

# **HIA as a knowledge exchange tool in the policy arena: A conceptual framework**

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(NCCCHPP)**

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“There is nothing so practical  
as a good theory!” Kurt Lewis, 1951



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# Presentation

## - **Conceptual Framework:**

**To better understand how HIA leads decision makers to take health into account, and under which conditions.**

- Framework will be used to:
  - document HIA project in Québec, Canada
  - evaluate knowledge utilization among decision makers in the context of this HIA.



# What kind of HIA?

## Decision-support model

(Harris-Roxas & Harris, 2010; Wismar, 2007);

## Interactive model of HIA (Bekker, 2007).

**Objective: To promote interaction between public health actors and policy makers.**



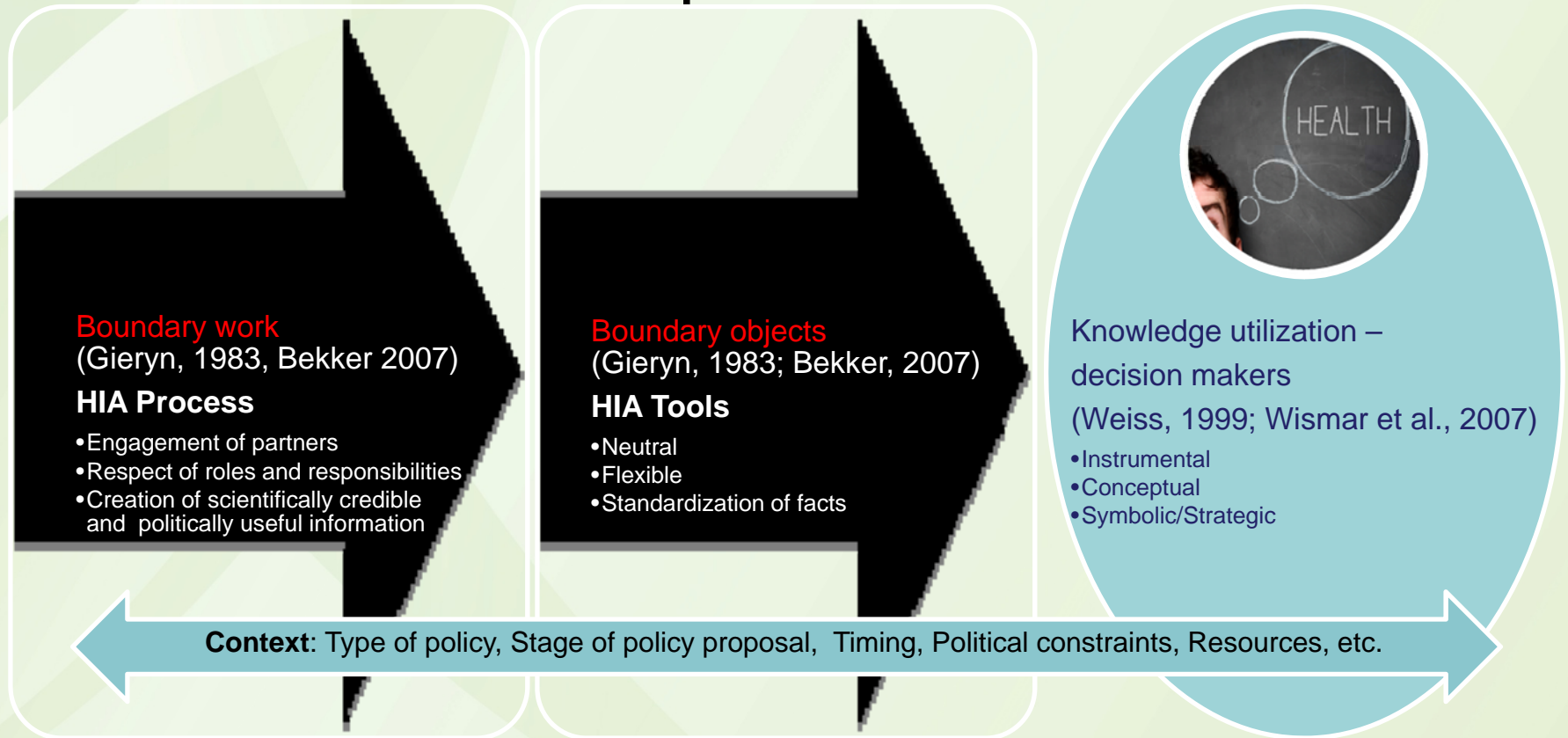
# Where our framework comes from: “Boundary” theory

