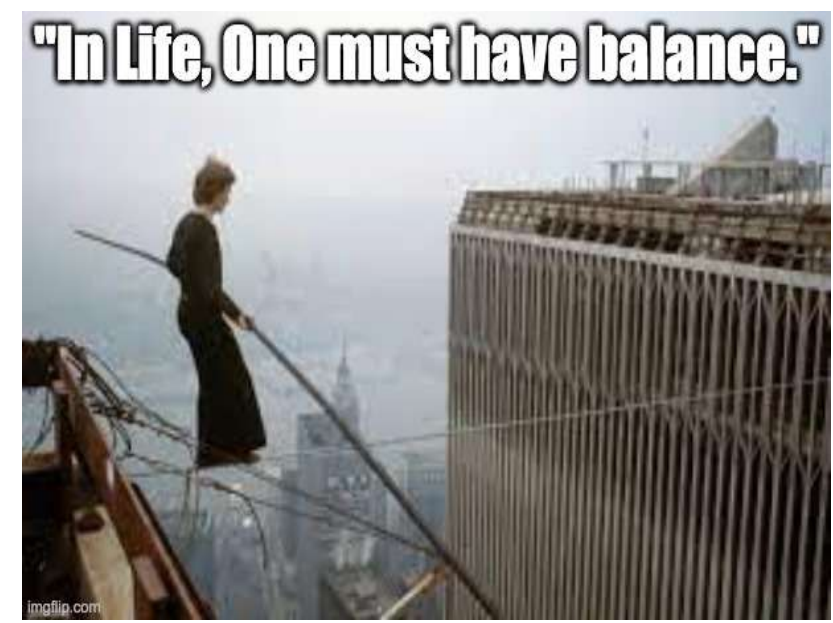
- The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires Welsh Ministers to develop regulations about public bodies carrying out Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) in certain circumstances.
  - Regulation 1 - Title and commencement
  - Regulation 2 - Interpretation
  - Regulation 3 - Circumstances in which a HIA is required
  - Regulation 4 - How to carry out a HIA
  - Regulation 5 - Assistance by Public Health Wales
  - Regulation 6 - Publishing a HIA
  - Regulation 7 - Amendment of section 110(1) of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017

# Legislative Timescales and Milestones





# Some reflections!



## ROUND TABLE: Mapping legal frameworks for HIA institutionalisation in Europe

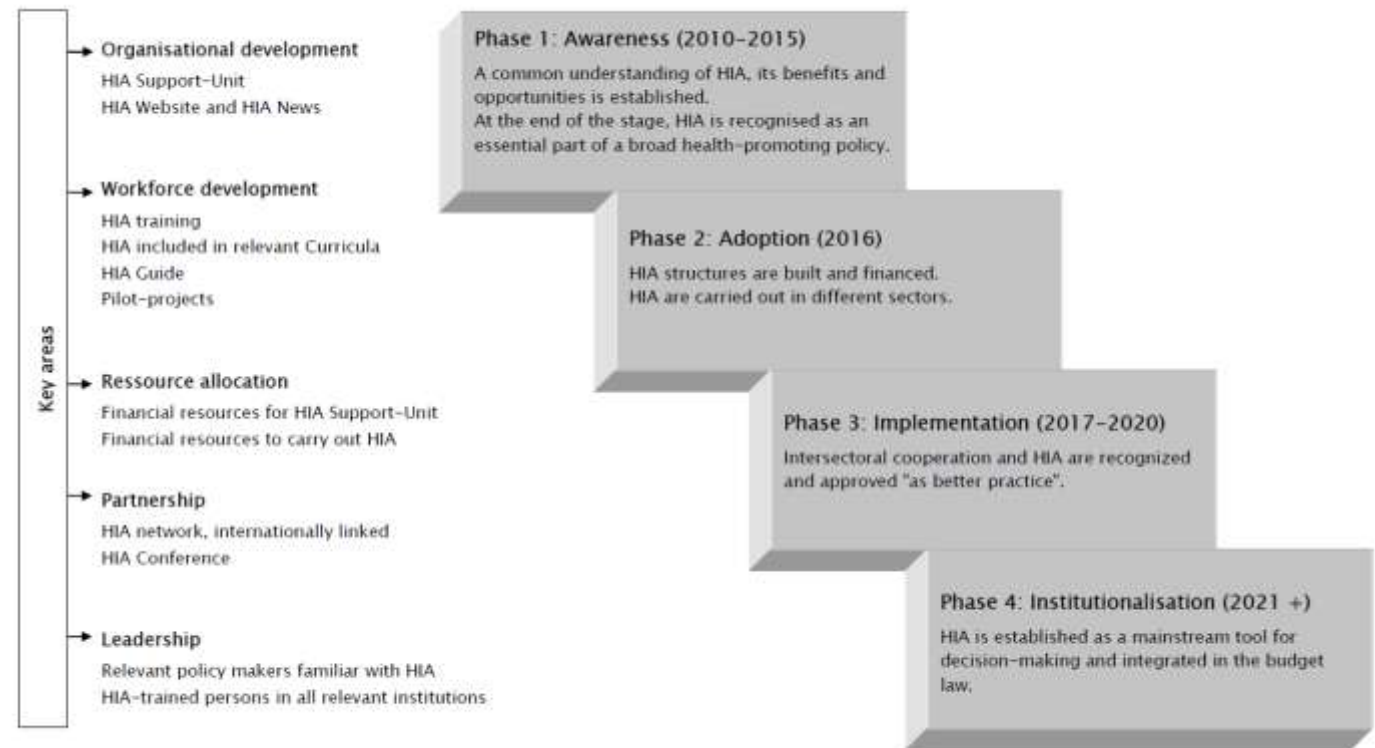
### The experience of Austria regarding HIA

