

Health impact assessment (HIA)

Current situation in Swiss cantons

Presentation based on the work of Catherine Favre Kruit (Health Promotion Switzerland) and Claudia Kessler (Public Health Services)

Seminar on the evaluation of HIAs: Approaches and experiences in France, Switzerland and Québec | October 15, 2019, Montreal

Thierno Diallo
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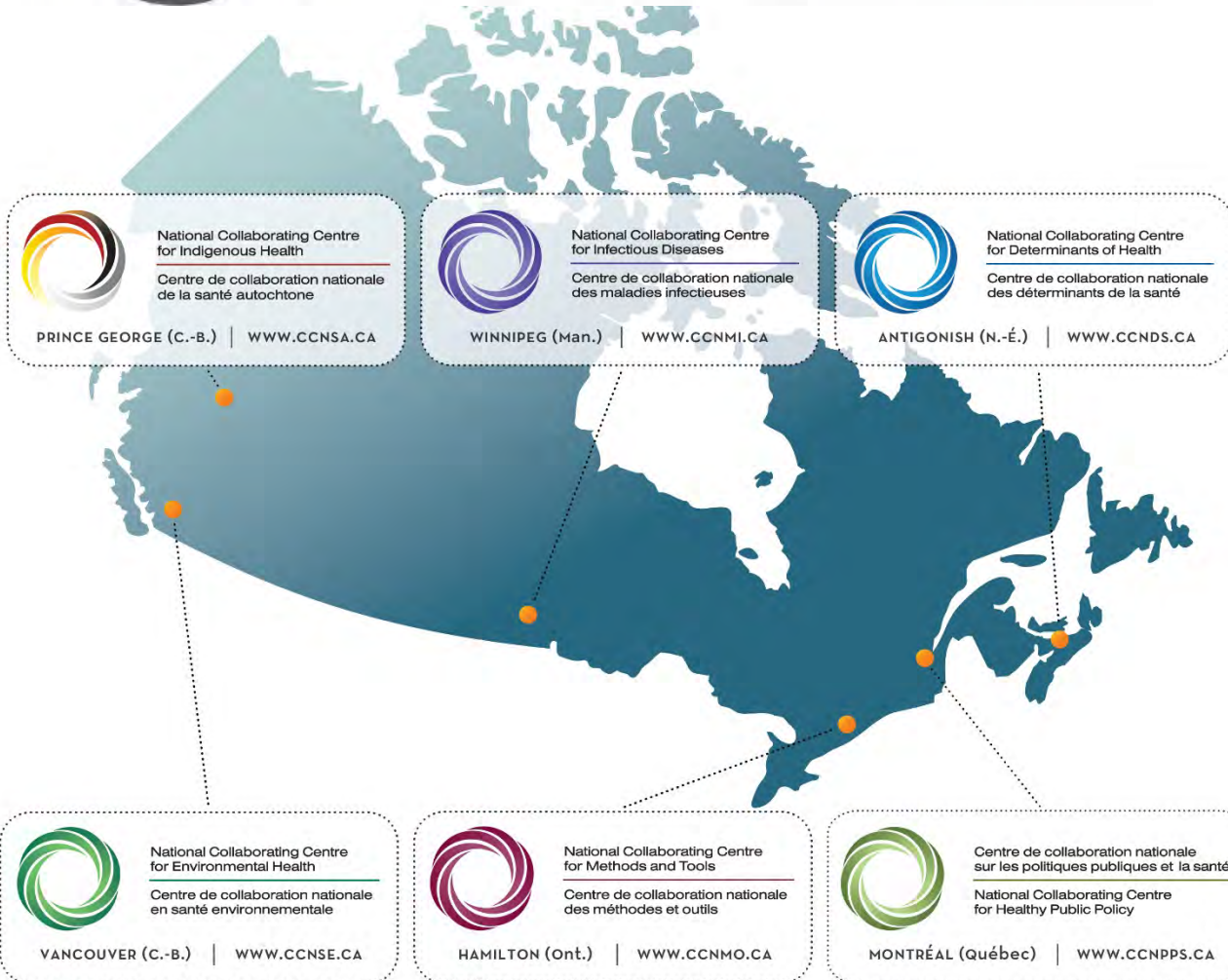
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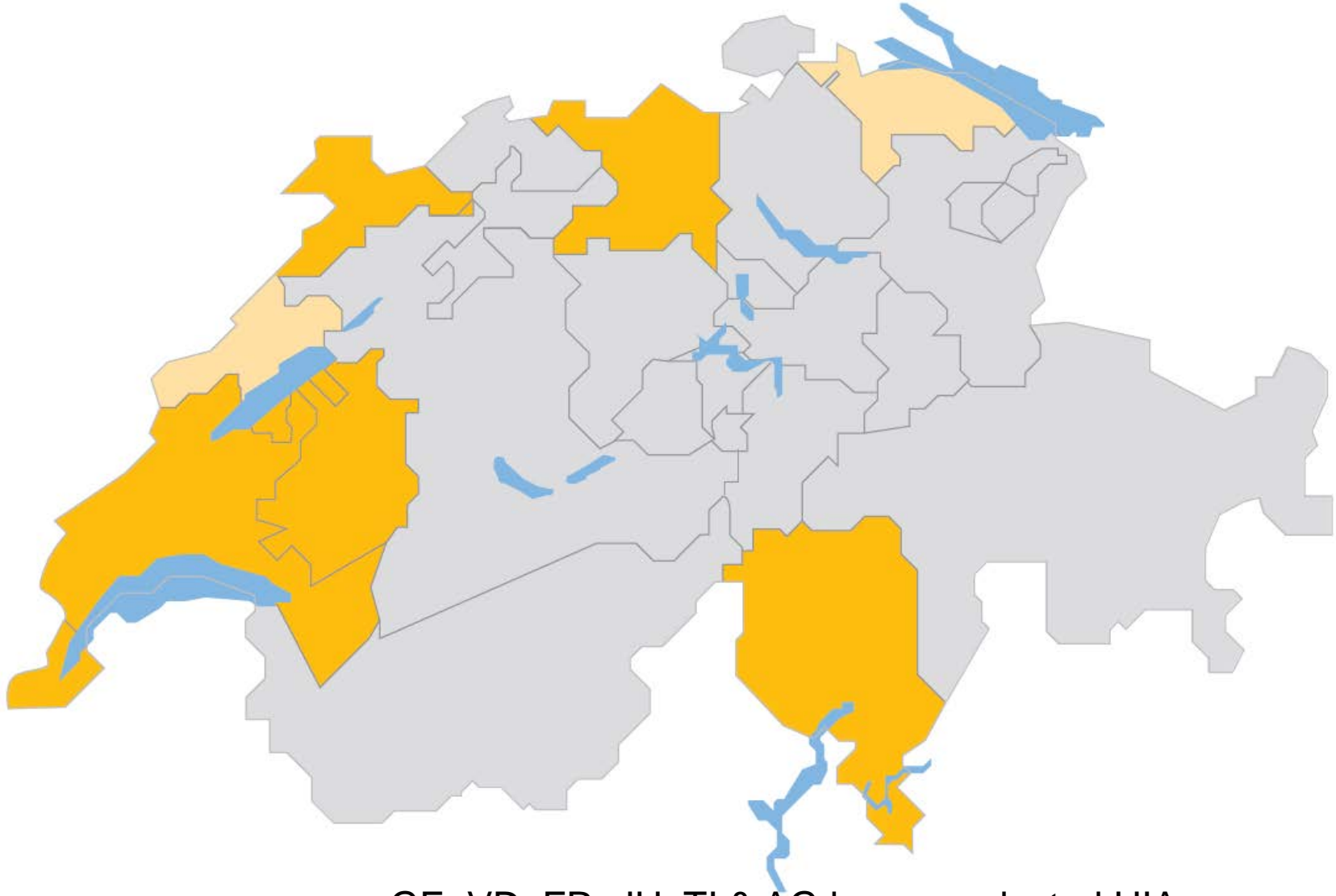