(Gieryn, 1983; Bekker, 2007)

- Rhetorical separation of science from non-science; distinction between different areas (scientific vs non-scientific) (Gieryn, 1983)
- Context of Interactive HIA: Boundaries are a way to recognize the different sectors/realities around the table (Bekker, 2007)
- HIA = Boundary work creates a “Common space”, “Trading zone” which allows for interaction and recognition of each party’s boundaries



# HIA as a knowledge exchange tool in the policy arena: A conceptual framework



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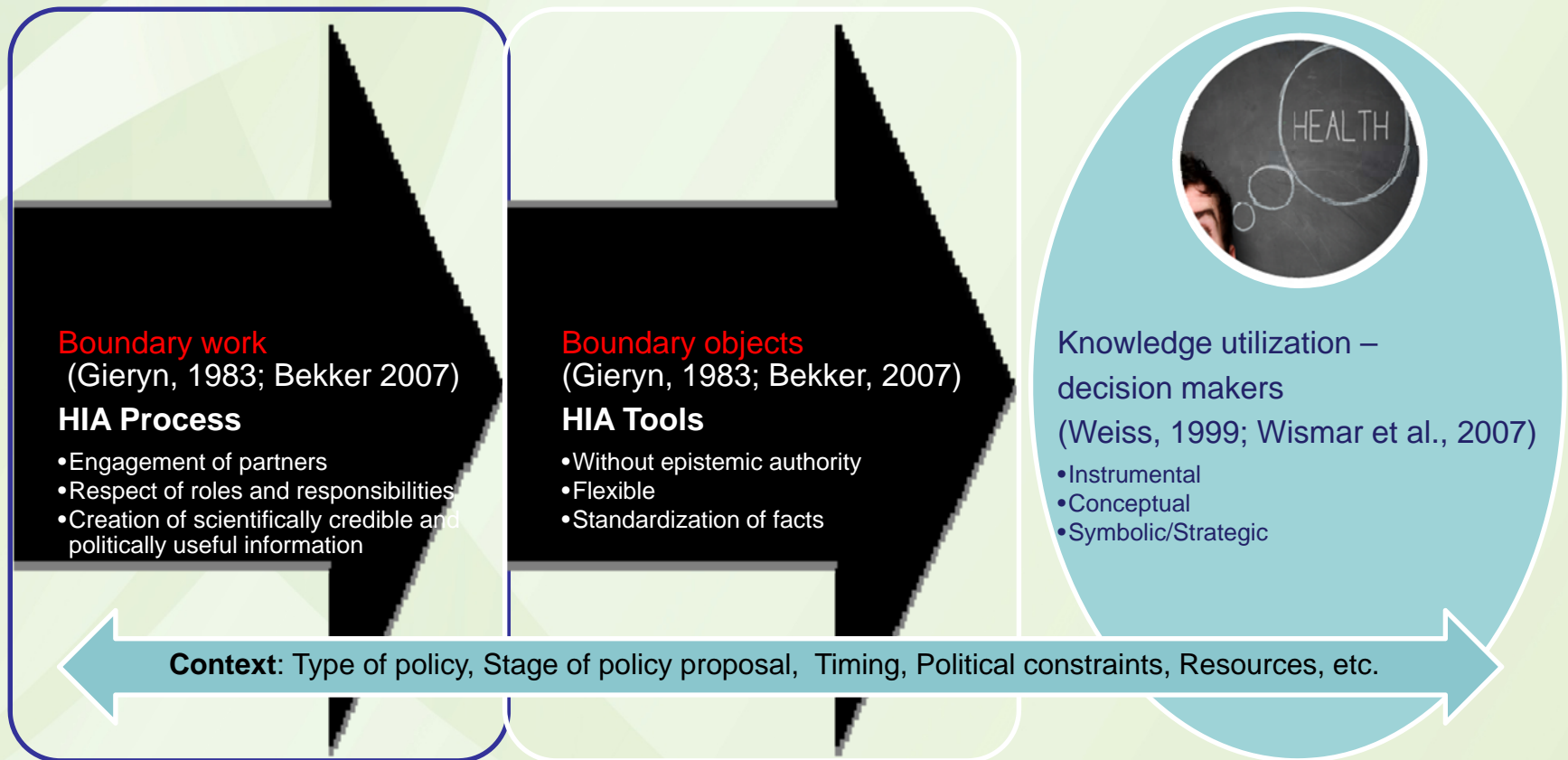
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# Boundary work: HIA process



