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Assessing opportunities for HIA implementation: the use of policy arrangement analysis

rivm

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HIA as a new public health instrument

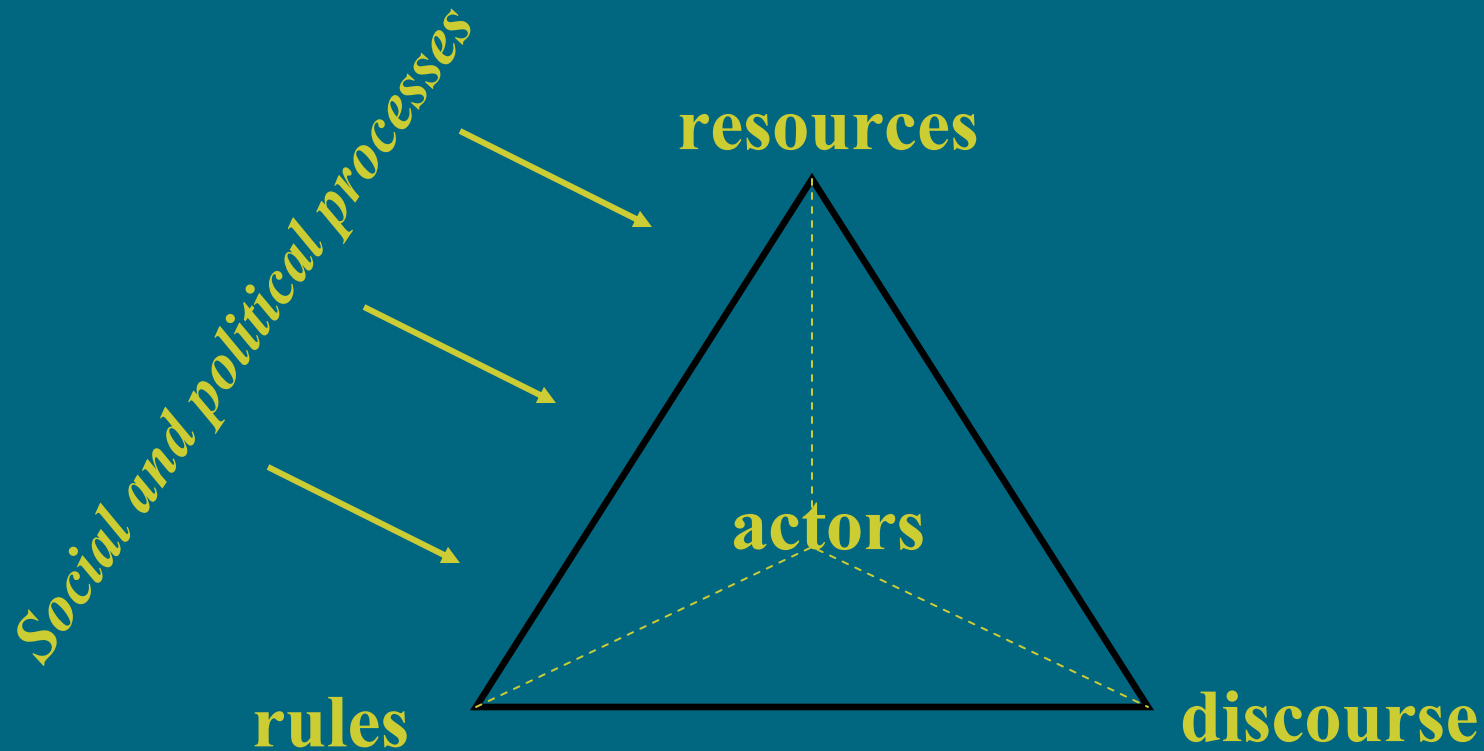
- Process approach
- Assessing influences of other sector's policies on a population's health
- Aimed at better/healthier policy making

How to embed this in policy structures and procedures?

