The Czech health-impact assessment - Tool to achieve "Health in all policies"

Development and experience from MATRA project

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Introduction

- HIA - how we understand it
- History
  - preventive supervision
  - H.R.A.
- One step before
Act On the Protection of Public Health

entitles the authorities of Public Health Protection to state an opinion about the protected interests of public health, including the evaluation and management of health risks.
Health in all policies - HiAP

- The greatest scope for improving the public's health lies outside the control of the health sector.
- In practice it means that health arguments are taken into account in decision making with relevance to the determinants of health.
Incorporating health considerations

- Involving health specialists and health authorities
- Involving health requirements
- Reducing health impact of activities
Incorporating health considerations

- National level
- Regional level
- Local level
Incorporating health considerations

Prerequisites:
- Legislative tools
- Skilled professionals
- Adequate health authorities
- Intersectoral cooperation
Basis

- Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and inclusion of the health into the SEA

- Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary Context Kyjev 2003
Requirement of Health inputs in SEA protocol

- in all fields of application
- in all steps of the assessment
  - Screening (Art. 5)
  - Scoping (Art. 6)
  - Report (Art. 7)
  - Decision (Art. 11)
  - Monitoring (Art. 12)
- through consultation with health authorities (Art. 9)
Legislative tools

These requirements were implemented into the Czech legislation in

The beginning - theory

No experience with such type of tasks

Story

- Searching information
  - Methodological materials
  - Description of experience
  - Publication

Decision to work out the manual
Moving theory into the practice

- Work in SEA team
- Identify potential health impact
- Health relevancy
- Broader determinants of health (social determinants, lifestyle and access to health care)
Regional activity

- Seminar for regional
  - Public health professionals
  - projectants
  - state administration and
  - local government
- Building capacity
- Explaining how and why it is essential
- Will be continue in other regions
Matra-flex project

- We needed to improve our skills
- to widen our abilities and
- to exchange experience
- Bring the best practice
- „Health impact assessment (HIA) in public health in the Czech Republic”
Health impact assessment (HIA) in public health in the CR

- Three preparatory meeting
- Training course “training of trainers”
- Training course for mixed group of specialists
- Study visit in Netherlands
Health impact assessment (HIA) in public health in the CR

What the participant should have learned

Better understanding

- when and how to use HIA,
- what are disadvantages of HIA
- broad model of health and willingness to share their knowledge with others
Health impact assessment (HIA) in public health in the CR

How the project help us?

- We made sure that our practice has the right direction.
- We can compare conditions and accession to the HIA - not only one way is possible.
Conclusions

- Recent EU regulations have stimulated further implementation of HIA
- New way of thinking is not possible to reach without practice
- Improvement of the intersectoral cooperation is necessary
- Further building capacity and improving skills is way to success
- It is a long way and there is always something to improve
Thank you for your attention