

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADMINISTRATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADMINISTRATIONS[1], ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS [2]

GENERAL CONTEXT

In recent years a number of Member States have introduced so-called health technology assessments (HTA). Typically HTA measures the added value of a new technology in comparison with existing technologies. For the purpose of this survey, health technologies include, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, medical and surgical procedures and other measures for disease prevention, diagnosis or treatment used in healthcare. More information on health technologies is available at http://ec.europa.eu/health/technology_assessment/policy/index_en.htm.

HTA is a very useful tool, as it helps Member States to decide which health technology to favour at national/regional level. It also helps Member States to keep their health budgets under control, as products with no or limited added value cannot expect to be reimbursed or to obtain high prices. Last but not least HTA encourages industry to invest in innovation with substantial added benefits for patients.

Traditionally two types of assessments have been distinguished, namely (1) assessments focusing on clinical/medical benefits of the new technology (does a given technology work better than an existing one) and (2) assessments focusing on the economic benefits of the new technology (value for money). These assessments can be carried out jointly or consecutively, by dedicated HTA bodies or other organisations (e.g. regulators for pharmaceuticals).

At this stage, the vast majority of HTA are carried at national/regional level, i.e. EU Member States assess the new technology according to its national legislation. This leads to duplications of efforts for Member States and industry which translate in unnecessary costs throughout the HTA process. It can also lead to diverging results/outcomes (i.e. health technologies available earlier in some countries compared with others), which in turn can result in limited business predictability for industry and delayed access for patients.

Several projects funded by the EU have allowed Member States to share best practices on how HTA is carried out at national and/or regional and local level. Also a limited number of joint HTA reports have been prepared, but the use of these results is still decided at national level. In practice this has meant that the joint reports have not (yet) been used on a large scale.

There is consensus that HTA requires significant scientific, technical and economic expertise, and is costly. Currently not all Member States have such expertise at their disposal. Budget constraints also mean that even advanced Member States considered to be more advanced in this field cannot assess all new technologies. This has triggered the question whether there is a need to strengthen EU cooperation for HTA, in particular for the period beyond 2020 when the current financing of EU cooperation ends (so-called EUnetHTA Joint Action 3[3]).

For further details please refer to the Inception Impact Assessment on strengthening EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment (HTA)[4].

OBJECTIVE OF THE CURRENT SURVEY

The aim of this public consultation is to gather detailed views and opinions regarding the future of the EU cooperation on HTA. The results of this public consultation will feed into the envisaged impact assessment which the Commission services are currently preparing on strengthening the EU cooperation on HTA.

This questionnaire is addressed to administrations, associations and other organisations. Citizens are asked to fill in a separate non-specialised questionnaire.

[1] For the purpose of this survey, administrations refer to both public administrations, as well as private administrations with public service obligation

[2] For the purpose of this survey, associations and other organisations refer to trade associations, professional associations, academia and scientific societies and organisations representing the interests of specific stakeholders

[3] European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) is a Joint Action, co –funded by the Health Programme of the European Commissions (DG SANCO) and participating organisations. It gathers mainly national and regional HTA bodies. Its scope of activities is on scientific and technical issues. www.EUnetHTA.eu

[4] http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2016_sante_144_health_technology_assessments_en.pdf

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

Please provide the following data on your organisation/association/administration:

- * 1.1. Please indicate the name of your organisation/association/administration

European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

- * 1.2. Please enter the country where your organisation/association/administration is based

Belgium

- * 1.3. Please indicate whether your organisation/association/administration is listed in the Transparency Register?*

Yes, with ID number: 883980785-32

* In the interest of transparency, organisations and associations have been invited to provide the public with relevant information about themselves by registering in Transparency Register and subscribing to its Code of Conduct. If the organisation or association is not registered, the submission will be published separately from the registered organisations/associations.

