

# HIA & Healthy Public Policy: Opportunities and Challenges

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# Embedding HIA in a complex and changing environment

- Establishing & maintaining support mechanisms at multiple levels
- Finding a balance between 'One size fits all' and 'A free for all'

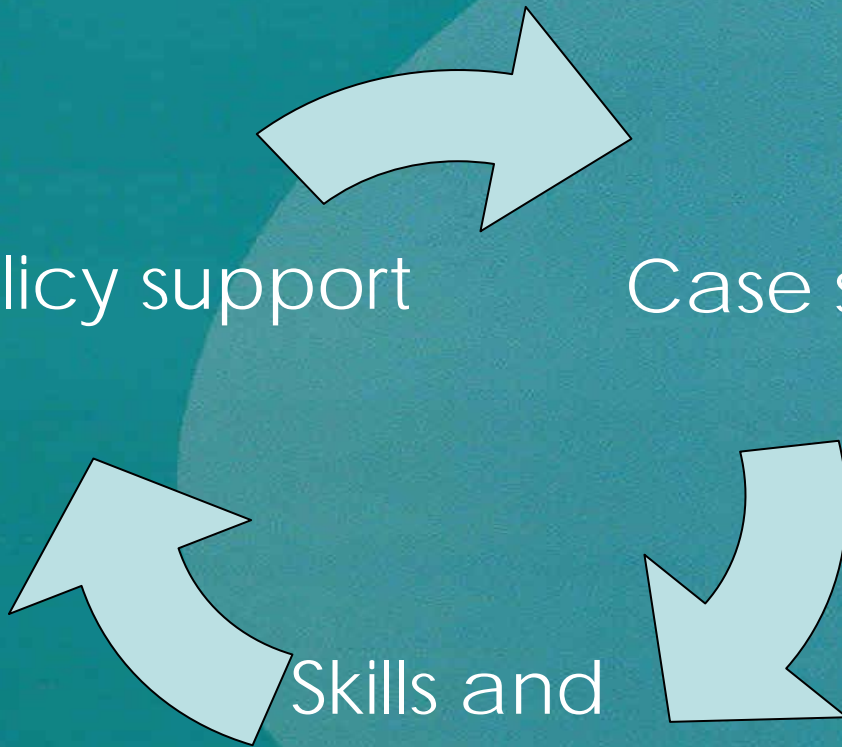
# Capacity building to build capacity...



Policy support

Case studies

Skills and  
resources



It's good to  
squawk...



# Embedding HIA: Finding a balance

- **How is HIA being used?**

Is HIA being used as an impartial assessment of different options *or* as a tool to enable the community's voice to be heard?

- **Quality or quantity?**

Is there a quality assurance stamp?  
Should there be?

# Gothenburg Consensus

“A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme 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.”

# HIA in practice

Is HIA being used as:

- A scientifically robust predictive tool?
- A broad mapping exercise that flags up potential impacts?
- A means of bringing different stakeholders into the decision making process and making the process more transparent and inclusive?

# Assessing impacts

Ethical use of evidence implies that the highest scientific standards of rigour will be adopted... It implies diligence in searching for evidence (within reason) and impartiality.

# Interpretation of evidence

- Positivist approach:  
Links between an intervention and its consequences are describable by scientific laws.
- Relativistic approach:  
Interpretation of events depends on their context and on the person perceiving them.

2001

2008

# Health Impact Assessment

a baseline report for Ireland and  
Northern Ireland



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this space...*

[www.publichealth.ie/hia](http://www.publichealth.ie/hia)