Implementing the Health in All Policies approach at the local level - experiences from Finland

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Long term development towards Health in All Policies in Finland

• In the early 1970’s focus on single health problems
  • Public health a political priority, primary health care, prevention
  • Need to influence determinants of health through other sectors
  • Work began with nutrition, smoking, accident prevention

• In 1980’s large scale programmes
  • Intersectoral health policy developed together with the WHO
  • National Health for All programme (1986)

• In 1990’s systematic work based on permanent structures
  • 1995 member of the EU
  • Advisory Board on Public Health since1997
  • Government resolution on Health 2015 Public Health Programme, adopted 2001

• In 2000’s HiAP and legislation
  • HiAP theme of the Finnish EU Presidency in 2006
  • Legislation on promotion of health and wellbeing in municipalities (2006 and 2010)
  • WHO 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Helsinki 2013, HiAP as the key theme

Taru Koivisto
Legislation on promotion of health and wellbeing in municipalities

• Every citizen’s right to health and wellbeing is stipulated by the Constitution (section 19, 1999): “The public authorities shall guarantee for everyone, as provided in more detail by an Act, adequate social, health and medical services and promote the health of the population.”

• The Local Government Act (section 1, 2015) further defines this municipalities’ role as follows: “Municipalities shall strive to promote wellbeing of their residents”.

• The concrete duties and tasks are stipulated in detail by the Health Care Act (2010), Social Welfare Act (2014) and many specific acts like the Child Welfare Act, the Youth Act etc.

• Health promotion is also regulated by legislation concerning infectious diseases, tobacco control, alcohol, etc.
Municipals role in implementing the HiAP

• Municipalities have the responsibility to protect and promote their inhabitants’ health and well-being.
• They promote health through a process of political commitment, institutional change, capacity-building, partnership-based planning and innovative projects.
Welbeing report - tool for management

- Support the planning, management and evaluation of the health and wellbeing promotion activities
  - Cross-sectoral process
  - Support the use of multisectoral knowledge
- Submitted annually to the municipal council and extensive report is given once during each council’s term of office
- An electronic version has been developed to support the process
2. Indikaattorien ja muun tiedon osoittama hyvinvointi


Conclusions based on data and other information scourses

Plan for next council’s term of office

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH
Multisectoral groups

- Role is to take care of concrete duties and tasks.
- The management of different sectors is represented in the group.
- The work of the wellbeing group can be supported by subgroups.
- The subgroups coordinate the implementation of the activities agreed in the wellbeing group and also prepare the tasks for the wellbeing group.
Incentives

- An additional incentive factor for the promotion of health and wellbeing to be included in the central government transfers to local government
- Specific to each individual municipality,
- Reflect the efforts made by the municipality to promote health and wellbeing.
- The factor would be determined by means of operational indicators measuring the municipalities’ health and wellbeing promotion performance in
  - management of health and wellbeing promotion
  - providing basic education
  - facilities for physical exercise
  - indicators reflecting the results and improvements achieved.
Tool to measure implementation of promotion of health and wellbeing - Health promotion capacity building

• Database describing municipalities' activities to promote their residents' health and wellbeing
• A focus is on organisations' ability to integrate health and welfare promotion in their basic activities in a way that generates health and welfare effects in the population.
• Nationwide data
• The data collections are continuously developed so that they can better support municipalities.
Some successes and challenges…

Monitoring indicators and health and welfare report

Ex ante assessment of decisions

(Health promotion capacity building, 2015)
Morbidity index data - Differences between Finnish municipalities and regions
Lessons from Finland

- Long term commitment and vision
- Public health capacity and expertise for advocacy - all levels
- Data
  - health and health determinants, analyses of the links between health outcomes, health determinants and policies
  - describing activities to promote health and wellbeing
  - linking the financial perspective
- Health literacy among public, policy-makers and civil servants in all sectors
- Intersectoral structures, processes and tools - all levels
- Co-operation - different forms
- Legislation
Thank you!

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