

Schools4Health: policy context in Flanders

Loes Neven, 31 January 2024

Current policy context in Flanders

► Legislative policy framework:

- Educational goals
- Decree on student guidance: mandatory to have a policy on student guidance



► Wide variety in tools, interventions and support:

GEZONDHEIDSMATRIX GEZONDE SCHOOL

GEZOND LEVEN	LEERLINGEN (1-2) PERSOONLIJK OF BANGELIJKE	PLAAT	BEWEGING ALLE LEERLINGEN EN WERK AANVAARDINGEN BANGEN IN SCHOLEN	TOEGEFIELD NUTTEN DE SCHOLEN De school wordt gezond aanpak met de school (aanpak met de school)
BEGRIJPE				
ONDERNEMEN/PROEVEN				
AFWERKEN EN BEWELDEN				
ZORGEN EN BEWELDEN				



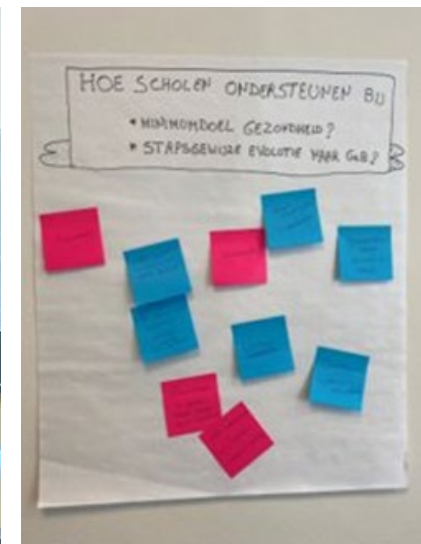
Challenges

- ▶ Legal/policy frameworks are up for interpretation by schools (pedagogical freedom)
- ▶ Health promotion is inferior to other priorities (focus on educational mission – crisis!)
- ▶ Tools and interventions: too fragmented and too complex
- ▶ Support by pedagogical services (PBD) and student guidance services (CLB) are mainly on demand and focused on individual care

Opportunities

- ▶ Increased efforts for collaboration and clustered approach of schools by health sector (since 2021)
- ▶ Optimize supporting role of PBD and CLB in school health policy
- ▶ Renewal of the health targets for Flanders in 2025 = opportunity
- ▶ ...

→ Importance of political choices and support (beyond funding)





Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid
en Milieu
*Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport*

Health promotion in schools

Policy context in The Netherlands
RIVM

Mirte Klomp

January 31, 2024



National policy context The Netherlands

- **Mandatory guidelines** regarding physical education, social-emotional development, attention to sexuality and sexual diversity.
- **National policies**
 - Voluntary
 - Implemented on a decentralized basis.
- **Healthy School Program**
 - Structural attention for a healthy lifestyle.
 - Based on HPS Framework.
 - Cross-sectoral cooperation.
 - Funded by four ministries.





Impacting factors for implementation

Enabling factors	Barriers
Macro level	
Health in all policies – financed by four ministries	Separated assignments - different programs
Mandatory guidelines	Voluntary policies
Reevaluation of the organization of the Dutch education system	Length of schooldays
Cooperation between national organizations	
Micro level	
Strong network around the school	High workload; understaffed
Combining compulsory courses with health promoting activities	Best-practices are not sustainable
Support in health promotion by local advisors	Hard to reach schools
A strong foundation in schools; safe and inclusive school climate	

