

HIA as a knowledge exchange tool in the policy arena: A conceptual framework

Anika Mendell & Louise St-Pierre

**National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy
(NCCHPP)**

International HIA Conference 2011

**April 15, 2011
Granada, Spain**



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

**Institut national
de santé publique**
Québec 

“There is nothing so practical as a good theory!”

Kurt Lewin, 1951



Photo: *Infed*: <http://www.infed.org/thinkers/et-lewin.htm>



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

*Institut national
de santé publique*
Québec



Presentation

- **Conceptual Framework:**

To better understand how HIA leads decision makers to take health into account, and under which conditions.

- Framework will be used to:
 - document HIA project in Québec, Canada
 - evaluate knowledge utilization among decision makers in the context of this HIA.



What kind of HIA?

Decision-support model

(Harris-Roxas & Harris, 2010; Wismar, 2007);

Interactive model of HIA (Bekker, 2007).

Objective: To promote interaction between public health actors and policy makers.



Where our framework comes from: “Boundary” theory

(Gieryn, 1983; Bekker, 2007)

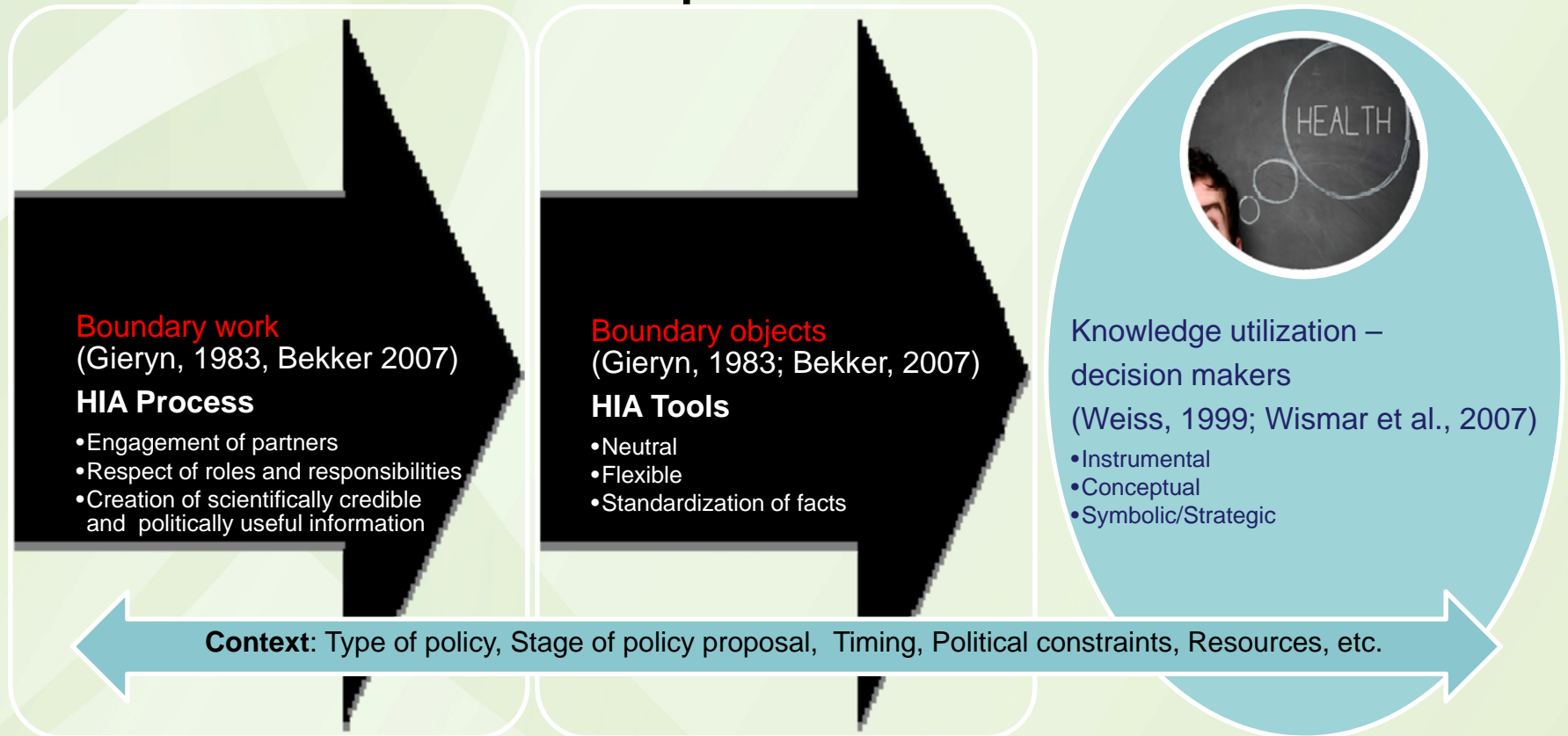
- Rhetorical separation of science from non-science; distinction between different areas (scientific vs non-scientific) (Gieryn, 1983)
- Context of Interactive HIA: Boundaries are a way to recognize the different sectors/realities around the table (Bekker, 2007)
- HIA = Boundary work creates a “Common space”, “Trading zone” which allows for interaction and recognition of each party’s boundaries



