



Enhancing health impact assessment (HIA) practice across WHO Europe Bonn School on Environment and Health

3 – 24 November 2022

WHO virtual capacity building course

Version
06 July 2022

Scope and purpose

The importance of assessing health implications of policies, plans, programmes and projects of different sectors has been long established, and the need for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach has been emphasized in many political statements and frameworks. As such the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”, adopted by the Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe in 2020, recognizes the need to mobilize other sectors to put health in all policies and promote initiatives that address local determinants of health with green deal investments into a future economy of well-being (Regional Committee for Europe, 2020). In this regard, health impact assessments (HIAs) are seen as a crucial tool that can support decision-makers inside and outside the health sector to address health inequalities and ensure the health of future generations through the identification and estimation of possible impacts of proposed policies and activities.

Through the implementation of HIA of policies, as well as of plans, programs and projects there is great potential for health gains. Several Member States in the WHO European Region have already established legal obligations for HIA but in the majority of countries HIAs are voluntarily conducted. Meanwhile, in many countries legal obligations for environmental assessments exist which include the need to assess impacts on human health and on the population, as for example defined in the European Directives on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Directive 2014/52/EU) and on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA Directive 2001/42/EC) as well as the Espoo Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on SEA of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Public health authorities need to be prepared not only to assess the impacts of policies, plans, programs and projects of the health sector but also to engage in environmental assessments.

The WHO Bonn School on Environment and Health in 2021 offered a first overview lecture on HIA and health in environmental assessment. As a result of the feedback of the Bonn School, revealing a high demand of participants for more in-depths training on HIA, a new online training course is been developed and will be held in November 2022.

Course objectives

The overall objective of the capacity building is to further support the development and implementation of HIA and the health assessment in environmental assessments in the WHO European Region through:

1. introducing HIA as a tool to support inter-sector co-operation and a 'Health in All Policies' approach;
2. conducting a desk-top HIA based on the course lectures;
3. discussing with HIA and EA experts different options and strategies for HIA implementation, for example, as adopted in different countries in Europe;
4. identifying capacity and data needs for further implementation of HIA and integration of health in environmental assessments;
5. identifying steps and practical arrangements for further strengthening HIA and the health assessment in environmental assessments; and
6. examining the quality of HIA reports.

Expected outcome of the course

The expected outcomes of the training are:

- 1) a basic understanding by participants of the broader political frameworks underlying the concepts of impact assessments such as HIA, EIA and SEA;
- 2) a clear understanding by participants of the HIA process, the type of information required for implementing HIA, where to acquire such information and how to present it for maximum impact in the context of policy processes; and
- 3) a clear understanding by participants how to integrate health assessments into environmental assessments.

Target audience

This capacity building course is tailored towards staff of public authorities with an experience of 2 to 5 working years, coming from

- national ministries, institutions and decision-making entities covering environment, spatial planning, health assessments, or environmental assessments,
- or
- subnational authorities involved with planning and decision-making on environment, spatial planning, health assessments, or environmental assessments at regional or local level.

A minimum level of familiarity with basic epidemiological and environmental concepts is a prerequisite, as is a basic command of conventional tools like MS Word, Excel and Zoom.

Course format and language

The course follows a problem-based learning approach (PBL) and will consist of 7 course days with three 90-minute sessions each. It will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, spread over four weeks from 3 to 24 November 2022. Details on the sessions and their content can be found in Annex 1.

A mandatory preparation meeting will be held on 20 October 2022. Participants can choose two different time slots at 9.00 or 10.45 CET.

The lectures of the course will be held in English, with simultaneous Russian interpretation (including Russian slides). Working groups for the self-learning during the practice sessions will be established to work in either English or Russian. The work sheets established in the practice session can be submitted in both English and Russian. However, most reading material for preparing for the courses is available in English only.

The total time participants will have to devote for the course modules (excluding the preparation meeting) is expected to be 32 hours.

In addition, several hours of preparation and reading time may have to be expected before and during the course. In total, a full-week work load of at least 40 hours should therefore be planned for the time between 1 and 24 November 2022.

Active participation in a minimum of 80% of the course sessions and working groups is required to obtain a WHO Certificate of Attendance (see details in Annex 2).

