

Screening process of regional policies in the Basque Country (Spain)

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Why working on screening?

- ❑ Need of setting priorities to do HIA based on locally-tailored tools
- ❑ Regional level policies can benefit from a screening process (almost rapid HIA) => correct general bias at an early stage which can have important health impacts

Objective

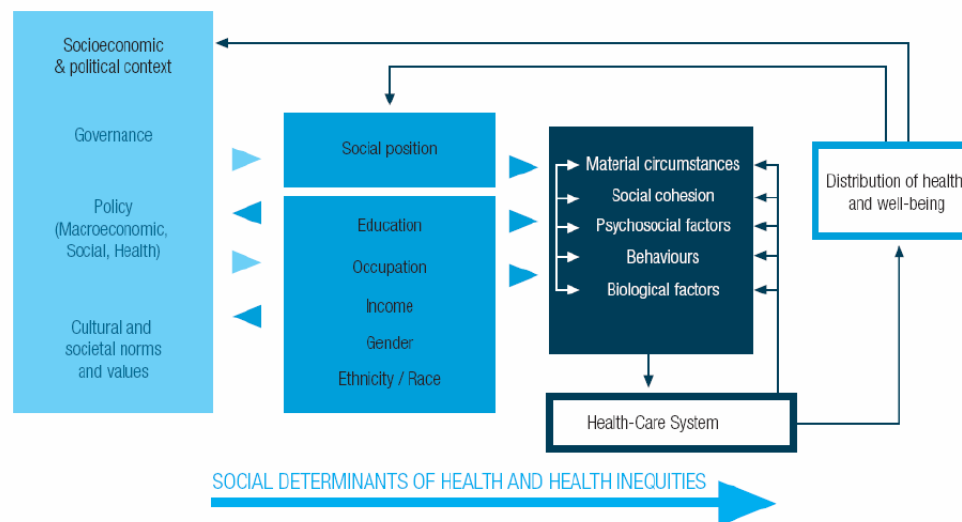
- ❑ As part of a validation study of a screening tool for non-health regional policies in the Basque Country,
- ❑ the aim is to describe the methodology and preliminary results of this screening process

Methodology

1. Development of a screening tool

- ❑ Existing screening tools were reviewed
- ❑ Designed a *checklist* based on the WHO Social Determinants of Health Model

Figure 1. Conceptual framework used by the Commission on Social Determinants of Health



Methodology

1. Development of a screening tool (2)

- Structured in 3 sections
 - Relevance of the intervention
 - Identification of health impacts
 - A decision grill about the need for a complete HIA

Methodology

2. Selection of interventions

- ❑ **Contacts with 3 departments of the Basque Government (political and technical levels) dealing with:**
 - Social welfare, housing, employment and transports
- ❑ **Information about policies was collected based on a questionnaire**
- ❑ **These were classified and typology of regional policies made according to**
 - type of determinant, target population, level of planning (strategic/tactic)
- ❑ **Policies were chosen for screening**
 - Making sure that they were as heterogeneous as possible in terms of the typology & they had not been implemented yet.



Methodology

3. Screening of selected interventions

- ❑ Non health professionals **conducted the screening** of their interventions on their own using the tool
- ❑ Participation in the **workshop** about social determinants of health, health inequalities and HIA
- ❑ Professionals and the HIA team jointly **conducted again the screening** of the interventions
- ❑ Two discussion groups with the professionals were conducted to **evaluate the whole process**