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Institut national
de santé publique
Québec

HIA as a knowledge exchange tool in the policy arena: A conceptual framework



© iStockphoto.com/ Matt Jeacock



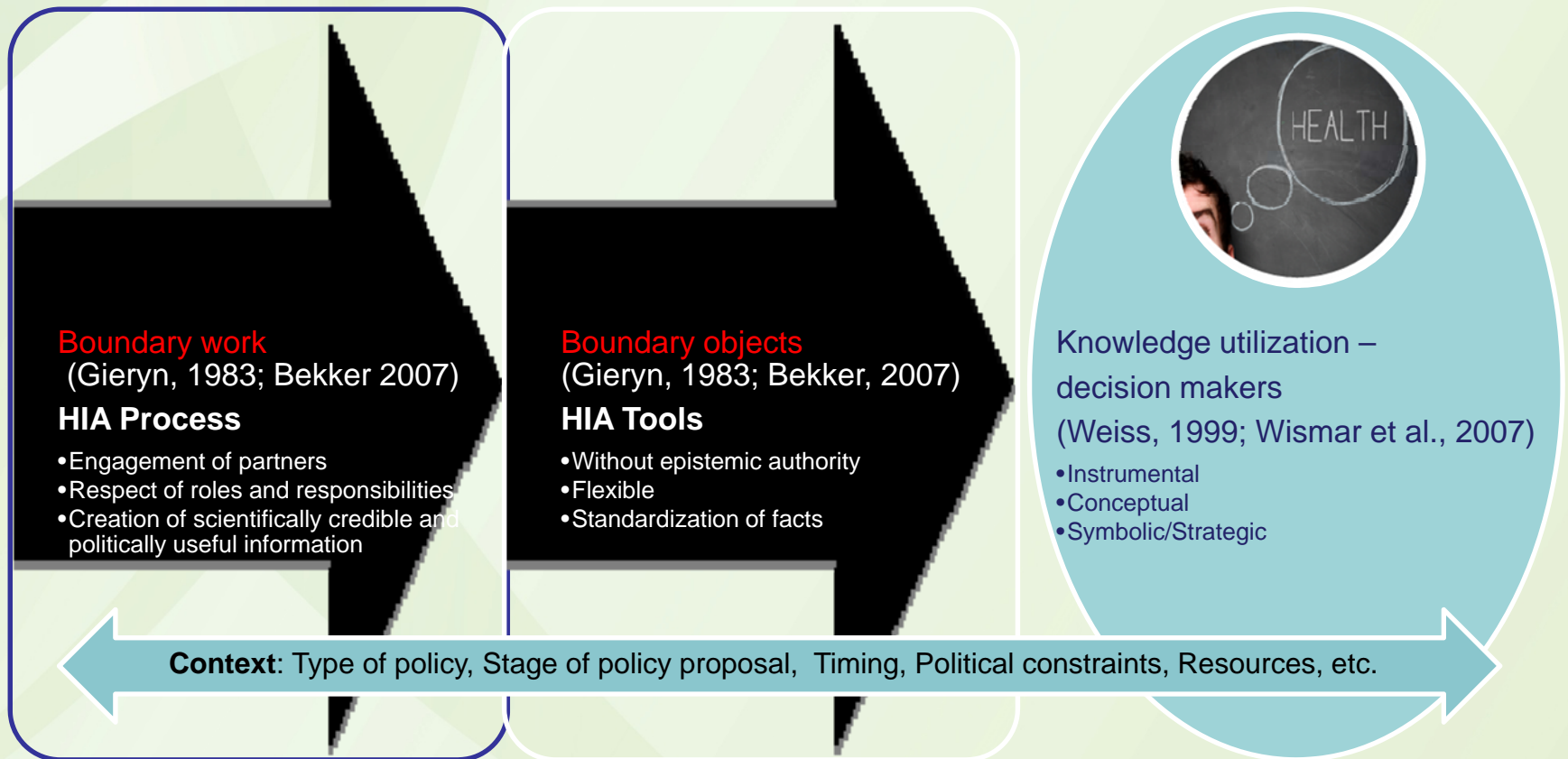
Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Institut national
de santé publique