For a WHO Certificate of Training a successful passing of 80% of the final test is required in addition.

The course is designed for a maximum of 30 participants. It will consist of technical lectures, open discussion sessions, and group work (4–6 people per group). Participants will be encouraged to actively engage in interactive discussions and exchanges.

The first day of the workshop will be designed as an introduction to the thematic area of the course and will give an overview of the expected group work project. On the last day, 24 November 2022, the course will conclude with a role game, an open feedback session and the optional final exam.

Application for the course

The deadline for submitting a course application is 09 September 2022 (the application form is available in English at <https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/551469?lang=en> and in Russian at <https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/551469?lang=ru>). Applicants should have a working experience of 2-5 years in a related subject area.

The application form includes a short motivation statement, describing why the participant wants to attend the course, what the expectations are, and how the acquired knowledge could help in daily practice. The application form also requires confirmation that applicant and supervisor are aware of the time requirements for course participation, including a supervisor support form that needs to be uploaded with the application (see Annex 3).

The course is designed for 30 participants. If more than 30 applications are received, WHO will consider country diversity and sectoral diversity of participants to enable a broad course audience from various backgrounds.

Due to the limited number of places available a selection of participants will be done. WHO will inform the participants about their participation in the course by latest 23 September 2022. A copy of the message will be sent to the supervisor for information.

Annex 1: Course content overview (provisional)

Grey boxes represent orientation and evaluation sessions

Yellow boxes represent practice session times for the working groups, to work on the PBL tasks

Blue boxes represent the sessions used for the preparation and implementation of the final role game

Green boxes represent lecture sessions

Thursday, 20 October Orientation day (two alternative time slots available)		Thursday, 3 November DAY 1 – Introduction module
9.00-10.30 Session 1	Briefing and preparation session A a. introduce course content and structure b. present attendance rules c. provide briefing on OneDrive and Zoom functionality for course documents d. AOB	Introduction session I 1) Introduction of participants and their expectations => tour de 2) Environmental health issues and impact assessment: framing the problem; need for HIA as a tool/process for HiAP and SDGs incl. overview of the HIA process 3) Presentation of PBL case study scenario applied throughout all course lectures and for all work sheets Q&A
10.45-12.15 Session 2	Briefing and preparation session B a. introduce course content and structure b. present attendance rules c. provide briefing on OneDrive and Zoom functionality for course documents d. AOB	Introduction session II 4) Linking HIA and environmental assessments incl. international regulations (EU Directives, Espoo Convention & Protocol) Q&A
12.30-14.00 Practice sessions		Practice session in small groups, based on work sheet prepared by lecturer(s) Filled work sheets to be uploaded by end of working day for review and feedback
Tuesday, 8 November DAY 2 – Screening and scoping modules		Thursday, 10 November DAY 3 – Appraisal modules
9.00-10.30 Session 1	Screening and stakeholder analysis 5) Screening for health impacts, incl. pathway diagrams 6) Stakeholder analysis Q&A	Appraisal: assessment methods and approaches I 8) Appraisal/risk assessment in HIA Q&A
10.45-12.15 Session 2	Scoping and terms of references 7) Scoping and defining the terms of reference for the HIA/health assessment within the EA Q&A	Appraisal: assessment methods and approaches II 9) Using health assessments in environmental assessments, data, tools and approaches with practical examples Q&A
12.30-14.00 Session 3	Practice session in small groups, based on work sheet prepared by lecturer(s) Filled work sheets to be uploaded by end of working day for review and feedback	Practice session in small groups, based on work sheet prepared by lecturer(s) Filled work sheets to be uploaded by end of working day for review and feedback

Tuesday, 15 November DAY 4 - Resources and equity modules		Thursday, 17 November DAY 5 - Reporting and quality assurance modules
9.00-10.30 Session 1	Resources and tools 10) Data for health assessments- country examples Q&A	Stakeholders and communication aspects 12) Risk communication Q&A
10.45-12.15 Session 2	Environmental justice aspects 11) Environmental justice and inequalities Q&A	Reporting, quality review and good practice criteria 13) Reporting HIA results 14) Quality assurance review framework Q&A
12.30-14.00 Practice sessions	Practice session in small groups, based on work sheet prepared by lecturer(s) Filled work sheets to be uploaded by end of working day for review and feedback	Practice session in small groups, based on work sheet prepared by lecturer(s) Filled work sheets to be uploaded by end of working day for review and feedback