**Gabriele Gruber**, *project coordinator in HIA, HiAP and health equity at the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Österreich)*

## HIA in Austria

- Development of **concept for implementing HIA** in Austria had been commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health in 2009
- Research and analysis of theory, international (implementation) experiences and initial position in Austria was conducted
- Concept was developed by following the Capacity-Building-Model (organizational development, development of human resources, resource assignment, leadership, partnership) + was extended by four implementation phases (awareness, adoption, implementation, institutionalization)

### Phases for HIA in Austria and corresponding timeframes





## HIA in Austria

- Establishment of **HIA Support Unit** at Austrian National Public Health Institute
- Establishment of an **HIA network** of interested Public Health experts, HIA users and interested civil servants from national + state level
- Establishment of an **intersectoral HIA steering committee**
- **Capacity Building Events** like Train-the-Trainer Workshops, HIA summer school and HIA conferences took place
- **(Pilot) HIAs were conducted** from different institutions (voluntary)
- In **2018** we had to **end the systematic HIA implementation** (Ministry shifted their resources) without reaching a legal obligation for HIA

BUT:

- **HIA experiences** were gained and stayed in Public Health Community
- **Standalone HIAs** have been commissioned after 2018 - at the Public Health Institute, e.g.:
  - HIA on 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown and social distancing to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in Austria (2020)
  - HIA on a modified risk assessment on sexual behaviour for the admission to donate blood in Austria (2021)
- International Collaborations allow new opportunities, e. g. **EU Joint Action Prevent NCD task 9.5 “Review and redesign/strengthen the use of Health (in) impact assessments”**



NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

# HIA Guidelines in Georgia: Practical Application of Health in Environmental Assessment

**Nia Giuashvili MD,** MPH, PhDc, *Adviser to the Director General*

*National Center for Disease Control and Public Health/NCDC*

*Ministry of IDP from Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social affairs of Georgia*

# Human Health Impact Assessment in Georgia



- New and mandatory process (introduced in the Environmental Assessment Code in 2017 and a specific resolution in 2019 on Human Health Impact Assessment) in line with EU Directives SEA (DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC) and EIA (Directive 2014/52/EU)
- Within SEA → on strategic plans/programs/projects (mostly land-use and urban plans)
- In SEA, MOH and NCDC as a health authority to make recommendations to the planning authority in parallel with the Ministry of Environment:

**1) screening** (HIA : Yes or No?), **2) scoping** (which determinant? which methodology for assessment?), **3) assessment** (with mitigation measures and alternatives + public hearing), **4) final recommendations and opinion** and **5) monitoring**

- Ensuring transparency, public participation and communication: public hearing as credibility of decision-making; can mobilize public support for the implementation of the plan/programme/project.





## Part I: Sharing a common language on HIA and related concepts

## Part II: Practical implementation of health impact assessment

### 5 main steps



### + Horizontal issues



## Part III:

## Annexes

the tools and support sheets



## HIA Guidelines in Georgia: Practical Application of Health in Environmental Assessment

### Key points

- Give a broad understanding of HIA within SEA
- Applicable to health in EIA and SEA and stand-alone HIA
- Direct answer to the request of practitioners – NCDC Georgia, Planning Authorities & Consultants - on how to integrate health within SEA with specific and detailed tools and methodologies
- Structured in 3 parts, 284 pages ; Provide tools (17) and methodologies (incl. WHO recommended)
- The development of the guidelines was iterative, involving numerous exchanges between the team of experts and future users
- Result of work carried out as part of the EU Twinning project from Feb-2022 to April 2024 & draws on French and Finnish expertise in HIA

	Input	Tools	Method	Output/Products / added value
E1 screening	Request for HIA (or screening) from the project/strategy/development	Screening application form (HIA screening form)	Screening opinion on whether or not to proceed, taken by the Environmental and Health Authorities	If HIA is engaged: HIA report (Part II, Annexes) and HIA report (Part II, Annexes) and HIA report (Part II, Annexes) and HIA report (Part II, Annexes)
E2 scoping	Request to define the scope of application	Scoping application form (HIA scoping form)	Scoping opinion from the Environmental and Health Authorities	The creation of the governance body, the development and adoption of the HIA concept based on the determinants of health and social inequalities.
E3 preparing the report	Terms of reference for the environmental assessment report, including health concerns and expertise requested	Terms of reference for the environmental assessment report	Health impact report in compliance with the Regulation (EC)	Integration between the authorities, consultants and the public to prepare the report, taking into account the requested public health issues and questions expressed by the public affected by the project and its area.
E4 assessment of the report	Health impact report in compliance with the regulations	Health impact report in compliance with the regulations	Health impact report in compliance with the regulations	Health impact report in compliance with the regulations
E5 monitoring & follow up	Final environmental assessment report in compliance with the regulations	Final environmental assessment report	Health statement (qualitative and quantitative)	Health impact report in compliance with the regulations
	Approved project/strategy/development with monitoring plan	Approved project/strategy/development with monitoring plan	Regular meetings of the steering committee to ensure follow up and monitoring, taking into account the results of the implementation of the project.	Finalization of the HIA governance body, led by the steering committee, to ensure the effective implementation of the results in the implementation of the project.





- The guidelines provide a strong basis for health in Environmental Assessment.
- They provide an excellent example for the European Commission and for Member States.
- Challenge: make the results sustainable
  - **Disseminate** the guidelines.
  - **Continue** the support
  - **Develop** a strategic plan and budget
- These guidelines are very good. They are also unique.