Québec



Boundary work: HIA process



© iStockphoto.com/ Matt Jeacock



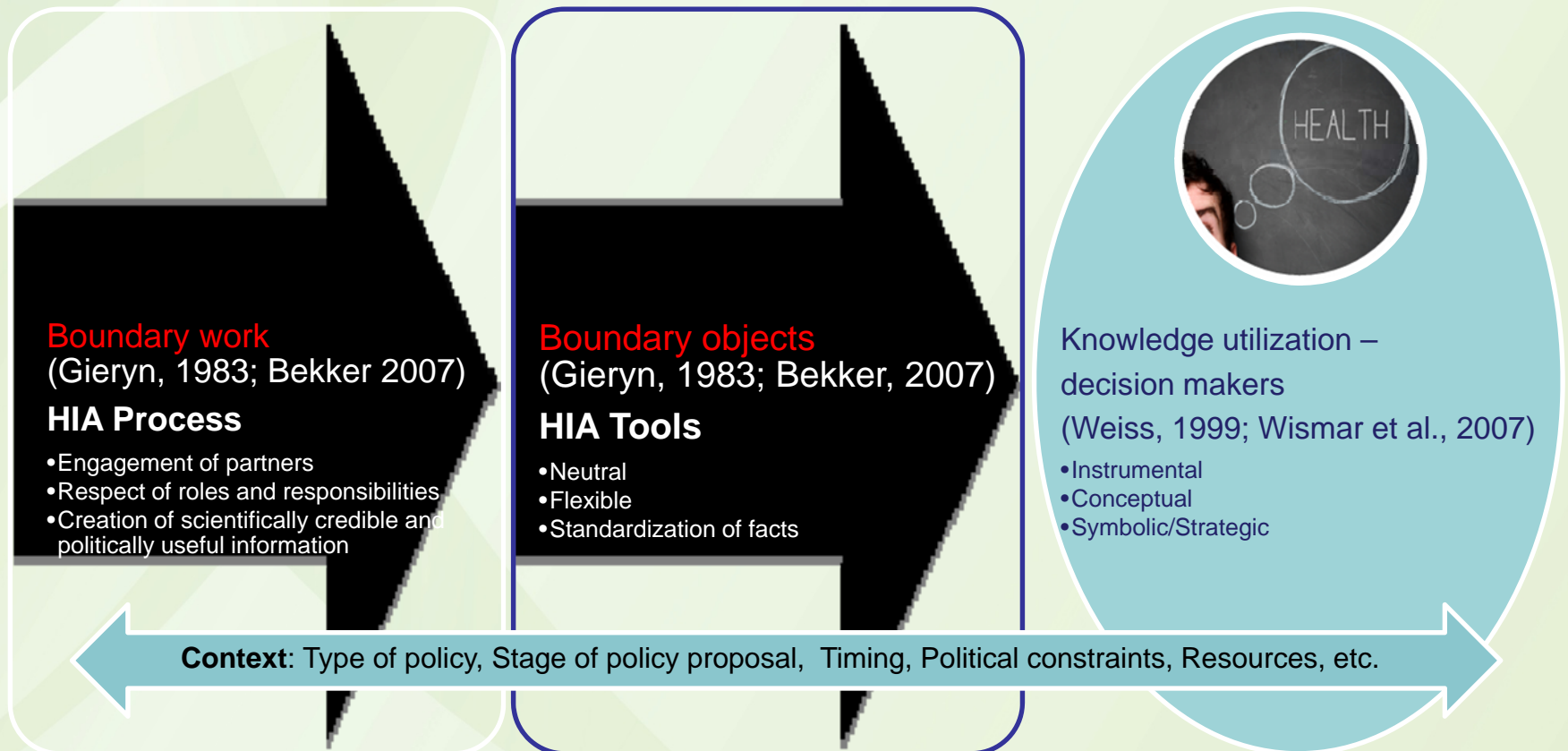
Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Institut national
de santé publique