Tuesday, 22 November DAY 6 – HIA implementation / Role game preparation		Thursday, 24 November DAY 7 – Role game module / Final evaluation
9.00-10.30 Session 1	HIA implementation 15) Implementation theory and overview on HIA implementation across WHO Europe Q&A	Role game preparation • Preparation time to compile key points, arguments, etc. for following "public hearing"
10.45-12.15 Session 2	Way forward 16) Capacity and data needs for further implementation of HIA and integration of health in environmental assessments; 17) Steps and practical arrangements for further strengthening HIA and the health assessment in environmental assessments Q&A	Public hearing role game • Moderated public hearing on the PBL case study scenario • Hearing moderated by "mayor" • Statement by different stakeholders • Discussion • Council decision
12.30-14.00 Practice sessions	Role game preparation - Public hearing of your desk top HIA • Introduction of role game exercise/ provision of different roles (on remediating/redeveloping a CS) to different groups by WHO/course lead • Roles could be env department, health department, planning department, company representatives, local community group, independent expert, local business council, etc.) • Preparation time and reading of role game documents	Feedback and final test session <u>12.30-13.30:</u> • Feedback by participants on course design and content • Feedback by lecturers and coordinators • Final notes by WHO and certificate display <u>13.30-14.00:</u> • Optional final online test (multiple choice)

Annex 2: Course and certificate of attendance requirements

Application requirements

- 2-5 years of working experience in areas related to urban planning, environment and health.
- Availability for all course sessions (total workload ca. 40 hours)
- Participants must ensure they have appropriate internet access, and a microphone/speaker combination that allows for high-quality interaction during the Zoom sessions (e.g. USB headset).
- Note that Zoom will be used for the virtual course sessions. The OneDrive platform will be used for exchange of documents and course materials, including the upload of the work sheets after the practice sessions.
- Application for the 30 available course slots will have to be submitted by 9 September 2022. WHO will inform accepted applicants by 23 September of their participation.

Certificate of Attendance requirements

The below table shows the requirements for obtaining a formal certificate of attendance.

Course content	Required attendance	Required participation
1 preparatory session to brief participants about the course structure, logistics and the learning platform	Mandatory session, held on 20 October 2022, must be attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open camera • Full name indicated in the Zoom sessions • Active participation through chat function and questions
11 course sessions with lecturers (each 90 minutes)	At least 9 course sessions must be attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open camera • Full name indicated in the Zoom sessions • Active participation through chat function and questions
6 practice/self-learning sessions based on a task sheet to work on in small working groups (each 90 minutes)	At least 5 practice sessions must be attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active contribution through submitting at least 5 filled task sheets • Full name indicated in the Zoom sessions • Listed as active working group member on at least 5 task sheets which are assessed as “satisfactory” by the lecturer
3 role game sessions to provide a practical application of the course content as a final exercise	All 3 role game sessions must be attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active contribution to the role game preparation and implementation in all 3 sessions • Full name indicated in the Zoom sessions • Being listed as active contributor on the role model contribution (document or presentation)
1 final feedback session	Should be attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants to provide comments and feedback on the course
22 course sessions total	18 courses (80%) must be attended	Only courses with satisfactory level of contribution will be counted for attendance

Certificate of Training requirements

In addition to the requirements of the Certificate of Attendance described above, successful passing of 80% of the final test on 24 November 2022 is required.

Annex 3: Supervisor support form

Every application needs to include this form to indicate the support of the applicant's supervisor.

To the secretariat of the WHO Bonn School on Environment and Health

I hereby confirm my support to the course application of

[Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof] [Name of applicant]

for the capacity building course "Enhancing health impact assessment (HIA) across the WHO European Region"

I am aware that participation in the course will consist of a total of 7 course days taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.00–14:00 CET, spread over four weeks from 3 to 24 November 2022, and that it will include a preparation meeting on 20 October 2022 with mandatory participation either in the session from 9.00–10.30 CET or 10.45–12.15 CET.

[Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof] [Name of supervisor]

Signature of the supervisor

Date and stamp of the institution/organization