- * 1.4. Please enter your e-mail address (this data will not be made public).

christine.dawson@esip.eu

- * 1.5. The name of a contact person (please note that the name will not be made public and is meant for follow-up clarification only)

Christine Dawson

- * 1.6. Do you consent to the Commission publishing your replies?

- ☒ a) Yes (*On behalf of my organisation/association/administration I consent to the publication of our replies and any other information provided, and declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication*)
- ☐ b) Yes, only anonymously (*The replies of my organisation/association/administration can be published, but not any information identifying it as respondent*)
- ☐ c) No (*The replies provided by my of my organisation/association/administration will not be published but may be used internally within the Commission. Note that even if this option is chosen, your contribution may still be subject to 'access to documents' requests.)**)

* As set out in Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, any EU citizen, natural, or legal person has a right of access to documents of the EU institutions, including those which they receive, subject to the principles, conditions and limits defined in this Regulation.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENT

*2.1. Main field of work of the responding organisation/association/administration (*one answer possible*):

- ☐ a) Public administration (other than payers)
- ☐ b) Patients and consumers
- ☐ c) Healthcare provider
- ☒ d) Payer (irrespective of status i.e. public or private)
- ☐ e) Industry or service provider
- ☐ f) Academia or scientific society
- ☐ g) Other

** Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are defined in the Commission Recommendation 2003 /361. The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.*

*2.2. Please specify the geographic coverage of your organisation/association/administration (*one answer possible*):

- ☒ International/European
- ☐ National
- ☐ Regional/local

*2.3. Are you an organisation/association/administration representing the interests of the stakeholders mentioned in question 2.1 (*one answer possible*):

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

*2.4. Please specify which health technologies are of interest for your organisation/association /administration (*one or more answers possible*):

- ☒ a) Pharmaceuticals
- ☒ b) Medical devices[*]
- ☒ c) Other

** "Medical device" means any instrument, apparatus, appliance, material or other article, whether used alone or in combination, including the software necessary for its proper application intended by the manufacturer to be used for human beings for the purpose of: diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of disease; diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of or compensation for an injury or handicap; investigation, replacement or modification of the anatomy or of a physiological process; control of conception, and which does not achieve its principal intended action in or on the human body by pharmacological, immunological or metabolic means, but which may be assisted in its function by such means (Council Directive 93/42/EEC of 14 June 1993 concerning medical devices). Please note that the current legislation has been revised and the new requirements will be published soon.*







***2.4.c. Please specify 'Other':**







Medical procedures, including diagnosis and prevention

3. STATE OF PLAY

3.1. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements:

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | I don't know |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <p>*a) There are differences between HTA procedures among EU Member States (e.g. responsibilities of authorities, including advisory vs decision-making role and product scope; prioritisation /selection of health technologies to be assessed; duration of procedures; rights/obligations of sponsors during the procedure)</p> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>*b) There are differences between HTA methodologies for the clinical assessment (REA [= relative effectiveness assessment]) among EU Member States (e.g. different data requirements for the submission dossier; choice of comparator; endpoints accepted; way of expressing added therapeutic value).</p> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>*c) There are differences between HTA methodologies for the economic assessment among EU Member States (e.g. different approaches for economic models, budget impact and health-related outcomes; importance of local economic context).</p> | | | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***3.1.a. For a) please provide concrete examples of the differences you are aware of and their effects for your organisation:**

HTA procedures are different in the in the different Member States according to their national structures/organisation: competent bodies can be completely independent (BE, DE) or integrated in the same organisation as the regulatory body (PT) and / or pricing and reimbursement authority (AU). Their role is usually/ideally advisory to an independent decision-making body. Medical devices/technologies are subject to different HTA procedures and are often handled by different competent bodies than pharmaceuticals.

***3.1.b. For b) please provide concrete examples of the differences you are aware of and their effects for your organisation:**

The methodologies for clinical (relative effectiveness) assessment of pharmaceuticals for outpatient use differ considerably in the different Member States but much has been done in EUnetHTA joint actions 1 & 2 to establish a common methodology and a degree of consensus as regards data requirements, choice of comparator, acceptable endpoints and way of expressing added therapeutic benefit. Nevertheless, differences will exists in certain cases e.g. as regards the acceptance of end points, choice of comparator and additional data requirements since this will depend on the national/local setting.

