



EUPHA section Health Impact assessment (HIA)

Report

2019

During the year 2019 the following activities were completed by the section:

- The EUPHA HIA-section partners, together with the Health section of IAIA (International Association of Impact Assessment) and the WHO European Centre for Environmental Health (WHO-ECEH), are involved in developing a **reference paper** on principles for the coverage of **population and human health within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** procedure. Based on this reference paper, the WHO Regional Office for Europe called for an international stakeholder meeting in Bonn, Germany, 26-27 March 2019. The expert consultation will further develop the paper, which aims to become a reference document for Member States, as practice on population and human health in EIA develops. The revised paper was presented and discussed at the EPHC in Marseille in a dedicated workshop chaired by Piedad Martín-Olmedo, and at the Join the Network meeting. A consultation process was set up incl. conducting a webinar on Dec. 3rd 2019, organized by IAIA and contribution of section members. More than 200 participants attended the [webinar](#)¹. The final version of the paper will be presented at the 2020 IAIA conference in Seville, Spain. The partnership of the three organizations builds on earlier work in jointly writing and publishing a report on health in other impact assessments².
- On 31st May, Piedad Martín-Olmedo presented the results of the survey conducted by EUPHA and WHO-Europe on the implementation of HIA and the inclusion of health into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process across Europe, at a workshop organized in Seville by the Spanish National Society of EIA. Audience rate: 75 EIA-experts from the Andalusian Region. The final report is expected to be published by WHO-Europe in autumn 2019.
- The collaboration with the Global Working Group on HIA of the International Union of Health Promotion (IUHPE) was strengthened during the 23rd IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion in Rotorua, Aotearoa New Zealand (7 - 11 April 2019). Odile Mekel co-chaired the sub-plenary “Advancing the debate about the role of HIA in enhancing governance for planetary health”.
- During the European Public Health Week on the Healthy Environments theme day (14/05/2019) a webinar „Discussing the determinants of health with the Place Standard Tool” was organized in collaboration with the EUPHA section Public Health Monitoring and Reporting. The webinar was well received with approx. 200 live attendees. The video of the webinar is still [available](#)³.
- On 31 July, Piedad Martín-Olmedo, representing the EUPHA HIA-section, participated in a workshop organized in Barcelona by the Johns Hopkins University-Pompeu Fabra University Public Policy Center and the Health Impact Project entitled “Advancing Health and Health Equity”. Experts from all over the world attended this event, including the president of the Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment

¹ <https://www.iaia.org/webinar-details.php?ID=22>

² Health in impact assessments: opportunities not to be missed. Eds: Fehr R, Viliani F, Nowacki J and Martuzzi M. 2014 (http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/261929/Health-in-Impact-Assessments-final-version.pdf)

³ <https://www.facebook.com/EUPHActs/videos/1176942859145728/>

(SOPHIA), discussing incorporating health considerations in policy decisions across multiple sectors, such as housing, transportation, and education.

- Based on the joint EUPHA section publication “Health assessments for health governance – Concepts and methodologies”⁴ a contribution “Relating population health monitoring to other types of health assessments” to the textbook [Population Health Monitoring – Climbing the Information Pyramid](#)⁵, edited by Marieke Verschuuren and Hans von Oers was prepared and is now published.
- Odile Mekel attended the EUPHA section council meeting in February 2019 in Utrecht and participated in the section council conference evaluation meeting at the EPHC in Marseille
- Communication with section members via e-mail
- The section is participating in EUPHA’s Green Club and organizes a workshop at the 12th EPH conference in Marseille on this topic together with EUPHA office and the section Environment and Health.
- At the **12th EPH conference** in Marseille multiple activities were organized:

Pre-conference

- A full day pre-conference dedicated to Health Impact Assessment (HIA) institutionalization and multisectoral collaboration in Europe. The programme included 17 oral presentations and 6 E-posters. (Programme as Annex included). The pre-conference was well received by 46 participants. The abstract book and presentations will be uploaded to the section website.

Main EPHC2019 conference

For the main conference, following workshops were conducted:

- “Greening the European Public Health conferences, and beyond”. A joint workshop with EUPHA Office and the EUPHA section Environment and Health.
- “Health in Environmental Impact Assessment: getting serious about primary prevention”. A joint workshop with the EUPHA section Environment and Health.
- “Making progress in Health Impact Assessment: from theory to practice”. A round table organized by the WHO Regions for Health Network (RHN) together with the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH) and the Regional Government of Andalusia.

All workshops were perceived very well with more that 30 participants per workshop.

- The Join the Network meeting of the section was held at the 12th EPH conference on Fri 22nd of November in Marseille and was well attended by 25 participants. Focus was on the discussion of the reference paper “Addressing Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment” and on activities during the next EPHC in Rome.

Odile Mekel, president of the HIA section

Piedad Martín-Olmedo, vice-president of the HIA section

September 2019 (update January 2020)

⁴ <https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/doi/10.1093/eurpub/ckx062/3861126/Health-assessments-for-health-governanceconcepts?guestAccessKey=7c25f697-c70e-4fad-bab4-6f5621b4208e>

⁵ www.springer.com/de/book/9783319765617

Pre-conference to the 12th European Public Health Conference Health Impact Assessment (HIA) institutionalization and multisectoral collaboration in Europe

Wednesday 20 November 2019, 09:00 - 17:30

Marseille Chanot, Palais des Congrès et des Expositions, Room Samena, Marseille, France



Organised by:

European Public Health Association (EUPHA) HIA Section, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Health Section, National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge (INSA), Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU)/Public Health Wales (PHW),

Background

The importance of health impact assessment (HIA) has been recognized and promoted through diverse international frameworks, statements and policies. However, only a limited number of countries or regions have developed HIA as a statutory process. While HIA is seen as a beneficial tool to support and enable Health in All Policies and intersectoral collaboration, it needs to advance and evolve into a tool that is consistently and routinely used to facilitate and maximise health and well-being and reduce and address inequalities.

