

HIA and decision-making processes

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François Benoit
National Collaborating
Centre for Healthy Public
Policy

- What is public policy?
- The role of evidence in policy making
- Facilitating the use of scientific knowledge by policy makers
- Different uses of scientific knowledge
- Conclusion

Setting the context

The purpose of HIA is twofold:

1. Estimate the potential effects of a proposed policy or project

2. Influence and support the decision making process



Public Policy: Definition

« Public policy consists of political decisions for implementing programs to achieve societal goals » (Charles, L. et al, 2001)

« Public policy is the outcome of the struggle in government over who gets what »
(Clarke et al, 2001)

Relies on compromises between multiple and sometimes conflicting interests

complex process ...

The considerations to take into account when making policy choices can be vast. These schemas (see the links below) illustrate the enormous complexity that sometimes accompanies the search for the best option.

This was presented to American military generals in the context of the war in Afghanistan.

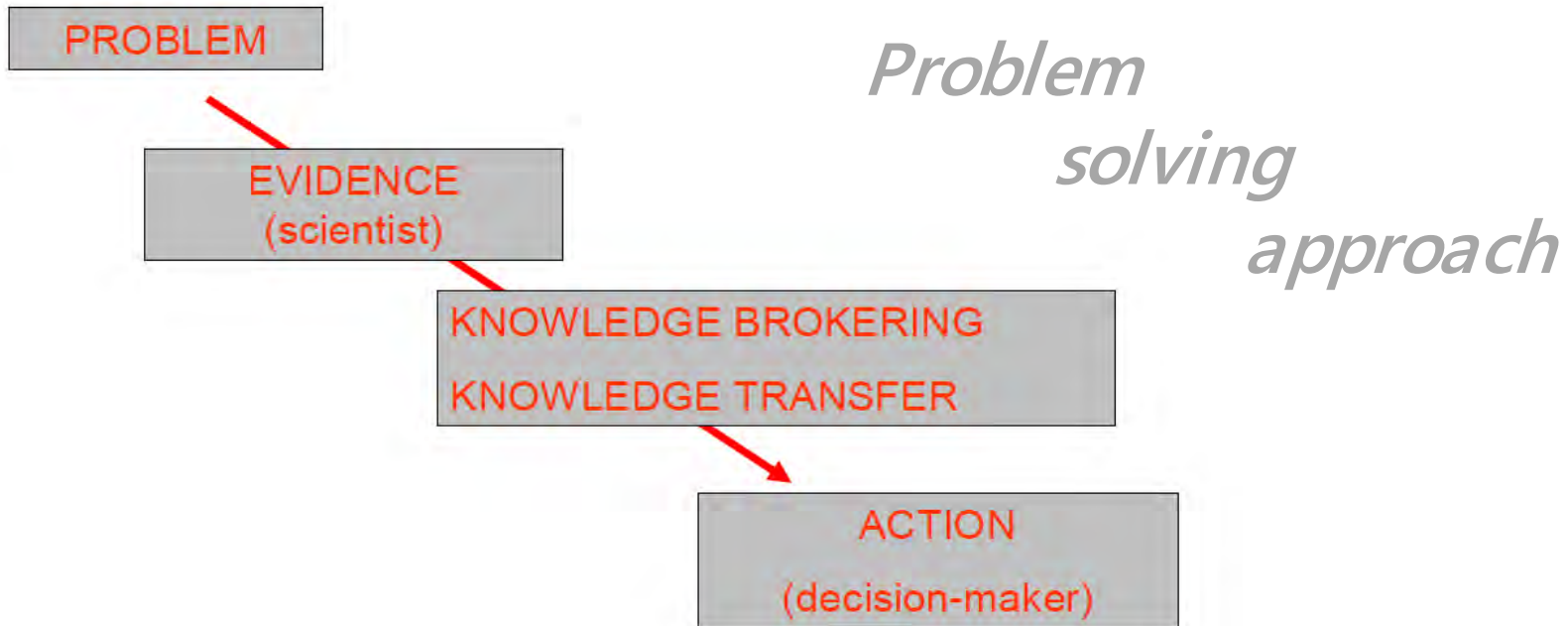
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/apr/29/mcchrysal-afghanistan-powerpoint-slide>

This illustrative conceptual map tracing the determinants of the obesity epidemic.

<http://www.shiftn.com/obesity/Full-Map.html>

... not always rational and linear

Figure 1: The dominant view of policy-making in health sciences: from evidence to policy
(Fafard, P., 2008)



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The 7 kinds of KNOWledge in Policy