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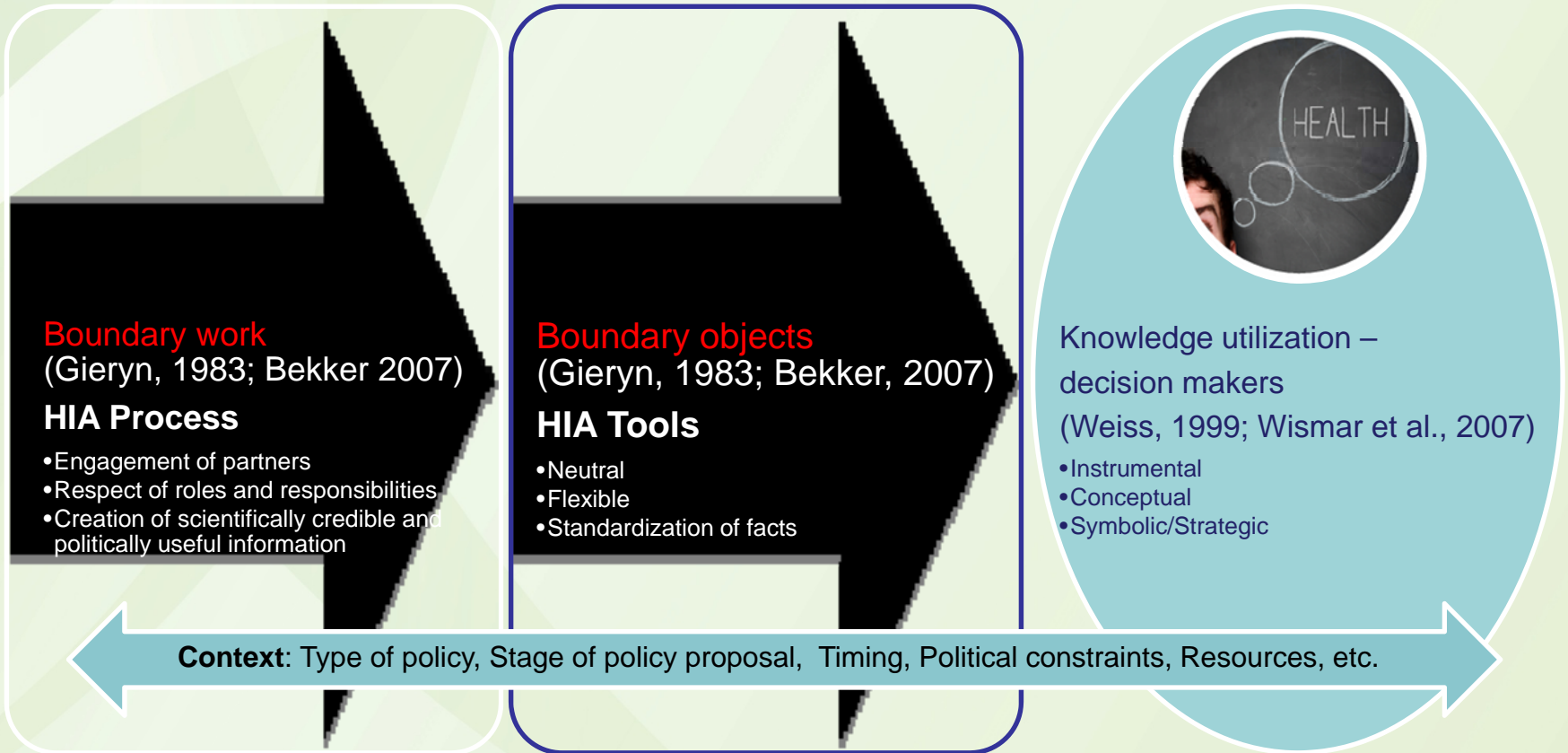
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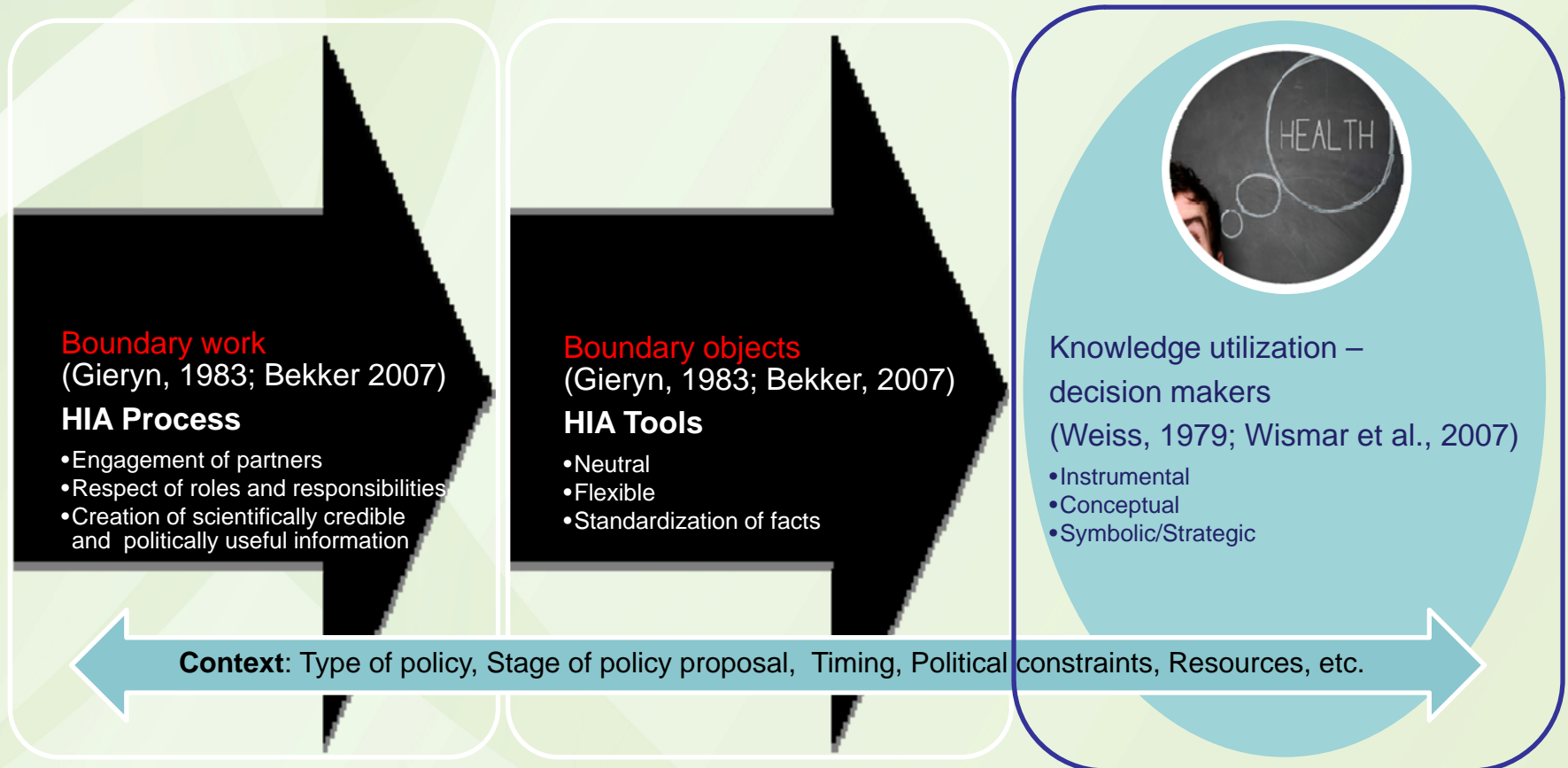


# Boundary objects: HIA tools





# Knowledge utilization among decision makers



# Context

**Boundary work**  
(Gieryn, 1983; Bekker 2007)

## HIA Process

- Engagement of partners
- Respect of roles and responsibilities
- Creation of scientifically credible and politically useful information

**Boundary objects**  
(Gieryn, 1983; Bekker, 2007)

## HIA Tools

- Neutral
- Flexible
- Standardization of facts

Knowledge utilization –  
decision makers  
(Weiss, 1979; Wismar et al., 2007)

- Instrumental
- Conceptual
- Symbolic/Strategic



**Context:** Type of policy, Stage of policy proposal, Timing, Political constraints, Resources, etc.



# Applying the framework in Canada



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Region of Montérégie, Québec



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# Potential implications of the study

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- Make the theory implicit in the interactive model of HIA explicit
- Help us to understand what works, what doesn't and why
- Shed light on HIA as a knowledge transfer/exchange activity



# Muchas gracias!

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