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Evaluation of HIA practice as applied to Québec land use planning and development projects (Measure 2.6, PGPS)

*Seminar on the evaluation of health impact assessments (HIAs)
Approaches and experiences in France, Switzerland and Québec*

Marc Lemire, October 15, 2019

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Presentation outline

1. Context of the evaluation
2. Approach and methodology*
3. Main lessons so far

- As presented to the mandating agency, the MSSS, in September 2019. Subject to changes.

1) Context of the evaluation

- Politique gouvernementale de prévention en santé (PGPS, 2016)
 - Plan d'action interministériel 2017-2021 (PAI)

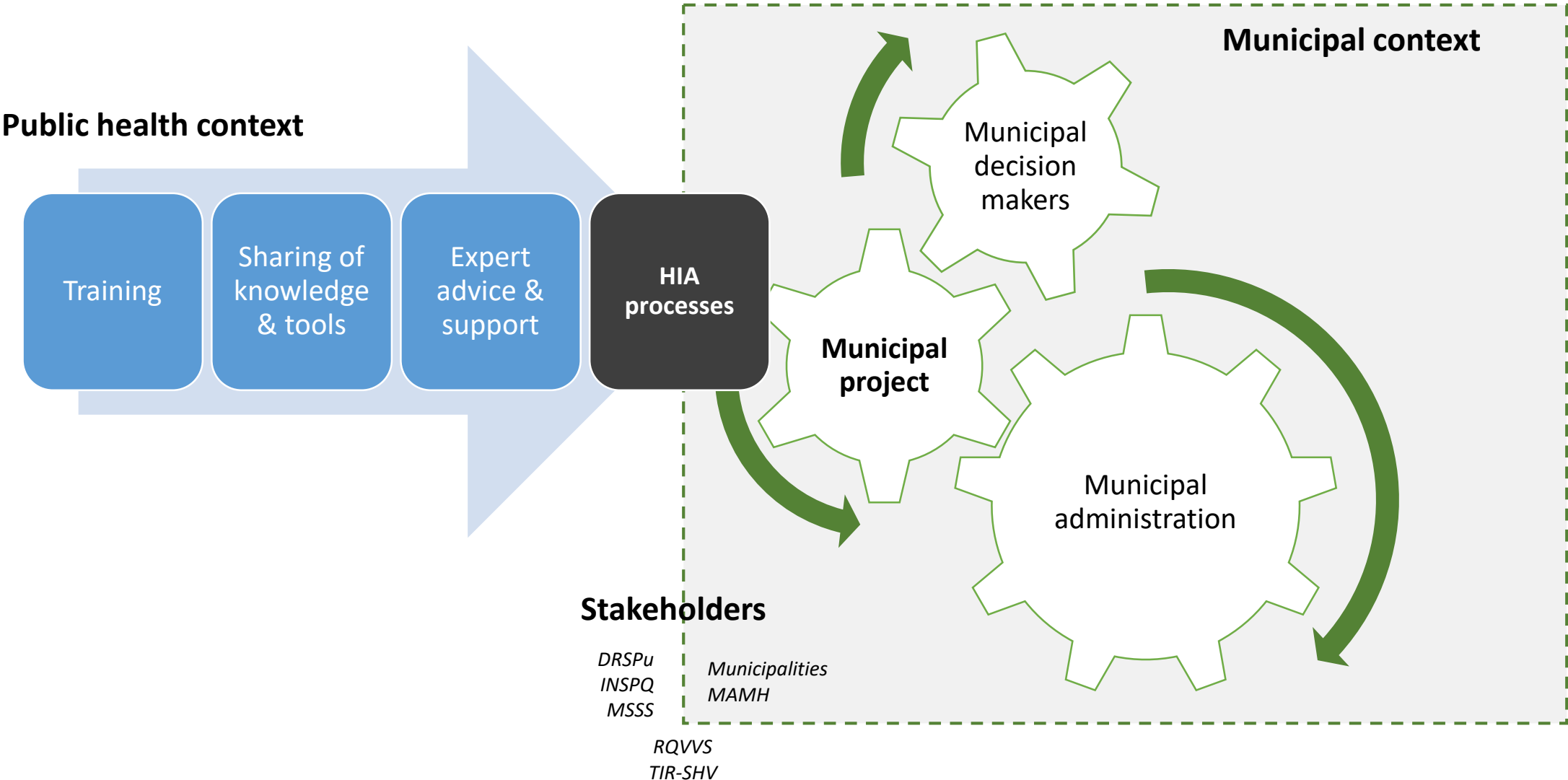
Measure 2.6: *Equip the municipal sector to more systematically integrate the analysis of potential health effects into land use planning and development processes*