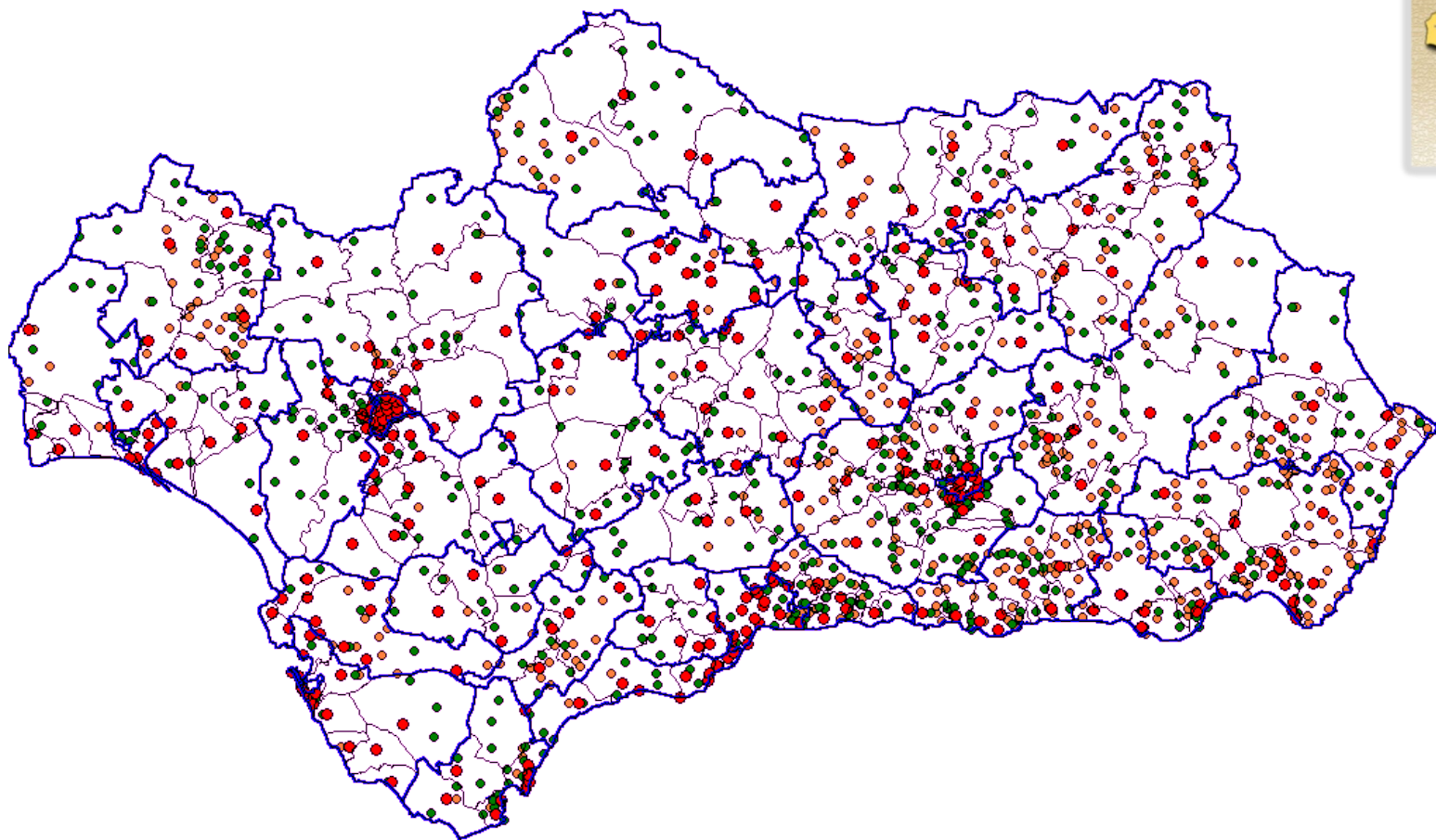




Opportunities & barriers

- Making health promotion part of curriculum
- Strengthening the network around schools
- Alignment ministeries and assignments





SERVICIO ANDALUZ DE SALUD
Consejería de Salud y Consumo
Distrito Sanitario Aljarafe - Sevilla Norte



Schools4Health



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**Improving health promoting approaches and
doing better through policy – Slovenia**

Polonca Truden Dobrin

National Institute of Public Health



National Institute
of **Public Health**

**What are the key highlights from the policy rapid situation analysis carried out in your national contexts?
What are the specific challenges and opportunities in improving cross-sectoral efforts around health promoting school approaches?**

The 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovenian Network of Healthy Schools in 2023. It currently includes over 70% primary schools, 50% secondary schools, 25% student dormitories, and more than 50% schools with programs for children with special needs.

Challenges e.g. shortage of staff in school kitchens, lack of space in grammar schools to organize school meals. Demands from children and adolescents and their parents (e.g. dietary requirements, locally produced, organic, vegan...). A significant burden for schools.

Most schools actively participate in Slovenian Food Day and Traditional Slovenian Breakfast.

A government inter-sectoral working group has adopted a strategy to reduce waste at all levels.

Emphasis on physical fitness using SLOfit data. My SLOfit app allows for lifelong monitoring of physical performance.

Improvements in universal preventive health programme for children and adolescents (Programme ZDAJ) including health education programme in school setting.

Multidisciplinary team (paediatrician, dietician, kinesiologist, psychologist and nurse) at the primary health care level in family intervention for children with overweight/obesity and low physical fitness.



What policies and/or other measures do you think are needed to address the challenges identified, seize the opportunities and 'do better' with respect to implementing health promoting school approaches in your country?

The school nutrition system in Slovenia is well-established and is becoming increasingly complex. The school nutrition system needs to be protected. There are opportunities for incorporating innovative approaches. Good planning and coordination is necessary to ensure sustainability and nationwide implementation.

The network of healthy schools is ideal for conducting pilot projects that can later be expanded nationally.

Improving resources for the SHE network in Slovenia and other preventive programmes for children and adolescents.

Strengthening European cooperation and coordination in the SHE network.

Improve inter-sectoral cooperation at national and local level (steering committees, working groups, local groups...).

Improvements in communication with target groups.