Know-about the problem

Know-what works

Know-how to put into practice

Know-who to involve

Know-when to act

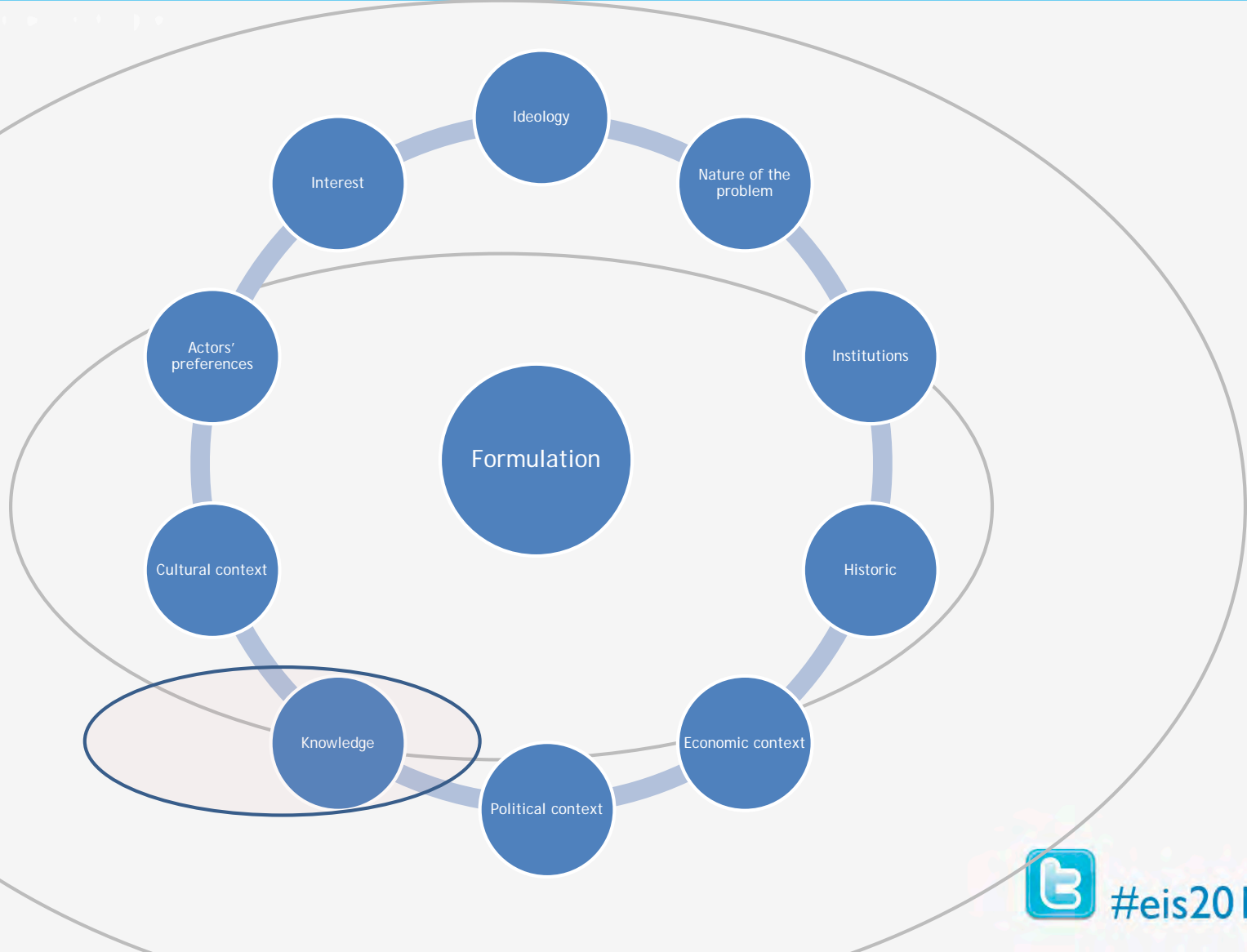
Know-where to distribute resources

Know-why people act: symbolism, values, politics, ethics

(Adapted from Nutley et al, 2002)



Knowledge among other influences





EIS2012

Two communities



Framing

Accountability

Timeline

Type of knowledge

Format



(Caplan, 1979)





- **Individual characteristics of the producer and the knowledge broker:** Credibility
- **Match between the needs and the knowledge provided:** Relevance; good timing
- **Involvement of the users in the development process of the knowledge:** Interaction, co-construction of knowledge
- **Quality of the knowledge produced:** Rigour, transparency
- **Quality of the communication of the results:** Plain language

(Choi et al, 2005; Innvaer et al, 2002; Landry, 2007; Lavis et al, 2005; Lemire et al, 2009)

Conditions of success of the utilization of the HIA results

- Wismar and Blau (2009) (22 HIAs in European countries)
Taking into account the values and goals of other sectors -
quality of communication between partners (constructive
dialogue)
- Haigh et al (2012) (55 HIAs in Australia and New Zealand)
Involvement of decision makers - intersectoral approach -
learning
- Pollack et al (2012) (60 HIAs in United States)
Inclusive approach - balanced assessment - transparency

Various forms of knowledge utilization

Instrumental (or direct)

Conceptual (or indirect)

Symbolic (or strategic)

(Caplan, 1979; Weiss, 1999; Lemire et al, 2010)

In summary

Public policy is the result of compromise and does not always rely on a rational process

Knowledge produced by the HIA is balanced with other types of information in a context of diverse values and interests

HIA can be seen as an opportunity for knowledge brokering

There are several forms of knowledge utilization

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