*3.1.c. For c) please provide concrete examples of the differences you are aware of and their effects for your organisation:

Economic assessments of pharmaceuticals and/or medical devices are not routinely carry out in all Member States. Different economic models exists for assessing budget impact and/or cost-effectiveness but to date there is little consensus on which model to use and which parameters to include. In any case, methodologies and outcomes will depend on the local economic (and social) context. While economic assessments will only be applicable in a local or regional setting, it would be beneficial to some Member States to see to what extent a common methodology might be established e.g. under the new EUnetHTA JA3. Local initiatives are already underway to see if common methodologies can be agreed and to what extent budget impact and costeffectiveness assessments might be applicable across Member States e.g. the Benelux-AU collaboration.

*3.2. In your opinion, differences among EU Member States regarding HTA procedures and/or methodologies may contribute to (*one or more answers possible*):

- ☐ a) Duplication of work for your organisation
- ☐ b) Less work for your organisation
- ☐ c) High costs/expenses for your organisation
- ☐ d) No influence on costs/expenses for your organisation
- ☒ e) Diverging outcomes of HTA reports
- ☐ f) No influence on the outcomes of HTA reports
- ☐ g) Decrease in business predictability
- ☐ h) No influence on business predictability
- ☐ i) Incentive for innovation
- ☐ j) Disincentive for innovation
- ☐ k) No influence on innovation
- ☒ l) Other
- ☐ m) None of the above
- ☐ n) I don't know/No opinion

*3.2.1. Please specify if 'Other':

Duplication of work for those member organisations that have responsibility for HTA.

*3.3. In recent years EU-funded projects and two Joint Actions have been carried out which aimed at strengthening cooperation on HTA across the EU. Are you aware of these initiatives? (*one answer possible*):

- ☒ a) Yes, I have participated in one or more of these
- ☐ b) Yes, I am aware of them, but did not participate
- ☐ c) No, I am not aware

*3.3.1. In general terms do you think the **EU cooperation on HTA (e.g. projects, joint actions)** has been

- ☒ a) Useful
- ☐ b) To some extent useful
- ☐ c) Not useful
- ☐ d) I don't know/No opinion

*3.3.1.1. Please indicate which of the following factors concerning projects and Joint Actions were relevant for your reply (*more than one answer possible*)

- ☒ a) Allowed for sharing best practices
- ☒ b) Allowed for better knowledge of procedures and methodologies in other EU Member States
- ☐ c) Allowed for savings in your organisation
- ☒ d) Contributed to building trust between organisations and professionals involved
- ☒ e) Contributed to HTA capacity building
- ☒ f) Provided access to joint work[*]
- ☒ g) Provided access to work done by other HTA bodies
- ☒ h) Provided access to expertise not available in my organisation
- ☐ i) Reduced workload for my organisation
- ☒ j) Contributed to increasing awareness and knowledge on HTA issues in my organisation
- ☐ k) Promoted involvement of patients' representatives in HTA activities
- ☐ l) Other

** "Joint Work" refers to activities in which countries and/or organisations work together in order to prepare shared products or agreed outcomes. These may include, for example, literature reviews, structured information for rapid or full HTAs, early dialogues or scientific advice on R&D planning and study design. Joint work aims at supporting Member States in providing objective, reliable, timely, transparent, comparable and transferable information and enable an effective exchange of this information (according to HTA Network's "Strategy for EU Cooperation on Health Technology Assessment" adopted in October 2014)" (according to HTA Network's "Strategy for EU Cooperation on Health Technology Assessment" adopted in October 2014)*

*3.3.1.1.1. Please provide additional explanations and, if available, evidence supporting your answers to question 3.3.1.1. (please provide a link to supporting documents in English)

EU cooperation on HTA facilitates discussion around methodological issues and exchanges of opinion which can feed into national procedures. With particular reference to medical devices, the experience of one ESIP member is that the use of common methodologies and templates leads to comparable results and increased trust in the results generated by other HTA organisations.

