

Theo van Alphen MA MPH | June 25-27, 2007



Introduction to HIA tools and techniques

Based on an introduction course on HIA

MATRA-flex programme Czech Republic/ RIVM - 2007



**Good and bad practices in the NL
does HIA work?**
Brigit Staatsen



rivm

19. duben 2007

**Posouzení vlivů na zdraví jako
nástroj politiky veřejného zdraví**

rivm

Mat

Theo van Alphen MA MPH | March 22, 2007

**Health Impact Assessment as a tool for
Public Health Policy**

rivm

Matra HIA Czech Republic

rivm

PEP workshop on transport and health

Steps in conducting the health impact assessment

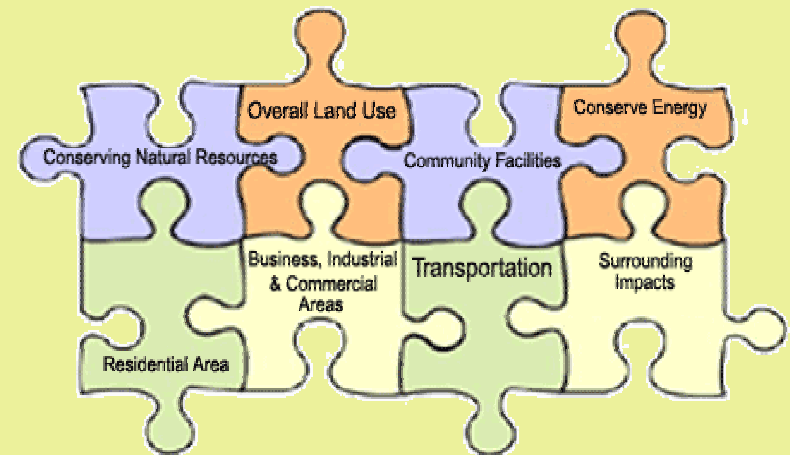


Policy analysis

- Historical setting: how has it developed
- Policy context: where lies the power
- Administrative context: how is it organized
- Stakeholders: who has a say

Profiling the community

- Define relevant indicator/outcome sets
- Health indicators
 - Population
 - Health status
- other indicators (relevant to transport)
 - air pollution (NO₂),
 - road traffic noise
 - traffic safety
 - Time spent cycling/walking
- Health outcomes:
 - Cardiovascular mortality
 - Injury
 - Sleep disturbance



Methods and tools for HIA (1)

Qualitative assessment:

- *Questionnaires/checklists*
 - WHO HIA website
 - Example NL: Integrated assessment checklist (attributed health risk, well being, risk perception, cost-benefit considerations)
- *Expert opinions (Delphi, Consensus panels etc)*
- *Perception of stakeholders (Focus group discussion etc).*

Why involve stakeholders?

- Information on policy/project context
- Adequately address health concerns
- Feasible recommendations
- Broad basis of support
- Democracy
- Transparency



Stakeholder involvement: tasks & responsibilities

- Support building
- Providing knowledge & contacts
- Monitoring process and product
- Decision making & management

Methods and tools (2)

Quantitative assessment:

- Policy/risk assessment model: change in exposure vs risk
- Health impact analysis: combining exposure data for population at risk with 'best' risk estimates from other studies –attributable risk
- Assessment of health risks by socio-economic position

Impact analysis:

- analysis of qualitative & quantitative evidence, literature review

Example: HIA Schiphol Airport



HIA Schiphol Airport:

Double objective:

*expansion airport and air traffic AND
no increase in environmental impacts*

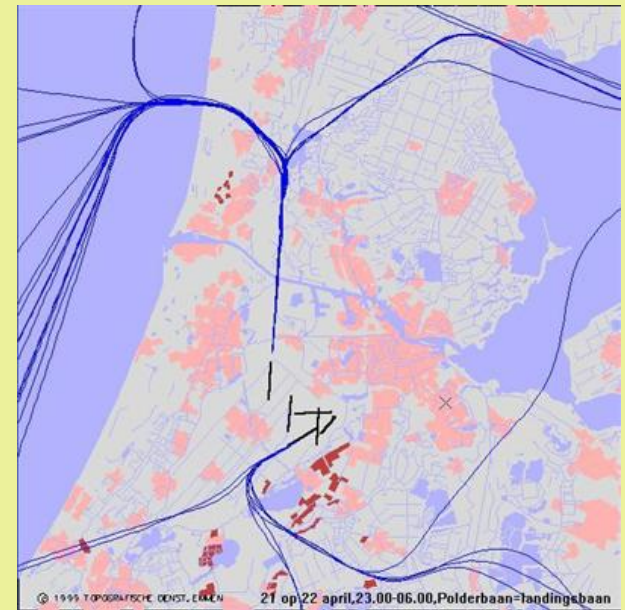
Phase 1: 1991 - 1993 HIA in EIA

- qualitative and quantitative assessment

Phase 2: 1993 – 2001 In-depth epidemiological studies

Phase 3: 2001 – 2006 Monitoring /evaluation impact of expansion

- using existing registries and additional surveys and panel studies



Gains/benefits of HIA Schiphol Airport

- Positive influence risk communication process, dialogue stakeholders, choice relevant end-points
- Awareness health impacts
- Attention for impacts in areas further away from the airport
- Attention for risk perception
- Acceptance of new insights in relation noise exposure – annoyance/sleep disturbance

Lessons learnt/ doubts about the *HIA Schiphol Airport*

- High costs worthwhile? Still public concern...
- Define aims/criteria for exposures(noise levels) instead of health outcomes (annoyance) - changes in exposure!
- Economy vs health arguments in decision-making

Overall lessons learnt *HIA in the Netherlands*

- Scopes, timeframe and applications vary, depending on subject/context/project – flexible instrument
- All HIAs address complex decision problems with strong policy and societal interests
- All involve forward-looking perspective - aimed at supporting policy development
- Use of same collective knowledge base and information - how to share
- Look at health determinants/exposure instead of health outcomes
- Use scenarios
- Stimulate expert consensus!!!!!!

Summing up



- HIA is the art of using common sense
- Be proactive and daring
- Small steps – successful cases – demonstrations
- Process as important as content – expand networks and interest in public health as part of public policies!
- Mobilize resources to establish institutional/technical capacity to carry out HIA as part of SEA