

Health Impact Assessment

as a tool to influence public policy and
work on inequalities

National Collaborating Centre for Healthy
Public Policy

Louise St-Pierre

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information



formation



recherche



*coopération
internationale*



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The National Collaborating Centres Network



Plan

- The field and practice of HIA ;
- Its use in the fight against social inequalities of health ; An illustration



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What is HIA ? Definition

Gothenburg consensus paper
December, 1999

Health Impact Assessment

Main concepts
and suggested approach

WHO Regional Office
for Europe

European
Centre for Health Policy
Brussels, 1999

ECHP

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

*“...a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a **policy**, program or project may be judged as to its **potential effects on the health of a population**, and the **distribution of those effects within the population**”*

ECHP, WHO, 1999



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What is HIA ? Its goals

- Consider the potential effects of a proposal on health and inequalities (prospective evaluation)
- Intend to influence and assist the decision making process

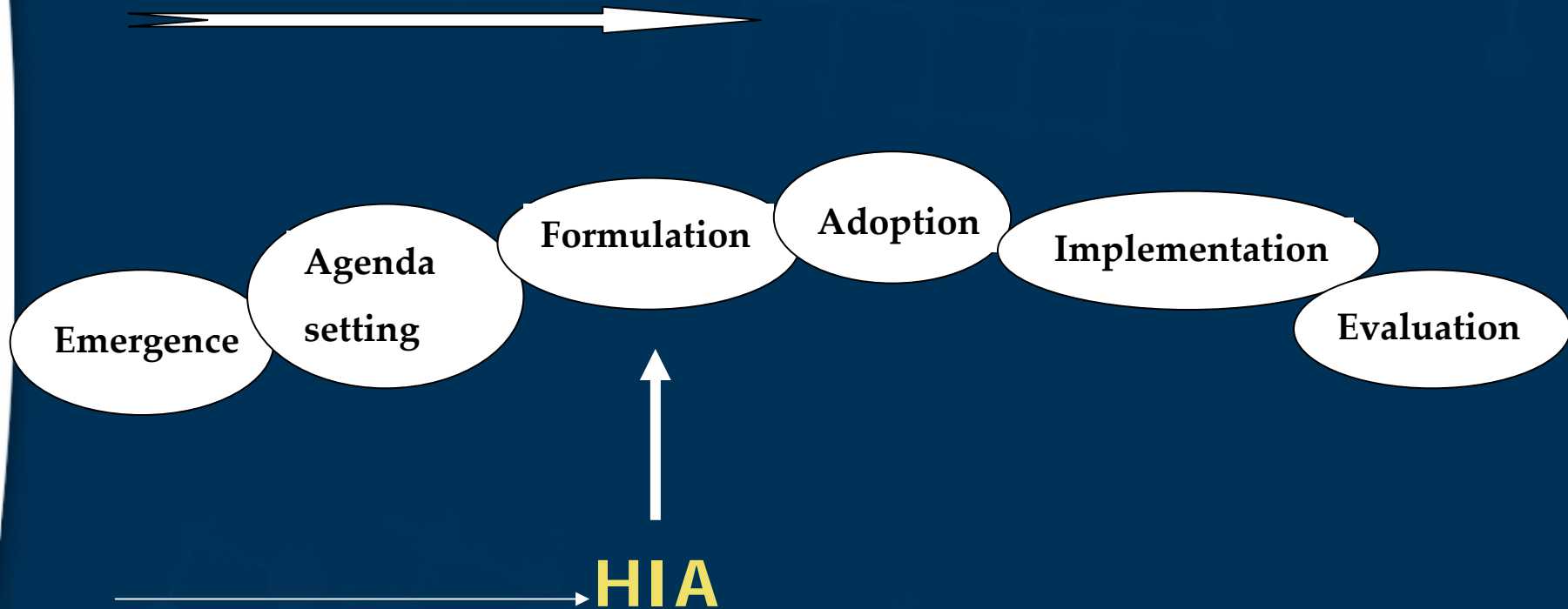


...and its principles

- Population health approach (socio-economical determinants of health)
- The health responsibility should be shared by all sectors
- Involve stakeholders and intersectorial parties
- Concerns with health inequalities