Policy arrangement model - background

- Developed for analysis of environmental policy...
- But useful for public health policy as well
- Common features:
 - Dependence on other sectors
 - Public goods, hard to express in monetary terms
 - Investments in the present for future benefits

Policy arrangement model



Source: Leroy, van Tatenhove, Arts (2001)

Case: Lithuania



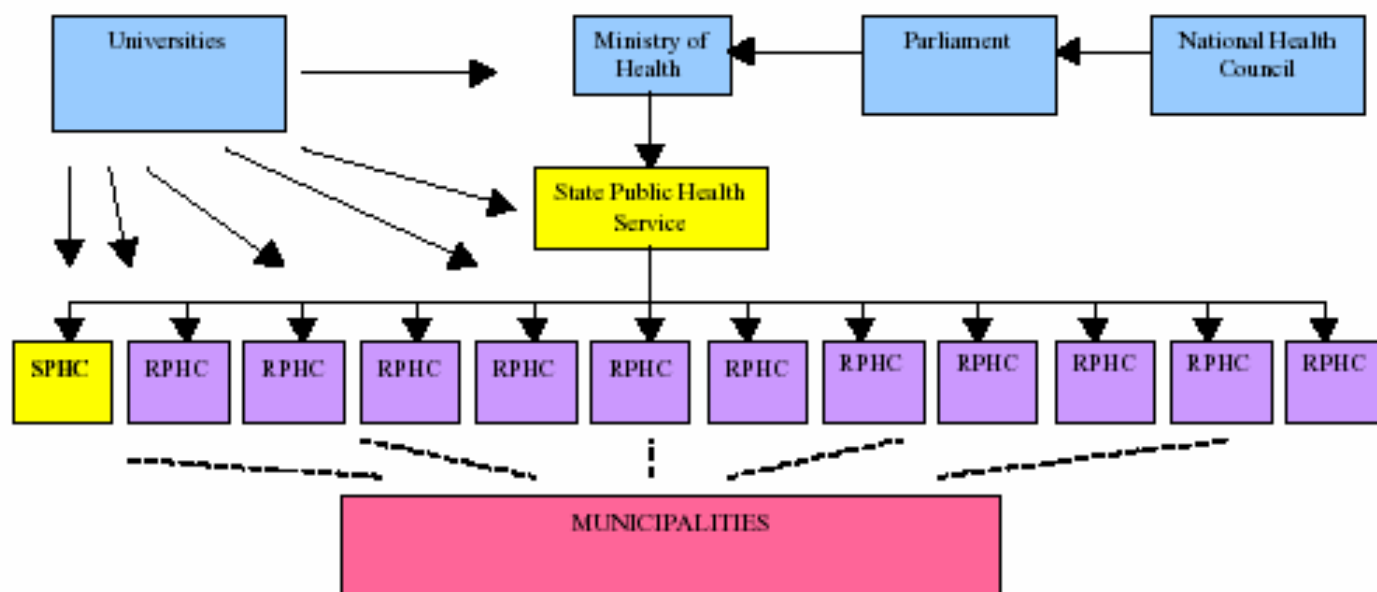
Background

- Geographic situation: most southern of the 3 Baltic states, located at the Baltic sea
- Population: 3,5 million
- Size: 65,200 sq km
- GDP per capita: US\$ 4900
- Important public health issues: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, accidents, mental health and suicides, communicable diseases
- ***Planned accession to European Union: May 2004***

Ingredients for policy analysis

- Interviews with stakeholders from government and public health field
- Document search (policy papers, expert reports, laws, health reports, background literature, etc)

Stakeholders



Perceptions about HIA in Lithuania

- HIA is mostly perceived as a ***technical exercise***
- for which a ***legal basis*** must be created
- And that must be initiated and carried out by ***experts***
- Strong focus on health ***protection***
- Strong focus on ***environmental*** health

Resources

- Leading role for MOH
- Lack of continuity in policies
- Complicated relations between actors
- Limited financial resources

Rules

- Strong reliance on laws & regulations
- Legal framework for HIA is already in place...
- But HIA is not explicitly mentioned

Intriguing results

Ambivalences caused by historical circumstances:

- Rules: legal requirements
- Resources: changing power positions
- Discourses: ph notions

NOTE: ACTORS ARE CENTRAL

The missing link

- From analysis to intervention: how to make things happen?
 - Diffusion of innovation theory (Rogers)
 - Other theories (from sociology, economics, psychology...) depending on results of analysis

Lessons learnt

- Policy arrangement model is an adequate conceptual framework
- But actors are pivotal dimension
- Adding other theories or models will enhance its problem-solving potential

Thank you for your attention!



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