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INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT: WHAT'S GOING ON IN PORTUGAL?

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INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

BACKGROUND



HIA as a beneficial tool to:

- * promote Health in all policies & intersectorial collaboration
- * support decision-makers to address health impacts & inequalities

HIA is still not consistently and routinely used & Lack of specific legal regulations for HIA integration in the Health System



“Population, and human health” is in the list of topics to be considered in an EIA

(Directive 2014/52/EU)

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Mandatory transposition of revised EU Directive (2011/92/EU) on EIA into national legislation in (2017)

Public Health Professionals need to become aware of these regulations and have proper formation in order to be able to answer adequately



PORTUGAL



The Public Health Law (2016)

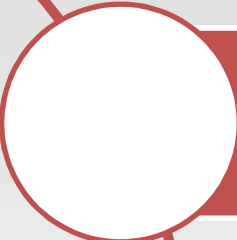
Establish rules and principles for public health services organization and measures for the protection and promotion of health and disease prevention.

In particular, it proposes mandatory HIA studies to be done in Portugal.

Biennial Collaborative Agreement
between WHO Regional Office for
Europe and the Portuguese MoH
(Identification of strategies to
implement HIA in PT)

**CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING
PROGRAM ON HIA**

(NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH DOUTOR
RICARDO JORGE)



To build technical expertise and capacity to assess and evaluate policies, plans, programs and projects.



To develop a HIA toolkit, validated for use in Portuguese context based on case studies.



To further support the development and implementation of HIA in Portugal.



TRAINING PROGRAM STRATEGY



Source: Costa, A *et al.* 2018. Developing a Training Programme in Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in Portugal



TRAINING PROGRAM MAIN OUTPUTS



Main Objectives

- HIA as a tool to support inter-sector co-operation and a “Health in All Policies” approach

To Introduce

- the status of the art concerning HIA implementation in PT

To Review

- with national experts different options and strategies for HIA implementation

To Discuss

- capacity and data needs for further implementation of HIA

To Identify

- steps and practical arrangements for strengthening HIA and the health assessment

To identify

- Three pilot HIA projects

To initiate



Enhancing HIA practice in Portugal

- Public health practitioners
- Professionals and officers in all sectors who have responsibilities or interests in health-related matters.

Target audience

- Lectures
- Open discussion sessions
- Group work.

Format

- Introduction to the HIA thematic to a broader audience

The first day

- Work on three pilot HIA projects (group of a maximum of 30 participants)

Second day

- Round Table/ Policy Dialogue

Last Day

“LEARNING BY DOING” APPROACH

Application of HIA methodology
using the guidelines of Irish
National Institute of Public Health

HIA case studies

Parque das Nações
contaminated soils at the former
EXPO zone
(Focal Point: National Public
Health Reform Commission)

Salt reduction through
bread consumption
(Focal point: INSA)

A simplified nutrition
information system on
food labels
(Focal point DGS)

Enhancing HIA practice in Portugal

Round table policy dialogue

Aim:

Promote alignment and consensus in the approach to HIA implementation in Portugal.

Participants:

Health

Environment

Education

Agriculture

Main conclusions:

Need to promote a commitment from the various sectors involved in the HIA

Use of a common glossary

Establish a dialogue between stakeholders



Health impact assessment (HIA) piloting in Portugal

- Discuss progress of three case studies and further support their completion.

Objective



THE DIFFERENTS SESSIONS

- Recap of HIA key concepts & terminology

- Stakeholder engagement
Reporting and quality assessment
Communicating results

- Recap of the project process & outline of the HIA guidance for Portugal

- The three HIA pilot studies – a short recap of the process and further discussions of issues encountered in the three working groups

- Next steps in the pilot projects

MAJOR ISSUES

DATA AVAILABILITY AND ACCURACY

- **CONDITIONED ACCESS TO DATA** (due to data protection issues);
- **ABSENCE OF FOLLOW-UP CASES IN DIFFERENT DATABASES;**

BUREAUCRACY/ PAPERWORK/HUMAN RESOURCES

- **ETHICAL AUTORIZATIONS**
- **DATA ANALYSIS (TIME&TOOLS&HUMAN RESOURCES)**

LACK OF ANSWER/ENGAGEMENT FROM STAKEHOLDERS

For effective HIA implementation in Portugal:

 Establishment of a national HIA support unit

 Further investment on trained professionals able to develop HIA and tools fit to the national and local characteristics

 Development and publication of HIA guidelines in PT language

 Creation of a national database of conducted HIA studies

 Closer cooperation/coordination in order to actively integrate environment and health sectors

 A model to operationalize HIA and its legal definition



Sustainable integration of HIA in Portuguese public health system is needed and would require both policy and technical steps



Focus of action should be taken into HIA inclusion on Public Health legislation



Consider implementation at municipalities level (consultancy/continuous training)



The National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge (INSA), could play a decisive role fulfilling its mission in this area.