HIA and the policy development process

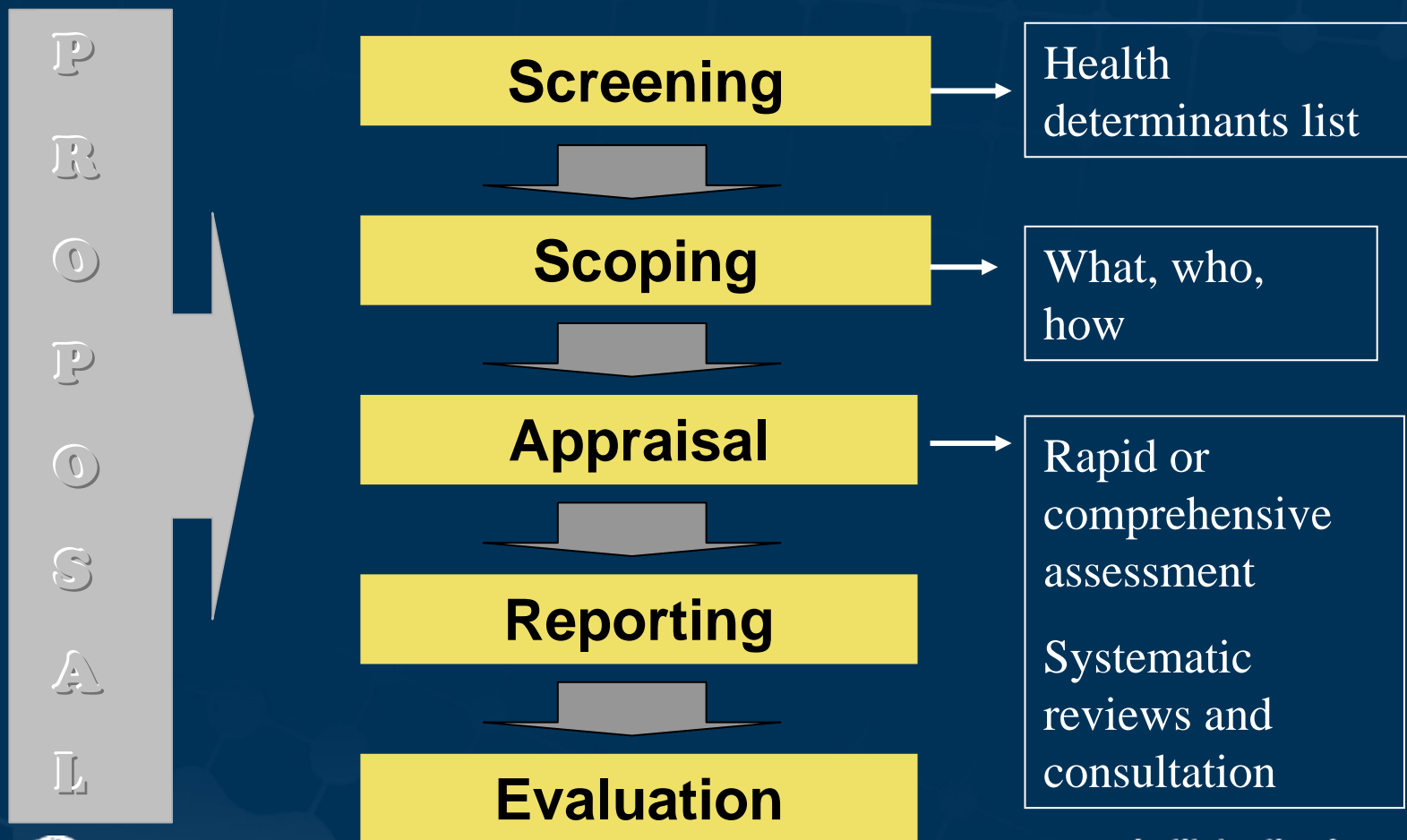


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A procedure and tools



An illustration

Domestic waste management plant to transform domestic waste into compost

Regional County Municipality of Haute-Yamaska (QC)

Pop.: 87,000 inhabitants

9 municipalities

People involved in HIA process:

- 2 from municipal level
- 3 from health sector.



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Screening tool used

En lien avec chacune des catégories suivantes, est-ce que le projet a un impact potentiel sur :		Impacts potentiels					Commentaires Préciser l'élément du projet à l'origine de l'impact; Décrire la nature et l'ampleur de l'impact (faible ou sévère; occasionnel ou fréquent; court ou long terme; nombre de personnes touchées; Indiquer les groupes ou population susceptibles d'être touchés.
		Positif	Neutre	Négatif	Ne sait pas	N/A	
Emploi (suite)	Le pouvoir d'achat des personnes?						
	Une distribution des avantages entre les groupes de personnes?						
Education	L'éducation citoyenne?						
	L'accessibilité à une éducation de base (primaire et secondaire)?						
	La poursuite des études?						
	La réussite scolaire?						
	Les opportunités de formation et d'éducation?						
Transport	L'alphabétisation?						
	Le type de moyen de transport utilisé (marche, vélo, auto, transport en commun, covoiturage, etc.)?						
	La disponibilité et l'accès au transport en commun?						
	L'accessibilité physique aux services ?						
	La sécurité sur les routes (traumatismes routiers) ?						
Environnement physique	Le volume de trafic routier?						
	La qualité de l'eau?						
	La qualité de l'air?						
	La qualité du sol?						
	Le bruit?						
	Les odeurs?						
	La disposition sécuritaire des déchets dangereux?						
Le recyclage, la récupération et la valorisation des déchets?							

Results of the screening stage

The potential impacts that had to be look at :

- ✓ Quality of the compost
- ✓ Workers' health
- ✓ Smell
- ✓ Noise
- ✓ Transportation (security and air quality)
- ✓ Housing



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The findings of the assessment

Quality of the compost	OK, audit form
Workers' health	OK, no problem
Smell	OK, taking into account
Noise	OK, not relevant
Transportation	Increased traffic
Housing	Possible rate increase in rents due to higher taxes



Potential impact on inequalities

The report showed that 33 % of the main city households devote more than 30% of their income for housing.

According to the literature, this situation put pressure on households to reduce expenses for other essential goods.



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Main observations

HIA has contributed to:

- Raise awareness among policy makers about an unexpected effect unknown prior to the analysis
- Provide a comprehensive overview of the positive and negative impacts of the project
- Underline the importance of cumulative effects on disadvantaged groups



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For more information on the tools and HIA practices

Accessible tools on NCCHPP website

- Knowledge synthesis
- HIA guides repertory
- Training (in preparation)
- Bulletin

WWW.NCCHPP.CA

CPHA boot 138



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