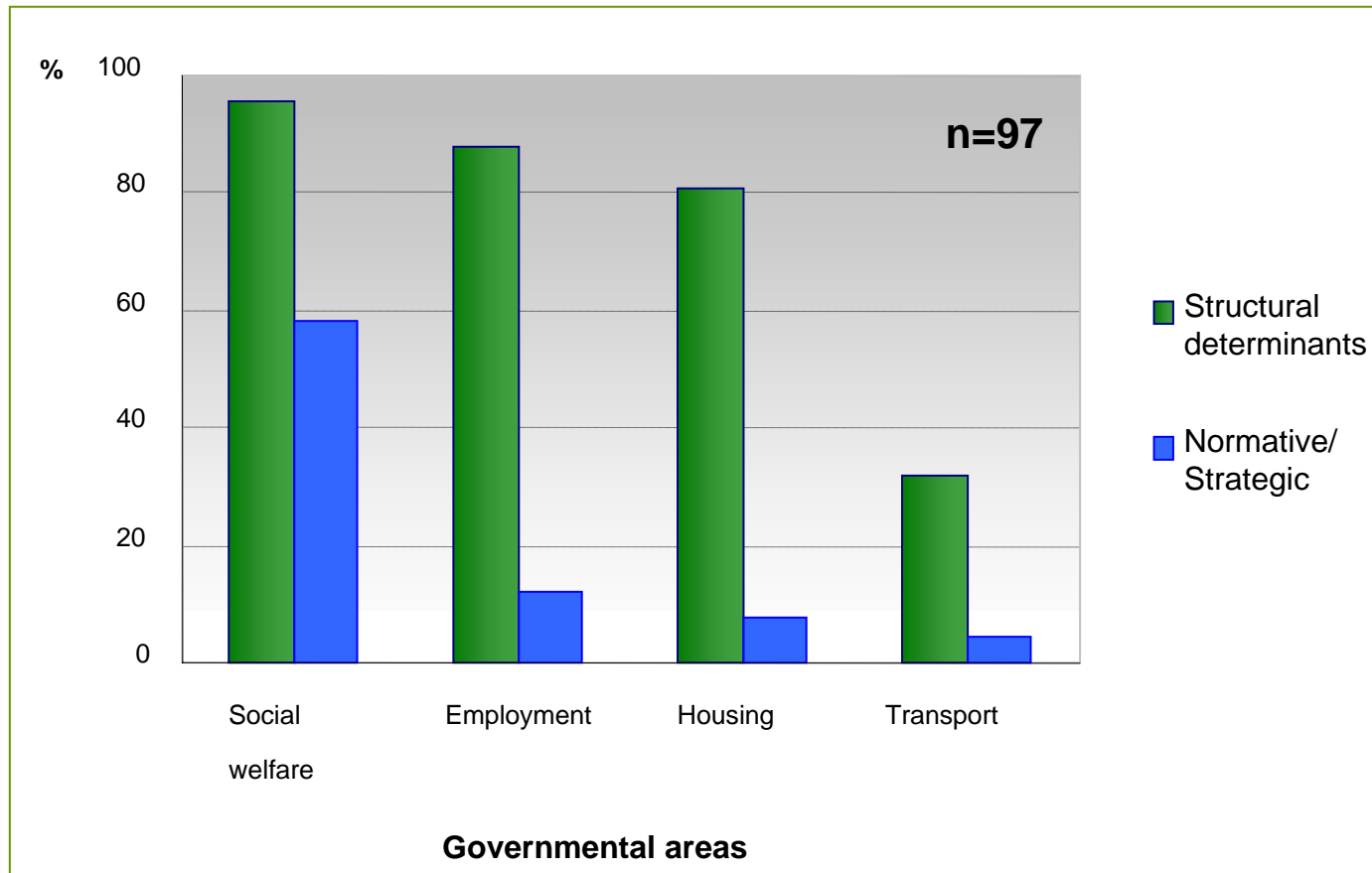
Results: the typology

Information about 97 policies was collected

	Structural determinants		Intermediate determinants		
	Whole population	Specific groups	Whole population	Specific groups	Total
Normative/Strategic	9	9	1	1	20
Tactic/Operational	12	44	10	11	77
Total	21	53	11	12	97
	74		23		

Results: the typology

Characteristics of the interventions, by areas



Results: the selection

1. **Housing** Plan 2006-2009
2. Economic support for organizations and social movements to promote **peace and human rights** in the Basque Country
3. **Transport Plan** for the Basque Country
4. Economic support for municipalities to **install elevators** or others in urban areas
5. Law to **support families**
6. Economic support for training and advice to promote **business initiatives**
7. Economic support for training in **social market economy**
8. Creation of the **Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents** Office in the Basque Country
9. Basic rule on rights and duties of **immigrants** living in the Basque Country
10. Interinstitutional Plan for **social inclusion** (2007-2009)
11. Economic support to regenerate **disadvantaged areas**
12. 5th Plan to prevent **drug dependency** (2004-2008)
13. Operational procedure for **heat waves and extreme temperatures**
14. 2nd Plan to promote social participation of the **gypsies** in the Basque Country

Results: screenings

14 screenings (almost rapid HIAs) were done:

- A short review of the evidence (relationship between the area of intervention and health)
- Identified impacts
- Preliminary set of recommendations in order to make the interventions healthier and more equitable. For example:
 - *Gender, disability-related and rural-urban inequities are not systematically considered*
 - *Identification of disadvantaged areas not always based on objective criteria (deprivation index)*
 - *Policymaking is not always based on detailed diagnosis of situation*
 - *Periodic evaluation of results and process of interventions is not systematically done to improve future designs*
- Suggestion for a complete HIA or not

Conclusions

Although validation study still in progress:

- Screening tool is useful to set priorities for HIA
- Useful also as a rapid HIA
- Non-health professionals' views of the process (based on two discussion groups' preliminary conclusions):
 - The social model of health was unknown but turned out to be useful to raise awareness on the impact of their working areas on health and health inequalities
 - The workshop and HIA team's attitude were judged as essential to gain skills and properly conduct the screening
 - The suggestions formulated were perceived as useful to improve their interventions but interdepartmental relation should be more fluent for effective implementation

**Thank you for your
attention!**

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