Québec



Boundary objects: HIA tools



© iStockphoto.com/ Matt Jeacock



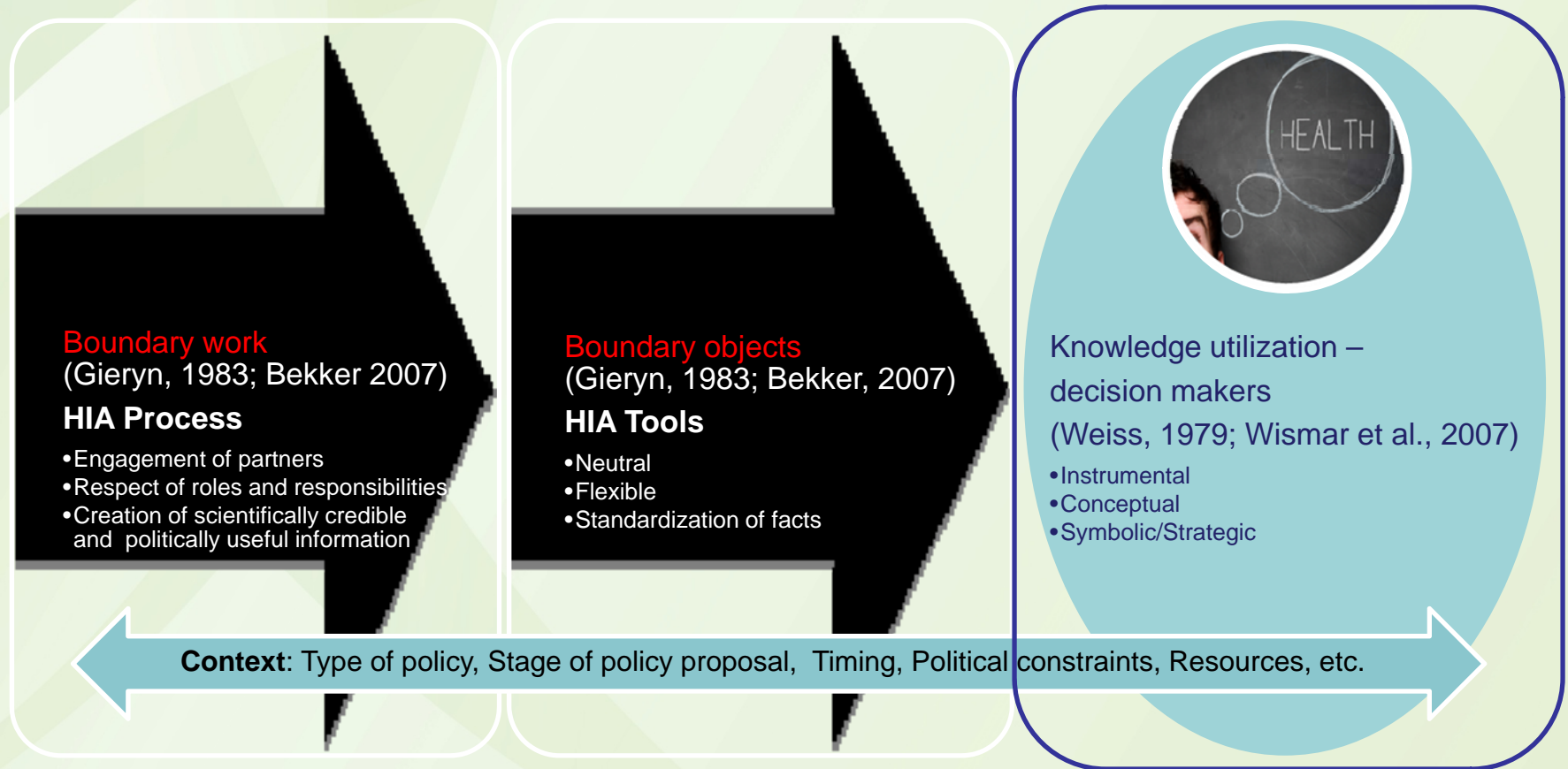
Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Institut national
de santé publique

