



EIS2012

From theory to practice: perspectives on HIA

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Context

- Montérégie region
 - Located south of Montreal
 - 1.45 million people
 - 189 municipalities, urban and rural
- HIA
 - Since 2007
 - Collaborative
 - Direction de santé publique (regional organization)
 - Centre de santé et de services sociaux (local organization)
 - Municipality
 - Voluntary

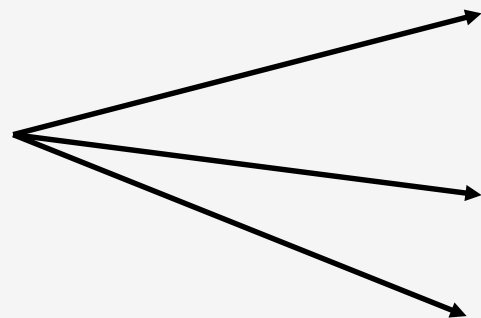


EIS2012 Prerequisite

- Interest municipal actors in submitting their policy/project:
 - Position the municipal action (policy/project) with respect to the health and well-being of the municipality's population.
 - Establish the importance of working to promote health and to prevent diseases and injuries.



- Knowledge transfer at the organizational level (KT)



- Raise awareness
- Inform
- Influence



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From procedural to relational

- Develop a relationship of trust
 - Transparency of proposals and objectives
 - Promote health and well-being
 - Complementarity of roles and knowledge
 - Win-win



EIS2012 Concretely

- Encourage KT among the actors involved (HIA working committee)
- Establish the *new interests* of public health.



EIS2012 However...

- Municipalities are complex organizations
 - Their decisions are rarely made by a single person, but are rather the result of many interactions between many actors.



EIS2012 Main limitation

- Science is not a substitute for a policy
 - We are not engaged in **politics**, but we are investing effort in the area of **politics** to work toward improving a **policy** by trying to ensure, to the extent *possible*, that it promotes the health and well-being of the population.
 - Concurrence of interests and values (ideologies)



EIS2012 Thus

- Keep in mind
 - HIA \neq political activism
 - HIA = politics for a policy (policy politics)
- Accept
 - HIA \neq deciding for...
- Respect
 - Municipal sovereignty



To be useful

- Propose a rationale based on health and well-being
- Ensure maximum use of knowledge (including recommendations):
 - Relevance
 - Accessibility
 - Credibility



And the decision makers...

- Appreciate collaborative HIA because of its potential to inform decision making, as long as:
 - The process includes reciprocal understanding of organizational objectives
 - Knowledge is adapted to their context
 - Recommendations offer concrete solutions to local problems



EIS2012 In brief

- The aim of HIA is to raise awareness among municipal actors (decision makers) and to inform them, with a view to ultimately influencing their organization
- Keep in mind that decisions are sometimes made on the basis of concurrent rationales
- Do not underestimate the medium- and long-term effects