Furthermore, as health is impacted by policies and decisions taken outside of the health sectors, health inclusive environmental assessments play an important role in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, the integration of health into city 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.

While HIAs are mostly conducted voluntarily, environmental assessments such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are carried out based on legal regulations. By 2017 the revised EU Directive (2011/92/EU) on EIA had to be transposed into national legislation. Importantly the new Directive (2014/52/EU) includes explicitly “population, and human health” in the list of topics to be considered in an EIA. However, the directive does not provide a specific definition for any of the two terms, nor guidance on how to assess the potential health effects related to a project, or the necessary qualifications of professionals tasked with the assessment of these effects. To this respect, public health professionals need to become aware of the regulations of environmental assessments to be able to answer to the environmental experts question on possible health impacts, assess these impacts and if needed give their consent to projects.

The aims of this pre-conference are to strengthen the knowledge on HIA in Europe, to share experiences in institutionalizing HIA and integrating a broad consideration of health and well-being, the use of HIA in environmental assessments and other impact assessments, as well as sharing the latest research on HIA.

Programme

09.00 – 09.30	Opening by the organizers team	Chair: Piedad Martin-Olmedo, Vice – President EUPHA HIA
	Key Note Speech: Challenges and perspectives for health impact assessment development in France	Francoise Jabot & Ana Rivadeneyra, <i>France</i>
09.30 – 10.30	Session 1 – Institutionalization of HIA across Europe <i>(15 min./presentation + 15 min. Q/A)</i> The use of HIA to support the plan for a cleaner air Institutionalization of HIA: what's going on in Portugal? HIA in context	Chair: Odile Mekel, President EUPHA (HIA) Mathilde Pascal, <i>France</i> Luciana Costa, <i>Portugal</i> Rainer Fehr, <i>Germany</i>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 – 12.30	Session 2 – Using HIA inside and outside the health sector <i>(15 min./presentation + 15 min. Q/A)</i> The Villeneuve renovation program Health Impact Assessment Legacy of Paris 2024 Olympics bid: a rapid HIA Towards a neighbourhood with positive health in a working class district of eastern Paris Strategic assessment of neighbourhood environmental impacts on mental health in the Lisbon Region (Portugal) Front-of-package nutrition labelling: HIA approach	Chair: Teresa Caldas de Almeida, Portugal Lucie Anzivino, <i>France</i> Muriel Dubreuil, <i>France</i> Agnès Lefranc, <i>France</i> Adriana Loureiro, <i>Portugal</i> Andreia Jorge Silva, <i>Portugal</i>
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch break and poster walk/presentations in small groups <i>(5 min./poster)</i> Knowledge and Attitude towards the Gradual Reduction of Salt in Bread – an Online Survey Assessing systematically the impact of urban projects on health and social inequalities in health Perspectives of Strategic Environmental Assessment Practitioners on considering population and human health HIA on the Adoption of Recommendations regarding Urban Operations in the Reconversion of Industrial Areas with Contaminated Soils: Parque das Nações Case study Assessing potential health gains of intervention measures by modelling alternative scenarios for HIA in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) Improving all student's health through Municipal policy: a health impact assessment in Chambéry, France	Chair: Luciana Costa, Portugal Alexandra Costa, <i>Portugal</i> Jeanne Blanc-Fevrier, <i>France</i> Ciara Logue, <i>United Kingdom</i> Joana Santos, <i>Portugal</i> Monika Mensing, <i>Germany</i> Lucie Anzivino, <i>France</i>

Programme continued

13.45 – 15.00	Session 3 - The role of HIA in achieving Health in All Policies and the SDGs <i>(15 min./presentation + 15 min. Q/A)</i> The Public Health Implications of Brexit in Wales: A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) approach HIA of a Danish policy document on closing down the ghetto areas Exploring the utility of HIA as a participatory approach within Health in All Policies Salt reduction in bread: Is it enough? Preliminary results of a HIA in Portugal	Chair: Ben Cave, <i>United Kingdom</i> Liz Green, <i>United Kingdom</i> Gabriel Gulis, <i>Denmark</i> Katie Hirono, <i>United Kingdom</i> Joana Santos, <i>Portugal</i>
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 – 17.00	Session 4 – Integrating HIA in environmental assessments <i>(15 min./presentation + 15 min. Q/A)</i> HIA of the Wylfa Nuclear Power Plant HIA of the development plan of Geneva International Airport, Switzerland: what effectiveness? Integrating HIA in environmental assessments: practical examples and policy mobilization The situation of implementation HIA in the Czech Republic – HIA and technological support via GIS Integrating health in EIA: a practitioner’s experience	Chair: Julia Nowacki, <i>Germany</i> Ben Cave & Liz Green, <i>United Kingdom</i> Nicola Cantoreggi, <i>Switzerland</i> Birgitte Fischer-Bonde & Sarah Humboldt-Dachenroeden, <i>Denmark</i> Jana Loosová & Jiri Šmída, <i>Czech Republic</i> Senuri Mahamithawa, <i>United Kingdom</i>
17.00 – 17.30	Open questions and closing comments	Chair: Liz Green, <i>United Kingdom</i>



Registration fee

The registration fee for this pre-conference is € 140, which includes networking lunch and refreshments.