

Governance structure & processes and their application for HiAP

The case of:

- 1. Geneva**
- 2. Switzerland**

**Dr. Jean Simos
April 14, 2010**



HiAP in Geneva

Through HIA → HiAP = the purpose ; HIA = the mean

Why?

- One of the 4 core themes of Phase IV (2003-2008) of WHO European Network of Healthy Cities → integrate health impact assessment as a systematic framework in cities
- 2003 : very tensed budgetary context → incentive to look for new efficient means to promote health
- Interest of other Swiss partners to introduce HIA (cantons of Jura and Ticino, NGO equiterre, Health Promotion Switzerland)
- Opportunity to take with the Health Law project ; inspired by the Quebec 2001 Public Health Act (art. 54)



HiAP in Geneva (2)

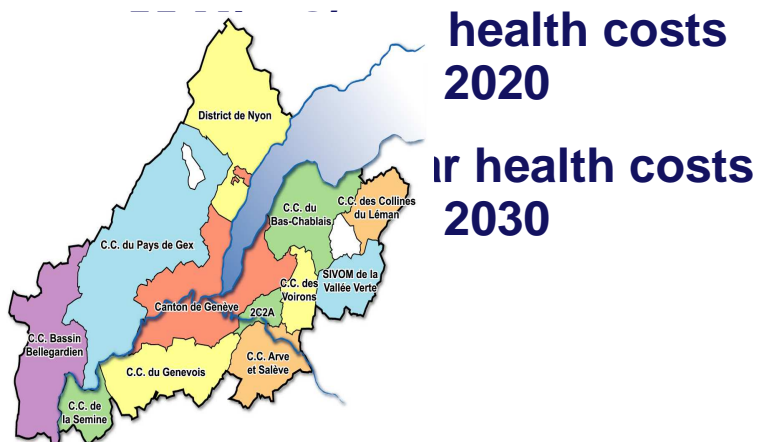
How HIA was institutionalised

- ➔ In summer 2004 the Geneva government adopted a project including the introduction of HIA and submitted it to the local Parliament
- Article 4 (“Commitments of Geneva State and Municipalities”) (§2) *When a legislative project can have effects on health, then Geneva government join an assessment of its potential impact on health*
- During the final Commission’s vote → members express fears that this clause will be an obstacle for economic activity, “e.g. construction industry”
- Compromise amendment *“If a legislative project is likely to cause negative consequences to health, then Geneva government can decide to join to it an assessment of its potential impact on health”*
- Health Act come into force on September 1st, 2006
Still in progress: set up a permanent interdepartmental steering committee → the real mean for HiAP



HiAP in Geneva (3)

- Since 2006, many HIA's were made, comprehensive & rapid (e.g. Electric assist bicycle promotion, Use of VOC in paints & varnishes, Solid waste collection and management in a Burkina Faso's neighbourhood, Ban on sale of alcohol to young persons under 18, ...)
- Most of comprehensive HIA's were on urban planning projects (e.g. new neighbourhoods of MICA - Mon Idée & Communaux d'Ambilly, Bernex-Est, ...)
- The most important: HIA on Geneva metropolitan cross-border area's Master Plan → GMCAM scenario vs. "laissez-faire" scenario



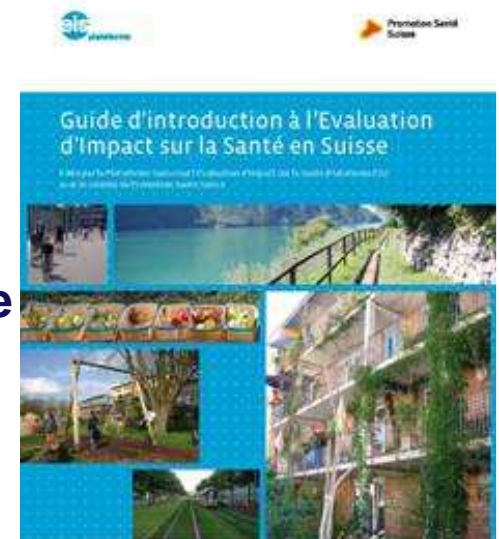
HiAP in Switzerland

1. Inter-state level : HIA Swiss Platform 2009-2011

- Further development and refinement of the concept
- Build up, share and spread a common know-how
 - ✓ Information on HIA to the other cantons
 - ✓ Implementation by pilot study-cases
 - ✓ Communication: website, newsletters, Guide
 - ✓ Training courses (e.g. Summer School)
- Advocate about HIA at different levels and introduce it in the political agenda of public communities
- Nexus with other decision making aid tools



www.impactssante.ch



HiAP in Switzerland (2)

Federal level

2. Multi-sectoral health policy

- 2002: adaptation of 21 targets of “Health 21” for Switzerland
- 2003 (FOPH workshop) – 2004 (consultation of other federal offices) – 2005 (publication of “Guidelines for a multi-sectoral health policy”)
- Gaps identified in other policies ; introduce HIA in SD appraisal
- 2006 : “Integration of the multi-sectoral health policy”: implementation of HIA in SD appraisal and comparison of 3 options for transport & agriculture policies

3. Project of federal law on health promotion & prevention

- Article 9: similar to art.4 of Geneva’s Health Act (HIA introduction)
- End March 2010: start of the work at the Social & Health Affairs Commission of the federal Parliament
- Objections of *Economiesuisse*



Instead of conclusion ... question for the discussion

- The existence or not of a legal basis for HIA/HiAP seems to be a main issue and it is subject to debate within Swiss Platform
- *“Extra legislationem nulla salus”* ???
- Indeed, essential in Geneva’s case
- ...but not in Ticino’s or Jura’s case
- What about Lithuania’s case? NL (national level)? British Columbia?...
- EIA → example... or counter-example?
- *Personal conclusion*: “necessary AND sufficient condition”
= legal basis + political will