



Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid  
en Milieu  
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# Institutionalisation of HIA in the Netherlands

Process, outcomes, and lessons  
learnt



# Institutionalisation...

“the process of embedding something (for example a concept, a social role, a particular value or mode of behaviour) within an organisation, social system, or society as a whole” (wikipedia)

How was HIA embedded in the Netherlands and what can we learn from that process?

Let us take a closer look...





## HIA NL developed on a national level

- 1966 'general' health policy versus 'specific' health policy
- 1986 health in other policies ('facet' policy) as a strategy to improve the population's health
- 1994 facet policy implies development of HIA.
- 1995 installation 'Intersectoral Policy Office'. Assignments: develop HIA expertise AND carry out HIA





# Cooperation

## Ministry of Health – Intersectoral Policy Office

IPO	MHO
Screening	
Advice to MOH	
	decision on HIA
Scoping	
	Assignment
Commission HIA	
Report	
	Policy development

Research  
institute





## 25+ HIAs carried out 1996-2002

### Examples:

- Energy tax regulation (ecotax)
- High speed rail
- Tobacco policy
- Housing policy





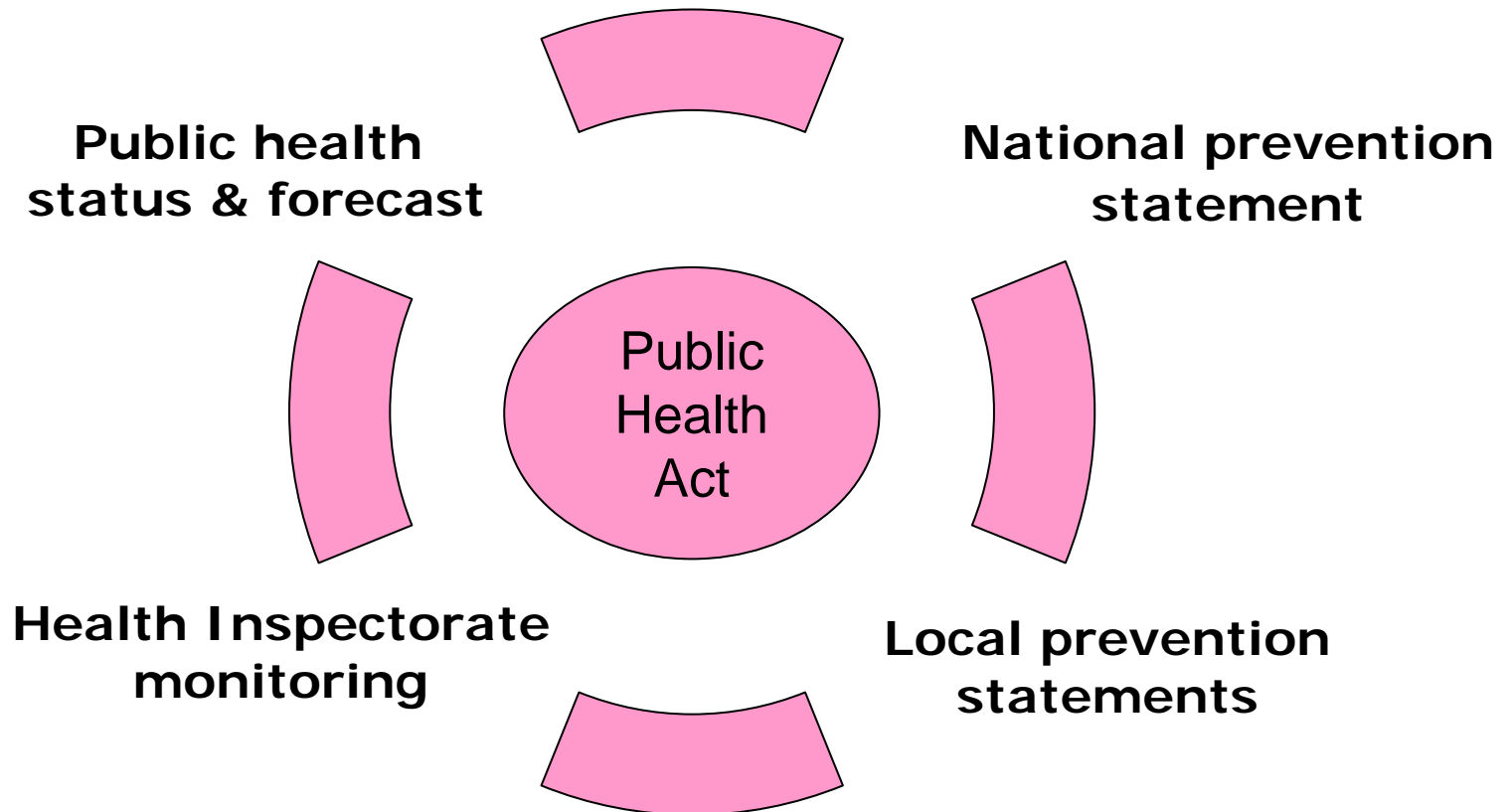
## HIA on local/regional level

- **Public Health Act (2002):** municipalities are obliged to consider health impacts of all municipal policies
- **City and Environment Act (2006):** temporary act that enables municipalities to carry out projects despite environmental regulations. HIA for city and environment was specifically developed.
- **Implementation of inclusion of health in EIA/SEA.** Development of training and tools suitable for EIA/SEA legal framework





# Prevention cycle





# Being healthy and staying healthy: a vision of health and prevention (2007)

- **Intersectoral cooperation is a 'must'**
- **Look for parallel interests**
- **Different actors and sectors as well as different policy levels should connect to one another**







## HIA on local level in practice

- Mainly in major cities
- Embedded in HiAP framework
- Positive attitude, yet need for practical advice
- Soft sectors are easiest to connect to





## Lessons learnt

- Joint ownership (HIA process)
- Changes in government needs and related structures occur
- Expert knowledge versus process management
- Legal requirements work best when combined with practical tools and support
- Networks and dissemination





Thank you for your attention!