

## Policy integration tools and institutional arrangements in UNECE and WHO-Europe countries

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## Content

- importance/relevance of policy integration
- what is policy integration?
- current practice

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## WCED – Our Common Future (1987) 'Brundtland Report'



The challenges for institutional and legal change (p310):

"The integrated and interdependent nature of the new challenges and issues contrast sharply with the nature of the institutions that exist today. These institutions tend to be independent, fragmented, and working to relatively narrow mandates with closed decision processes."

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## Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)



Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production (para21):

"Promote an integrated approach to policy-making at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development, including policies and planning for land use, infrastructure, public transport systems and goods delivery networks, with a view to providing safe, affordable and efficient transportation, increasing energy efficiency, reducing pollution, congestion and adverse health effects and limiting urban sprawl..."

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## ECMT – Implementing sustainable urban travel policies: key messages for governments (2002)



### Establish a supportive national policy framework (Recommendation 1):

It is important that the national policy framework is 'internally coherent' (within the transport sector) and 'externally coherent' (integrated with sectors such as land use, environment, and finance)

### Coordinate national policy approaches on urban land-use, travel, health and the environment (Recommendation 2):

Coordination vertically among all levels of government, as well as horizontally among land-use, transport, environment and health sectors, is essential to realise sustainability objectives

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## Useful guides to policy integration



OECD – Building Policy Coherence (1996)

UK Cabinet Office – Wiring It Up (2000)

EEA – Environmental Policy Integration in Europe (2005)

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## Policy integration concerns...

- the management of cross-cutting issues in policy-making that transcend the boundaries of established policy fields
- issues that transcend the institutional responsibilities of individual departments
- the internal management of policy responsibility within a single organisation or sector
- horizontal integration (between different departments and/or professions in public authorities), vertical integration (between different tiers of government) or combinations of the two

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## Benefits of policy integration

- promoting synergies between policies
- reducing duplication
- reducing inconsistencies between policies
- maximising the effectiveness of policy and/or service delivery
- providing a framework to resolve potential sectoral conflicts

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## UNECE/WHO-Europe questionnaire survey

- joint accountability/responsibility and policy coordination
- intersectoral capacity and intersectoral relations
- integrated policy development
- integrated policy delivery (implementation)
- integrated policy assessment
- examples of policy documents that demonstrate integration between the transport, health and environmental sectors

17 replies received up the end of 2005

a further 7 replies received in January 2006

## 1. Joint accountability/responsibility and policy coordination

- interdepartmental committees, commissions, working groups and steering groups, such as:
  - interdepartmental commission for sustainable development
  - interdepartmental local transport, health and environment committee
  - interdepartmental steering committee for environment and health
- intersectoral programmes, such as:
  - intersectoral programme for national health action plan

## 2. Intersectoral capacity and intersectoral relations

- human resource policies (e.g. job rotation) rarely used to provide intersectoral experience
- specialisation and 'sectoralisation' of professions
- fragmentation of tasks and policy
- management structures to promote cross-cutting issues, such as:
  - ministries containing a unit responsible for sustainable development
  - some Local Agenda 21 initiatives at the local level

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## 3. Integrated policy development

- integrated national strategies (some contain targets for transport, environment and health):
  - national sustainable development plans / strategies
  - climate change strategies
- mechanisms to anticipate, detect and/or resolve conflicts between policies:
  - strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
  - health impact assessment (HIA)
- mechanisms to involve other sectors in the policy-making process:
  - committees, commissions, working groups and steering groups, plus various types of internal and external policy consultation processes
- limited number of examples of mechanisms for benchmarking or exchanging good practice

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#### 4. Integrated policy delivery (implementation)

- no examples of financial allocation systems that promote the integration of policies
- few examples of interdepartmental or inter-agency teams responsible for policy implementation
  - Local Agenda 21 initiatives sometimes involve intersectoral teams responsible for policy implementation at the local level

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#### 5. Integrated policy assessment

- mechanisms for the cross-sectoral monitoring and assessment of policies and programmes – mainly ex-ante techniques, such as:
  - strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
  - health impact assessment (HIA)
  - regulatory impact assessment (RIA)
- fewer examples of ex-post cross-sectoral monitoring and assessment mechanisms
  - ex-post evaluation of strategies or plans relating to climate change and/or sustainable development
  - ex-post evaluation of environment and health action plan
  - 3-stage ex-post evaluation of plans, programmes or projects (Finnish Road Administration)

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## 6. Policy documents that demonstrate integration

- main types of examples:
  - sustainable development strategies or plans
  - documents more specific to two sectors (e.g. strategies, programmes or action plans for health and environment)

## Next steps...

- this workshop
  - experience
  - transferability
  - barriers
  - lessons
- project report
  - aimed at central and local government officials
  - overview of current practice
  - supportive conditions, bottlenecks and common lessons
  - issues of transferability
  - possible capacity-building activities as a follow-up to the project

Thank you