HIA practice is at the heart of measure 2.6

- Financial support allocated to regional health authorities (DRSPu) to support them in conducting HIAs in municipal contexts
- On the basis of 3 calls for proposals, approx. 20 HIA processes expected by 2021 (first call: 8 HIA processes)
- Examples of projects:
 - Land use and development plan (LDP)
 - Metropolitan land use development plan (MLDP)
 - Special planning program (SPP)
 - Revitalization plan

Operational illustration of measure 2.6



Logic model of measure 2.6

Measure 2.6: Equip the municipal sector to more systematically integrate the analysis of potential health effects into land use planning and development processes

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term effects	Medium-term effects	Long-term effects
Human resources					
Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) (department of health and social services)	Conducting of HIAs on land use planning and development projects	Production of HIA reports and recommendations	Strengthening of collaborative ties between public health and municipal actors participating in HIAs	Strengthening of a culture of intersectoral action among public health teams and municipalities	Sustainable integration of HIA practice into the decision-making processes of local and supralocal municipalities in Québec
Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'habitation (MAMH) (department of municipal affairs and housing)		Training content adapted to HIA in the Québec municipal context			
Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) (Québec public health institute)	Provision of support and expert advice to DRSPu conducting HIAs	A guide to HIA in the Québec municipal context, including an operational methodology	Capacity building among public health and municipal actors having collaborated on conducting HIAs	Integration of HIA into service offer of public health teams, adapted according to regional variabilities	
Directions régionales de santé publique (DRSPu) (regional health authorities)		Training in HIA			
Municipalities and municipal agencies	Development and updating of knowledge	Framework for analyzing health determinants adapted to land use planning and development in the Québec municipal context	Acceptability and satisfaction, among municipal actors involved, with respect to application of HIA to land use planning and development projects	Use of knowledge drawn from HIA experiences, by relevant municipal actors or their teams when implementing projects or making any decisions connected to land use development in their territory	
Réseau québécois des villes et villages en santé (RQVVS) (Québec network of healthy cities and towns)	Development and updating of tools and reference frameworks	Tools and reference framework adapted to HIA in the Québec municipal context			
Tables intersectorielles régionales en saines habitudes de vie (TIR-SHV) (regional intersectoral tables for healthy living)	Promoting of tools among municipal agencies	Fact sheets on HIA and the built environment	Increased understanding, among relevant municipal actors, of the determinants of health, social inequalities in health and the health impacts of their land use planning and development projects		
Informational resources	Networking among regional health authorities, aimed at sharing experiences and knowledge	Collaboration and exchange structures, including a community of practice			
Community health portrait and data	Development of academic and international collaborations	INSPQ web page (resource database) and MAMH web page (repertoire of tools)	Use of recommendations in municipal projects having benefited from an HIA		
Knowledge and evidence related to HIA practices and land use planning and development		Documentation of HIAs and recounting of experiences			Narratives of experiences related to land use planning development
Financial resources					
Funding of measure as part of the PGPS	Evaluation of HIA practice	Evaluation report on the practice of HIA in the Québec municipal context			

Government policy on health prevention

Objective 2-2: Reduce health risks associated with the environment, transportation and land use planning and development

Measure 2.6, expected benefits: A greater number of municipal agencies integrating health impact assessment into their decision making process

Target 2: Ensure that 90% of municipalities with 1000 or more inhabitants adopt measures to develop communities that promote safety, sustainable mobility, healthy living and a high quality of life among their residents



Evaluation objectives

1. Assess **the relevance, feasibility and acceptability of HIAs** from the standpoint of the actors participating in them
2. Analyze HIA processes to identify the key **factors influencing** their implementation
3. Identify the **necessary conditions** for undertaking and successfully conducting HIAs in the context of land use planning and development projects

