

Recommendations for Locally Tailored Interventions

KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY MAKING

REPOPA PROJECT EVIDENCE BRIEF no. 2

a document for policymakers & researchers

STATEMENT

Policymakers often have a hard time to find and apply research evidence in their real life contexts, which are loaded with different stakeholders, priorities and values. So far there has been rather little research on interventions to support policymaking in balancing these different kinds of evidence and information. REPOPA took this challenge and developed and implemented locally tailored interventions.



WORKING IN LOCAL CONTEXT

The EU funded REPOPA project operates in 6 European Union countries and Canada, and aims to incorporate evidence and expert insight into the development of health promoting policies.

From the literature, we know that the integration of evidence and knowledge in policy making is crucial. We also know that context plays an important role, when finding out how to do this integration best. Hence, it is important start with local needs when planning to facilitate knowledge integration in physical activity policy making.

How can knowledge integration be facilitated in physical activity policy making?

STEWARDSHIP APPROACH

Based on local needs, context and policy maker/researcher collaboration, seems to create change in working patterns



- Needs and values
- Cross-sectoral action
- Structural changes
- Attention to vulnerable groups
- Equal and participatory approach

1 NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Start by performing a needs assessment.

Interviewing the policy stakeholders on current procedures and experienced needs and barriers in relation to knowledge use is one way to do this. Use this information to identify the main needs for the knowledge integration process.

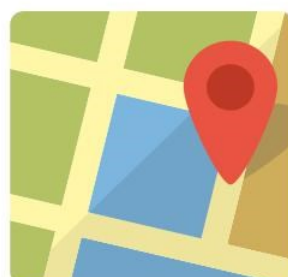
This can be demonstrated through the facilitation of a systematic policy process, access to knowledge synthesis, or facilitation of an cross-sectoral approach.

Plan the knowledge integration intervention according to the local needs identified

2 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Interventions work differently in different contexts.

Hence, it is important to know which context the knowledge integration intervention will be implemented in. Do a context analysis based on relevant documents and interviews and get information on the community characteristics, such as the political system, health status, etc.



Plan the knowledge integration intervention according to the context identified

3 COLLABORATION



A close collaboration between policy makers and researchers will give the opportunity for knowledge integration on a daily basis.

This can be achieved through discussions to develop knowledge synthesis.

Establish an equal relationship between policy makers and researchers to facilitate easy knowledge integration

4 CHANGE



The intervention can increase the access, requests and use of research knowledge and decrease the barriers for using research knowledge in policy making.

Stakeholder groups can become more aware, more active, more open to values of others. It can be a challenge to balance the scope of the intervention with often limited time resources among the participants.

A certain scope of the intervention (time and resources) is recommended for providing sustainable results!

What is REPOPA?

REPOPA is a project funded by the European Commission that brings together scientists, researchers, policy makers, and citizen stakeholders. REPOPA incorporates evidence and expert insight to inform policies that promote public health.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The full report can be found on the REPOPA website at www.repopa.eu

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