

## **Minutes EUPHA's Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Section Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> EPH Conference Milan, 16/10/2015**

Odile Mekel (President) and Piedad Martin-Olmedo (Vice President) welcomed all participants to the annual HIA section meeting. This meeting took place during the EPH conference on 16 Oct 2015 and was attended by approximately 25-30 people.

### **1. Recent HIA developments**

Marco Martuzzi (WHO-ECEH, Bonn) gave an overview of the ongoing activities related to HIA and in particular to the integration of health into environmental assessment. At 24 – 25 Sept 2015 a meeting “Health impact assessment (HIA) and health integration into environmental assessments (EA) – developing further implementation strategies”, was held at the premises of WHO-ECEH in Bonn. The current situation in WHO Europe is diverse: In some countries a legal basis is required for getting HIA implemented. Other countries are effective without such a legal basis. A need for capacity building including more training and resources was articulated by WHO Europe participants. General HIA guidance seems to be available but guidance and evidence for HIA in specific areas/sectors was also called for. A meeting report will be published by WHO.

An online survey ‘HIA implementation and health in environmental assessments’ was developed and carried out by the WHO in collaboration with the HIA section. Piedad Martin-Olmedo presented preliminary results. Further analysis will be carried out and published.

### **2. HIA and other Health assessments: Status and perspectives**

The HIA section organized a joint section workshop at the EPHC 2014 on two key examples of health assessments being HIA and HTA. At the 2015 EPHC the scope and discussion was expanded to more assessment approaches within other EUPHA sections (Public health practice and policy; Public health monitoring and reporting and Health Technology Assessment; Public health epidemiology). Rainer Fehr is currently coordinating a joint EUPHA section paper on this issue. Eight sections, EUPHA Section council chair and the EUPHA Executive director are contributing to the paper.

### **3. HIA implementation in Austria**

Austria is following a systematic approach for implementing HIA in the country. Gabriele Gruber gave an overview of the process and achievements so far and future plans. In Austria the health sector itself is driving HIA.

The subsequent discussion showed that this is not the case in other countries. In Denmark political support for HIA is missing. Social demand might trigger the necessity of HIA being done. Public-health-people should talk to the policy makers (and better understand them). Costs (and not health) are often requested by policy makers.

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