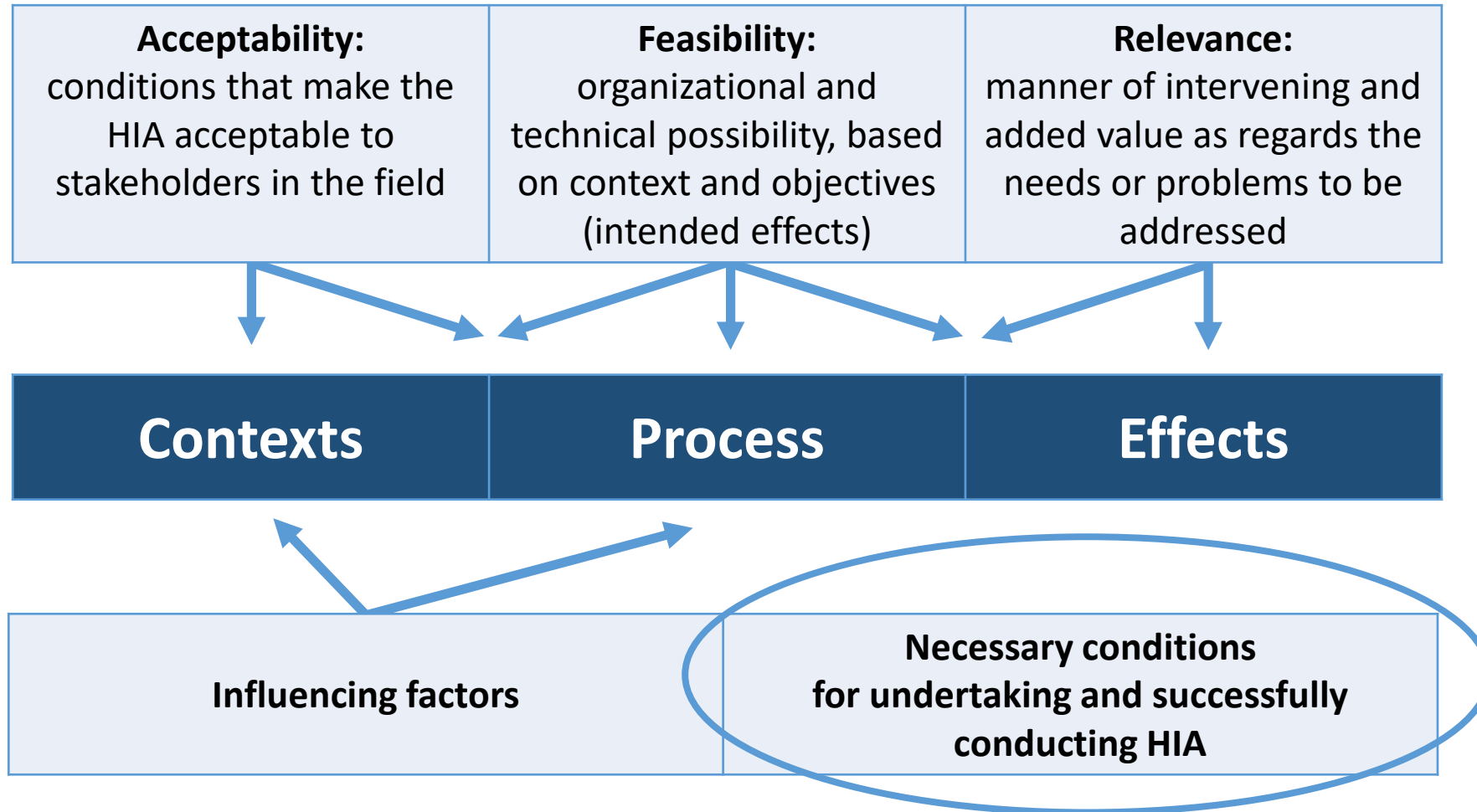
2) Approach and methodology

Evaluation of implementation

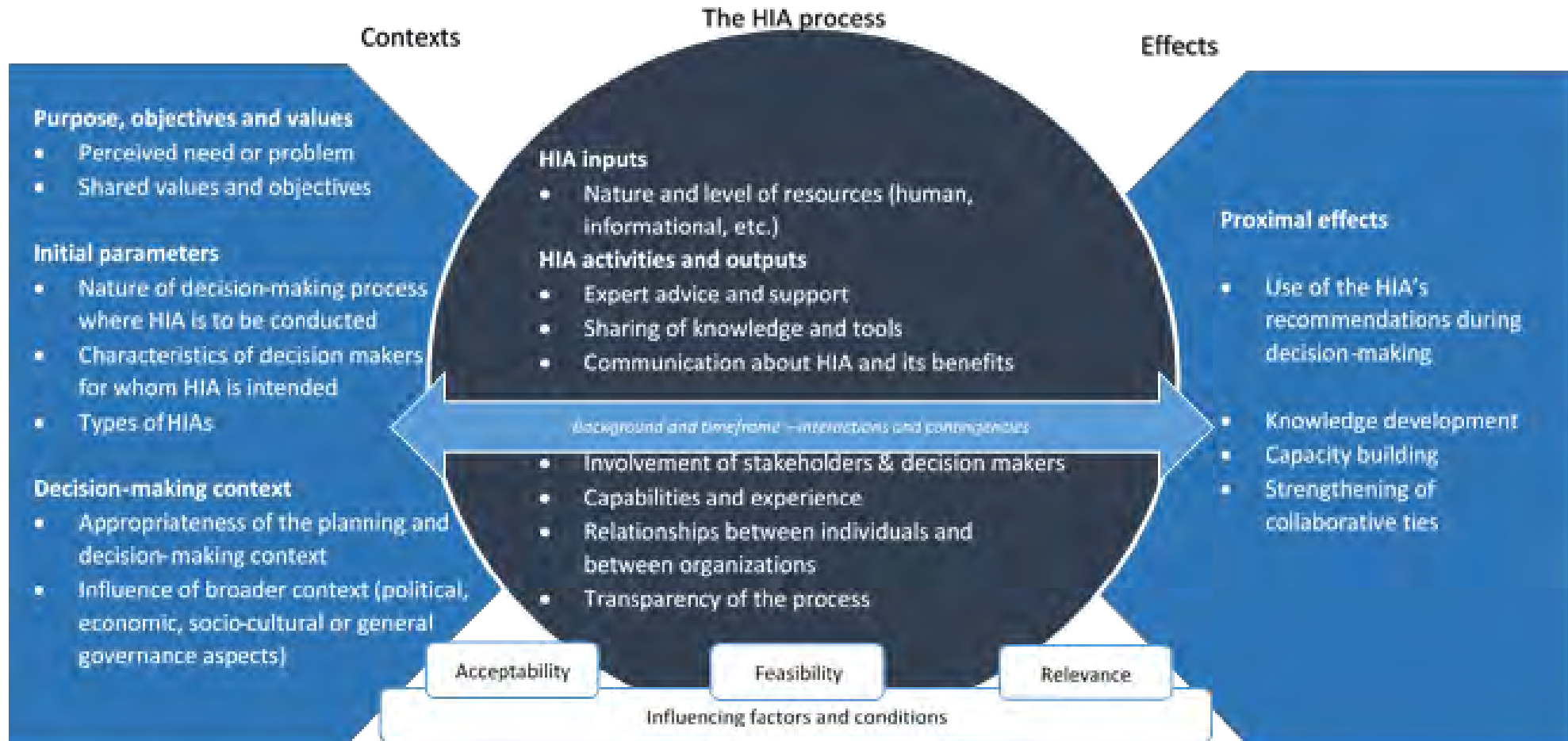
Focused on the practice of HIA as applied to land use planning and development projects

- **The approach** is primarily inductive (Miles & Huberman, 2003), but is also informed by a realist approach (Pawson & Tilley, 1997) and, partially, by a participatory approach (Weaver & Cousins, 2004; Patton 2002)
- **Mixed** collection and analysis methods (quantitative and qualitative)

Evaluative issues



Analytical framework



Adapted from Haigh, F., Harris, E., Harris-Roxas, B., Baum, F. & al. (2015).

Mixed collection and analysis methods (quantitative and qualitative)

- Documentation of process (n=all approaches)
- Self-administered questionnaires (n=all approaches)
twice (T0 and T1) for longitudinal analysis
- Local or supra-local discussion groups (n=3 approaches)
for a more in-depth look at issues
- Mixed discussion group (n=1 meeting)
to address issues in a cross-cutting manner and from a national perspective

Evaluative issues and collection methods

	Documentation of processes (n=all approaches)	Self-administered questionnaires T0 and T1 (n=all approaches)	Discussion groups	
			local or supra-local (n=3)	mixed (n=1)
Context	✓			
Activities and processes	✓	✓	✓	✓
Relevance		✓	✓	✓
Feasibility		✓	✓	✓
Acceptability		✓	✓	✓
Influencing factors	✓	✓	✓	✓
Necessary conditions		✓	✓	✓

3) Main lessons so far

- Challenge of understanding an intervention that is gradually being implemented and defined
- Challenge of producing documentation aligned with and complementary to evaluation process
- Challenge of evaluating a practice conducted by professionals learning how to implement it, in regions experimenting with it