3.3.1.1.2. Please indicate to the best of your knowledge to which degree **joint work from EU-funded projects or Joint Actions was used by HTA bodies at national/regional level** as part of their decision-making process:

| | To a great extent | To a limited extent | Not used | I don't know |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| *a) Joint tools (templates, databases, etc) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *b) Guidelines (e.g. for clinical and /or economic evaluations) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *c) Early dialogues* | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *d) Joint reports on clinical assessments (REA) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *e) Joint full HTA (clinical and economic assessment) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| f) Other (please specify below) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

* Early Dialogue (ED or early scientific advice) aims to provide prospective, transparent and timely advice by regulators or HTA body/bodies (multi-HTA) or both (parallel) to product' sponsors so that they may integrate their specific needs in the product development and generate evidence appropriate for HTA purposes (definition proposed by the EU-funded study SEED)

*3.3.1.1.2.f. Please specify 'other':

d) and e) were used to a great extent for medical devices by at least one participating member organisation.
d) and e) were not used for pharmaceuticals.

***3.3.1.1.3. Please indicate which shortcomings – if any - you identified in the EU-funded projects and/or Joint Actions**

Member organisations who were partners in the JAs report difficulties in producing joint assessments in time (particularly as regards pharmaceuticals), topic selection, quality assurance and resources needed as well as shortcomings in some EUnetHTA on-line tools amongst others.

As a stakeholder, ESIP's participation in JA 1 was limited to SAG where confidentiality terms, large documents, short timelines and limited resources prevented useful input from experts within our member organisations. Neither JA1 nor JA2 were transparent enough from a stakeholder point of view and the Stakeholder Forum in JA 2 provided little possibility for input to the processes. In JA3, payers have had no input so far to the development of the work packages in which they have expressed interest, nor has their role been clarified by the work package leaders.

4. EU COOPERATION ON HTA BEYOND 2020

***4.1. In your opinion is there a need to continue EU cooperation on HTA after 2020 (when the EUnetHTA Joint Action 3 will end)?**

- ☒ a) Yes
- ☐ b) No
- ☐ c) I don't know / No opinion

***4.1.a. If yes, please specify:**

Much has already been achieved and this should not be lost. Cooperation needs to continue to maximise the benefits of the tools developed and to work towards a maximum uptake of the joint work, which will benefit those countries with limited resources, improve harmonisation and lend support to the sustainability of healthcare systems.

4.1.1. In your opinion, for which health technologies an EU cooperation on HTA would be more useful and respond to your needs?

| | Very useful | To some extent useful | Not useful | I don't know |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| *a) Pharmaceuticals | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *b) Medical devices | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| c) Other (please specify below) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

*4.1.1.c. Please specify 'Other':

Medical procedures, including diagnosis and prevention

4.1.1.2. For which activities and if so to which degree do you consider that continuing EU cooperation on HTA beyond 2020 would respond to your needs?

| | Responds very much to your needs | Responds to some extent to your needs | Does not respond to your needs | I don't know / No opinion |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| *a) Joint tools (templates, databases, etc) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *b) Guidelines (e.g. for clinical or economic evaluations) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *c) Early dialogues | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *d) Joint clinical assessment (REA) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *e) Joint full HTA (clinical and economic assessment) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| f) Other (please specify below) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

*4.1.1.2.f. Please specify 'Other':

As regards medical devices, d) responds very much to the needs of at least one member organisation.

