

PACITA practitioner training 3

Obesity as a societal problem

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PACITA

The scope

- Overview and clarification of the political tasks related to the obesity problem in Denmark
- Dialogue in a structured process between politicians and obesity experts
- Investigate what actions give the best results
- Recommendations for political action

Actors involved in the project

- Policy-makers
 - Members of the Danish Parliament
 - Government / Public Administration, Danish Health and Medicine Authority
- Experts
 - Scientific experts, health and obesity experts
 - Praxis oriented experts, professional practitioners from health promotion and prevention, obesity treatment, hands-on experience
- Lay people
 - Patients, people treated for obesity
- Stakeholders
 - SCOs, Danish heart Foundation
 - Industry organisations and labour organisations, Private Diabetes Centre (Novo)

How were they involved

- Expert working group – all through the project period, knowledge base, planning, analysing results
 - Policy-makers, experts, stakeholders
- Parliamentary Hearing on obesity as a societal problem
 - 1st year
 - MPs in focus, experts, stakeholders, open for interested people
- Workshop on prevention with larger group of people – 1st year
 - Experts and stakeholders

How were they involved – year 2

- Political seminar on obesity surgery – 2nd year
 - MPs in focus, regional politicians, experts, stakeholders, open for interested people
- Expert working group – all through the project period, developing recommendations
 - Policy-makers, experts, stakeholders
- Presentation of recommendations on targeted prevention and stakeholder debate at public seminar – 2nd year
 - MPs in focus, stakeholders, experts
- A series of detailed workshops involving ‘hands-on’ groups regarding implementation of targeted prevention – 2nd year
 - Practitioners, hands-on experts

Why involve actors

- Knowledge-based decision-making bringing in all relevant knowledge
- Creating new solutions and policies developed through collaborative democracy
- Making strategies regarding (grand) challenges that enjoy broad support
- Implementation of appropriate solutions building on deliberative debate

Generally: Developing robust strategies, policies and solutions!

Challenges

- Finding the right people?
- Balancing (bias)?
- Attempts to lobby?
- Lack of interest in participating?
- Cooperation problems? – **differencies in the scientific community**
- Not supporting the results in the end?
- Implementation??

Need for engagement

New (grand) challenges, societal complexity increase

Politics deal with complexity

- Solutions demand change/action on all levels
- And co-creation

Wicked problems

- Uncertainty demands professional as well as normative judgments (citizens, stakeholders)

Create ownership and distributed action

→ The worse our problems, the more these reasons count

Impacts of TA

	Raising knowledge	Forming attitudes	Initialising action
Tech/Sci aspects	SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT * Technical options assessed and made visible * Comprehensive overview on consequences given	AGENDA SETTING * Setting the agenda in the political debate * Stimulating public debate * Introducing visions or scenarios	REFRAMING OF DEBATE * New action plan or initiative to further scrutinise the problem decided * New orientation in policies established
Societal aspects	SOCIAL MAPPING * Structure of conflicts made transparent	MEDIATION * Self-reflecting among actors * Blockade running * Bridge building	NEW DECISION MAKING PROCESSES * New ways of governance introduced * Initiative to intensify public debate taken
Policy aspects	POLICY ANALYSIS * Policy objectives explored * Existing policies assessed	RE-STRUCTURING THE POLICY DEBATE * Comprehensiveness in policies increased * Policies evaluated through debate * Democratic legitimisation perceived	DECISION TAKEN * Policy alternatives filtered * Innovations implemented * New legislation is passed