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Context




GE, VD, FR, JU, TI & AG have conducted HIAs



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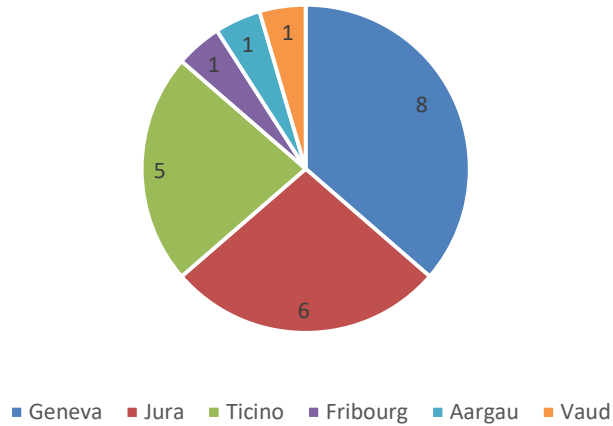
HIA - Synthesis of cantonal situation

	Legal basis exists	Entrenched in Gov. doc. and/or integrated with other instrument	Application of HIA to PPP	Areas of application	Linked to other impact assessments
Geneva	Yes (2006)	HIA-SEA	Yes	In & outside health	SEA
Jura	No	Juragenda 21 (2002)	Yes	Outside health	SD
Ticino	No	Cantonal guidelines (2004-2007)	Yes	In & outside health	No
Vaud	No	SCPPS (2008-2012)	Yes	In & outside health	No
Fribourg	Yes (1999)	SD (2011)	Yes	Outside health	SD
Neuchâtel	No	P.dir PPS (2009)	No	No	No
Aargau	No	No	Yes	Health	No

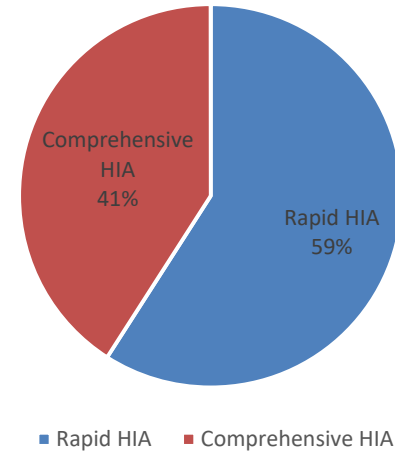


Some basic data

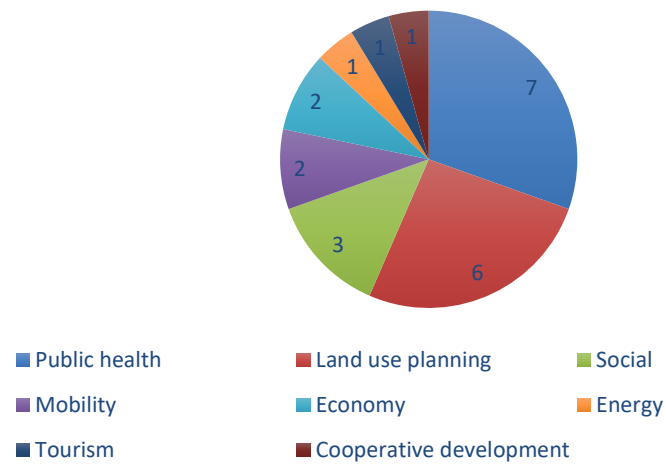
No. of HIAs by canton, 2001-2014



Cantonal HIAs by Type



No. of HIAs by Sector, 2001-2014



Objectives

- To get a precise idea of:
 - ✓ **the current situation at the cantonal level** regarding understanding and perception of the concept of HIA
 - ✓ its **implementation**
 - ✓ **obstacles** preventing broader application of the approach
 - ✓ its **potential for use** in the context of a multisectoral health policy
- Determine the potential for using this tool either as a **specific instrument** or **integrated** within another IA tool



Methodological approach

- Analysis of the published literature (international and national)
- Analysis of unpublished reports by Swiss actors
- Survey of cantonal officials (electronic survey, interviews with key informants, discussions with selected focus groups)
- Triangulation and validation of results
- Duration of work: **June 2014 to February 2015**. Report published in May 2015



Analysis of the literature

- **Analysis of the international literature**
 - ✓ Established comparisons with Switzerland and drew on lessons learned abroad
 - ✓ Searched via PubMed and Google Scholar for the 2010 to 2014 period
 - ✓ Compiled list of references supplemented by experts in the field
 - ✓ Identified approx. 60 publications (EN, FR, SP)
 - ✓ Integrated nine publications issued before 2010 due to their importance
- **Analysis of the national literature**
 - ✓ Period selected: 2004 – 2014
 - ✓ Integrated all documents and publications produced by the Swiss HIA Association and available on its site
 - ✓ Identified other documents via exchanges with respondents



Surveyed key informants

- **3 categories of respondents**
 - ✓ Cantonal actors having recently conducted an HIA (**C1**)
 - ✓ Cantonal actors having participated in the past in an HIA (**C2**)
 - ✓ Actors in cantons where no HIA has yet been conducted (**C3**)
- **Focus groups**
 - ✓ Half-day discussions
 - ✓ C1 actors
- **Interviews and discussions with key informants (C2)**
 - ✓ In person
 - ✓ By phone
- **Electronic survey**
 - ✓ 30 sent (C3)
 - ✓ Approximately 50% response rate