- *4.1.1.2.1. Please comment on the potential advantages and disadvantages of an EU initiative including the activities you consider useful for your organisation (e.g. workload, long-term sustainability of national healthcare systems, patients' accessibility to new technologies, business predictability, innovation)

An EU initiative should serve towards the long-term sustainability of national healthcare systems by driving innovation towards and ensuring patient access to (new) technologies that demonstrate patient relevant benefit and / or cost efficiencies. Such an initiative needs to be supported and facilitated by the EU but to be successful it needs to be driven by the Member States taking a bottom-up, step by step approach. Long-term cooperation is needed to ensure continued exchange of experience, optimise the tools developed and to work towards a maximum uptake of the joint work, which will improve harmonisation and lend support to the sustainability of healthcare systems. Deeper cooperation could be foreseen between groups of Member States on a voluntary basis, benefiting in particular those countries with limited capacities and resources.

Any EU initiative needs to be fully transparent in order to ensure trust and confidence between the participants and more importantly the wider stakeholder population.

- *4.1.1.3. In case EU cooperation on HTA will continue beyond 2020, in your opinion, what type of financing system should be envisaged? (*one possible answer*):

- ☐ a) EU budget
- ☐ b) Member States
- ☐ c) Industry fees
- ☐ d) A mix of A to C
- ☒ e) Other

- *4.1.1.3.e. Please specify 'Other':

A mix of a) and b)

***4.1.1.3.1. Please explain your answer and comment on issues such as feasibility, advantages and disadvantages**

2000 character(s) maximum

HTA should be an independent process and any financing system should ensure freedom of the process from conflict of interest. Therefore, efforts should be made to ensure that any EU cooperation on HTA remains entirely publicly funded. If deemed necessary however, fees for service from industry might be considered for joint early dialogue but strong measures need to be in place to avoid any conflict of interest in the subsequent HTA and these fees should constitute only a minor portion of the budget.

***4.1.1.4. In case EU cooperation on HTA will continue beyond 2020, in your opinion, the secretarial /organisation support should be ensured by (*one or more answers are possible*)**

- ☐ a) European Commission
- ☐ b) Existing EU agency(ies)
- ☐ c) New EU agency
- ☐ d) Member States HTA bodies on rotational basis
- ☒ e) Other

***4.1.1.4.e. Please specify 'Other':**

European Commission and a/few competent Member State HTA body/ies

***4.1.1.4.1. Please explain your answer(s) and comment on issues such as feasibility, advantages and disadvantages**

2000 character(s) maximum

Coordination of HTA activities should be led by the HTA bodies; ideally one/a small group of HTA bodies (acting as a steering group) to ensure maximum continuity and representation. A rotational basis would not provide for continuity.

Integration of HTA activities within EMA should not be considered.

We consider that the continued organisational/secretarial role of the European Commission is essential to ensure full transparency.

4.1.1.5. In your opinion, regarding an initiative on EU cooperation on HTA beyond 2020, which type of cooperation would respond to your needs? Please rank the following options from the most to the least preferable option).

| | a) Most preferred option | b) | c) | d) | e) Least preferred option |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| *a) Voluntary participation with voluntary uptake of joint work (i.e. as carried out by EUnetHTA Joint Actions) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *b) Voluntary participation with mandatory uptake of joint work for the participants | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| *c) Mandatory participation with mandatory uptake of joint work | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| d) Other (please specify below) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

*4.1.1.5.1. Please explain your answer(s) and comment on issues such as feasibility, advantages and disadvantages

2000 character(s) maximum

Participation must be on a voluntary basis to respect Member States' competences in this field.

Regarding uptake, ESIP believes in a step-by-step approach. At this time, uptake on a voluntary basis would be the preferred option, as this would encourage greater participation and sharing of experience. If joint work is timely and relevant to a Member State it will use it.

In the longer term, the goal should be that uptake is mandatory for those participating in the joint work. This would be more cost effective and encourage individual Member States to concentrate their efforts on the most relevant technologies for them. In any case, re-use and uptake of joint work by the national HTA agencies should not exclude their right to carry out complementary or specific assessments in line with national regulation and legal obligations.

5. Any other comments. Uploading relevant documents is also possible.

2000 character(s) maximum

Please upload your file (2Mb max)

Contact

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