Québec



Knowledge utilization among decision makers



Context

Boundary work
(Gieryn, 1983; Bekker 2007)

HIA Process

- Engagement of partners
- Respect of roles and responsibilities
- Creation of scientifically credible and politically useful information

Boundary objects
(Gieryn, 1983; Bekker, 2007)

HIA Tools

- Neutral
- Flexible
- Standardization of facts

Knowledge utilization –
decision makers
(Weiss, 1979; Wismar et al., 2007)

- Instrumental
- Conceptual
- Symbolic/Strategic

Context: Type of policy, Stage of policy proposal, Timing, Political constraints, Resources, etc.



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

© iStockphoto.com/ Matt
Jeacock

Institut national
de santé publique

Québec



Applying the framework in Canada



© iStockphoto.com/ Nicolas McComber

Region of Montérégie, Québec



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

**Institut national
de santé publique**
Québec 

Potential implications of the study

- Make the theory implicit in the interactive model of HIA explicit
- Help us to understand what works, what doesn't and why
- Shed light on HIA as a knowledge transfer/exchange activity



Muchas gracias!

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Florence Morestin and Julie Castonguay to this presentation.

Questions & Comments:

anika.mendell@inspq.qc.ca

louise.st-pierre@inspq.qc.ca



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

*Institut national
de santé publique*
Québec

Bibliography

- Banken, R. (2001). *Strategies for institutionalizing HIA*. Health Impact Assessment Discussion papers, Number 1. Brussels WHO European Center for Health Policy.
- Bekker, M. (2007). *The politics of healthy policies. Redesigning Health Impact Assessment to integrate health in public policy*. Delft: Eburon.
- Bekker, M., Putters, K., & Van der Grinten, T. (2004). Exploring the relation between evidence and decision-making: A political-administrative approach to health impact assessment. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 24, 139-149.
- Gieryn, T. F. (1983). Boundary-work and the demarcation of science from non-science: strains and interests in professional ideologies of scientists. *American sociological review*, 781-795.
- Harris-Roxas, B. & Harris, E. (2010). Differing forms, differing purposes: A typology of health impact assessment. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, article in press. doi: 10.1016/j.eiar.2010.03.003
- McQueen, D. , Kickbusch, I., Potvin, L., Pelikan, J.M., Balbo, L. and Abel, T. (2007). *Health and Modernity: The Role of Theory in Health Promotion*. New York: Springer.
- Star, S. L. & Griesemer, J. R. (1989). Institutional ecology, 'translations' and boundary objects: Amateurs and professionals in Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, 1907-39. *Social studies of science*, 19, 387-420.
- Taylor, L., Gowman, N., & Quigley, R. (2003). *Influencing the decision-making process through health impact assessment*. London NHS Health Development Agency. 6 p.
- Weiss, C. H. (1979). The Many Meanings of Research Utilization. *Public Administration Review*, 39, 426-431.
- Wismar, M., Blau, J. et al. (2007). *The Effectiveness of Health Impact Assessment: Scope and limitations of supporting decision-making in Europe*. Copenhagen World Health Organization (on behalf of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies).
- Wismar, M. (2004). The effectiveness of health impact assessment. *Eurohealth*, 10, 41-43.