Validation & limitations

Validation

- Swiss HIA Association committee
- Directors within Health Promotion Switzerland
- Officials within the FOPH

Limitations

- Concentrated on cantons
- Focused on representatives of health departments



Some Results



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Added value and use of results of HIA

- Promotion and strengthening of intersectoral collaboration
- Awareness regarding health determinants raised in other sectors
- Flexibility of the tool – prompts actors and decision makers to ask themselves the right questions
- Diminishment of the ideological aspect of certain areas of intervention
- Possibility of choosing cost-effective strategies from among the options assessed
- Usefulness of beginning with a pilot phase and case studies to demonstrate the AV of the tool and gain acceptance
- Responds to the population's fears and also points authorities toward avenues of reflection for overcoming certain obstacles
- Production of a rationale to assist gov't decision making
- ...



Implementation difficulties and challenges

- Assessment still viewed as a sanction
- HD approach and its intersectoral dimension not well known outside of the health sector
- HIA viewed as specifically a public health process – difficulty having tool adopted by other departments
- Sectoral logic determines operation of some administrations
- Absence of legal basis at national level – no clear position on HIAs at policy level
- Insufficient budgetary allocation
- Weak participatory dimension
- HIA expertise mainly restricted to a limited number of experts
- Personnel turnover in departments
- ...



Lessons learned

- HIA experiences concentrated in French-speaking cantons and in Ticino
- Level at which the tool should optimally be entrenched remains to be clarified
- Expertise concentrated in French areas of Switzerland
- The nature of the issue being analyzed should determine which tool to choose
- Good intersectoral collaboration is a key success factor for HIAs
- An HIA should not end with the publication of its report
- Successful examples of HIA carried out in cantons should be better known – resources needed to support better documentation of HIA processes and capitalize on their use
- ...




Current situation - 2019

- Scientific working group piloted by the University of Geneva
- Political working group piloted by the former president of the Swiss HIA Association
- Health Promotion Switzerland coordinates between the two structures

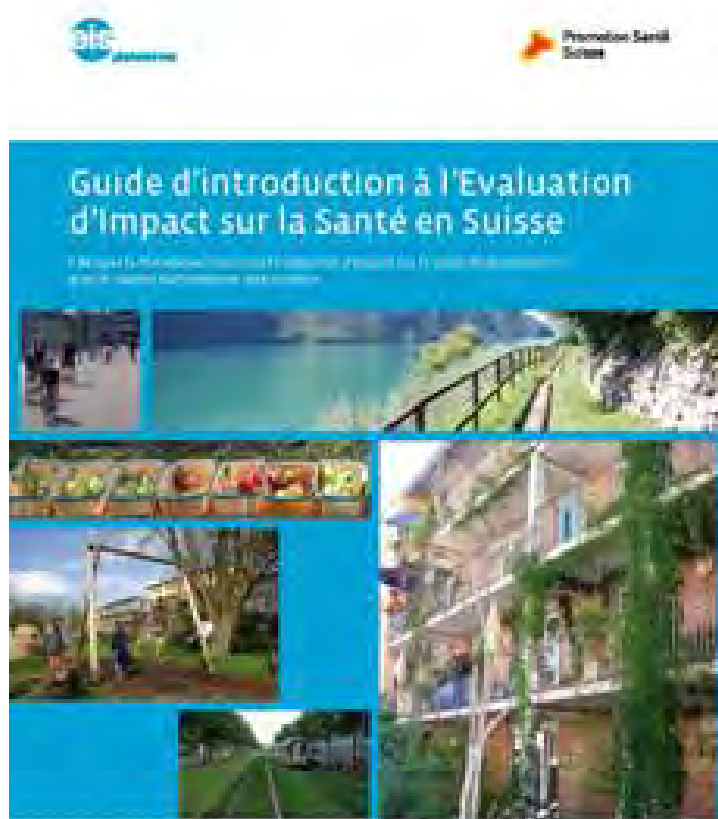


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Publications on the HIA platform



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Acknowledgements

- **Catherine Favre Kruit**, Health Promotion Switzerland
- **Claudia Kessler**, Public Health Services
- **Jean Simos**, University of Geneva



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Thank you!



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Reference

Favre Kruit, C., Kessler, C. (2015). *Évaluation d'impact sur la santé. État des lieux au niveau cantonal en Suisse*. Bern and Lausanne, Switzerland. Promotion Santé Suisse, Document de travail 33.



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Production of this presentation was made possible through a financial contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada in the form of funding for the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP). The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

