Vision and promise of quantification of health impacts in health-related impact assessments
Context: Policy <-> Science

Impact Assessments, espec. LIGA involvement

Quantification and uncertainty

Conclusions, perspectives

**Novel “Health Campus” NRW** in Bochum (Ruhr area), funded by Ministries of: Health; Research; Economy, [www.gc.nrw.de](http://www.gc.nrw.de)

... unter anderem das ZTG, das Clustermanagement Gesundheitswirtschaft NRW, MedEcon Ruhr, das Epidemiologische Krebsregister NRW, das Strategiezentrum Gesundheit, die Hochschule für Gesundheit und das LIGA.NRW,

**NRW Institute of Health & Work (LIGA.NRW):** “More health for all”, [www.liga.nrw.de](http://www.liga.nrw.de), LIGA.NRW & predecessors: devoted to RHP for decades; multiple (EC) co-funded projects, often related to HIA
WHO CC RHPPH

**Leitmotifs** include: integration, prospective orientation, assessments...

**Activities** include: Scientific discourse, workshops, advanced training, e.g. 1 March 2010: Health Systems Performance Assessment (with RAND Europe)

**Basic frameworks** include:

```
   Theory   
   Policy  Science Practice

H R P (sketch to follow)
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## Policy arena vs. Science arena

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Policy arena / rationality</th>
<th>Science arena / rationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drivers, values</strong></td>
<td>Political programs, innovations, public approval, election success</td>
<td>Strive for knowledge, „objectivity“, innovation, scientific recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure, actors</strong></td>
<td>Division of power (legislative, executive, juridictive), political parties, civic society, NGOs, public media</td>
<td>Research groups, universities, professional associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Processes, work forms</strong></td>
<td>Governing / governance, policies, plans, programs, projects, innovations</td>
<td>Research projects and programs: basic / applied / R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QA / QC</strong></td>
<td>Elections, Review committees</td>
<td>Peer review, publications, acquisition of funding</td>
</tr>
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Policy – Science interface

Stimulates and challenges...
Creates demands for...
Provides supporting funding for...

Policy

Stimulates and challenges...
Provides supporting evidence for...
Evaluates...

Science

Interfacing / Policy counseling / Policy advice:

• Traditional: Expert advisors, Advisory councils, Think tanks, Committees, ...

• Novel: Policy dialogues, Policy briefs, Impact assessments, ...
2. Major tools to use at “science – policy” interface: **Assessments**

Assessments of...

- **Status / trends** of: Health, health determinants, health consequences, i.e. health reporting, health forecasting
- **Needs / Assets**: Health Needs Assessment (HNA), Health Assets Assessment
- **“What-if” / Impacts**: Various forms of Impact Assessment (IA)
- **Performance**: Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA), ex-post assessment (evaluation)
Health-related Impact Assessments / Involvement of LIGA.NRW, 1990s-2002

199x BMFT-funded Project “HIA”
1993 DGSMP, MEDICA, EUPHA, ASPHER, Healthy Cities Conf SF
1994 Environmental Med. Duisburg, IAIA, GMDS, U Dortmund
1995 Forum U’med NRW, PH Congress Dresden
1996 ISEE Edmonton, IEA Nagoya, U’med Bad Nauheim
1997 AfÖG D’dorf, WHO Geneva,
1998 U’med Bad Nauheim, TEH Vienna; Review TEH for WHO Rome
1999 HIA Seminar Helsinki, HIA Transport Bielefeld (with RIVM), WHO Gothenburg Conference
2000 U Hamburg: Stadt & Staat, Round table NSPH Amsterdam, SEA Szentendre (Hungary)
2001 Eco-Informa Argonne IL (USA), ISEE Garmisch, California Health Department (Oakland), German National HIA workshop (BgVV Berlin)
2002 ISEE Vancouver, IAIA The Hague (NL), EUPHA Dresden
Health-related Impact Assessments / Involvement of LIGA.NRW, 2003ff

2003 Workshop Birmingham (UK), EUPHA Rome
2004 AfÖG (Münster); AK U’Med (HH), EUPHA Oslo
2005 HIA Graz (A), RIVM (NL), IUPHE Stockholm, Xprob (UBA, Berlin)
2006 7th HIA congress Cardiff, 8th German EIA congress, Paderborn
2007 8th HIA congress Dublin, IAIA Seoul; Prevention congress by a German Parliamentary faction, Symposium Med. Geography, HIA/HSIA Lisbon

2008 Int. Policy Dialogue HIA Sevilla (E), 9th German EIA Congress Bad Kissingen, 9th HIA Liverpool, 2nd GHUP Graz (A); Regions for Health Network Varna (Bulg); EC consultation on IA guidelines; start of working group “Human health” with German EIA Assoc.

2009 16th PH Colloq U Bielefeld, ISEE Dublin, Exchange visit Kurume (Japan), EUPHA Lodz (PL), 10th HIA Rotterdam, SEA meeting WHO Rome, WHO CC workshop Bielefeld; Start of “Family of IAs” initiative
Initiative “Family of health-related Impact Assessments”

- Focus: Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Social IA, Sustainability IA, Health Technology Assessment (HTA), EC-type (integrated) IA

- Objectives:
  - to learn from each other, and harness synergies of different kinds of IAs
  - to mitigate conflicts of multiple IAs being conducted on same policy, plan, program, project, technology
  - to discuss pro‘s and con‘s of integrated IAs
Policy-related IAs, examples from LIGA.NRW

- EC EPHIA project: European Employment Strategy
- EC ENHIS project: Traffic noise and children’s health
- More: Drinking water privatization; extension of waste disposal site; siting airport; etc.
- Current: Rapid HIA of novel spatial planning in Ruhr metropolitan area: LIGA.NRW acted as “Institution responsible for public concerns” and supported the coverage of health aspects on the basis of the draft plan -> variety of substantive & procedural themes
- Current: EC RAPID project: NRW housing policy, etc.
- **Conclusion: Health opportunities in policy-making across non-health sectors = chronically under-used**
- Options to strengthen “Health in all policies” (WHO):
  - Departmental health plans (*Fachplan Gesundheit*)?
  - **Quantification of health impacts?**
Quantification in HIA

- from early on... (e.g. heinde), QRA...
- HIA book: main chapter on QRA
- QRA project with cross-relations...

- (usw. cf. Word from OM)
Conclusions

- HIA = a Public Health promise which is hitherto (at least partially, and in some countries widely) unfulfilled
- Specific situation (opportunities, obstacles) in each country
- Different “schools” / traditions, at least (i) qualitative / procedural / focus on stakeholder participation, (ii) quantitative / methodological; with (current) tendency towards convergence
(Reste)
Current and recent EC co-funded LIGA.NRW projects related to Regional Health Policy and/or HIA??

AMIEHS: Avoidable mortality in the European Union: towards better indicators for the effectiveness of health systems
ECHIM I, II: European Community Health Indicators Monitoring
ENHIS I, II: European Environment and Health Information System
EUPHIX I, II: EU Public Health Information & Knowledge System
EUREGIO I, II: Evaluation of cross-border activities in the European Union
HLS-EU: European Health Literacy Survey
ISARE, I2SARE: Indicateurs de santé des Régions Européennes / Health Inequality Indicators in the Regions of Europe
PHGEN: Public Health Genomics
PIA PH: Policy Impact Assessment of Public Health Reporting
RAPID: Risk Assessment from Policy to Impact Dimension
UNIPHE: Subnational indicators to improve public health in Europe
URHIS I, II: European Urban Health Indicators System