

Can we tackle health inequalities in creating Healthier Public Policy with the Health Impact Assessment approach in Ireland? Reflections from a research project, HIA-IM.

Dr Monica O'Mullane

Abstract

This presentation will explore the potential of tackling health inequalities and systemic health inequities by applying the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) approach to local and national levels of policy development in Ireland. This potential will be discussed within the frame of an ongoing Health Impact Assessment project, *Development of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Implementation Model: Enhancing Intersectoral Approaches in Tackling Health Inequalities* (HIA-IM), funded by the Health Research Board Ireland. HIA is an established tool for assessing intended and unintended impacts of policies, programmes, plans or projects, endorsed by national public health policy *Healthy Ireland, 2013-2025*. This presentation will reflect on tackling health inequalities through HIA by discussing the HIAs planned to be carried out as part of HIA-IM, namely on the Cork City Development Plan and the national Climate Action Plan 2024. The project will create a Community Engagement Toolkit for HIA in Ireland, with a view to enhancing meaningful involvement of the public in HIAs in Ireland going forward. This toolkit will complement the HIA guidance published by the Institute of Public Health Ireland (IPH) in 2021. Findings of HIA-IM will inform the all-island roll-out of HIA by the IPH.

HIA-IM is co-hosted in UCC between the School of Public Health & ISS21

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