

*Copenhagen, March 2, 2010***EUnetHTA Executive Committee works out specific implementation details of individual Work Packages of the European network for HTA Joint Action**

*EUnetHTA has entered a new phase of development where the concrete European cooperation processes and tools for health technology assessment (HTA) are tested, new areas are explored and working methods and engagement with relevant EU institutions are developed.*

The EUnetHTA Executive Committee (comprised of the EUnetHTA Joint Action Work Package Lead Partner organisations and 3 elected EUnetHTA Partner organisations) met in Copenhagen on February 25 and 26 2010 to agree on the details of a 3-year Work Plan. Ensuring an improved coherence and timing of the activities across the Work Packages and coordination of the involvement of stakeholders were main issues on the agenda.

In the Joint Action, EUnetHTA (which started in 2006) continues to focus on delivering practical results to facilitate the overcoming of barriers to collaboration in HTA and to provide added value to HTA and health policy processes in EU and Member States. The governance structure and organisation of work in EUnetHTA aims at supporting efficient and timely sharing of information between the Work Packages as well as individual organisations and their staffs on the progress of the EUnetHTA Joint Action and on national/regional HTA processes. Concrete logistical arrangements were agreed, e.g. commonly organised surveys by several Work Packages, regular electronic updates to the EUnetHTA participants, etc. A prospective evaluation strategy will be employed to explicitly map out and evaluate how the activities and deliverables of the individual Work Packages support the objectives of the Joint Action. Participants of the EUnetHTA Joint Action as well as external stakeholders will inform the evaluation on a regular basis.

The EUnetHTA Executive Committee discussed a mechanism for stakeholder involvement in the EUnetHTA Joint Action which should support a regular, transparent and balanced process of engaging with the stakeholders while ensuring that the scientific processes in EUnetHTA will remain independent. A EUnetHTA Stakeholder Forum is given a consultative role and will provide the stakeholders with the opportunity to observe and comment the work in the EUnetHTA Joint Action. Additional avenues for stakeholder involvement in the EUnetHTA Joint Action include public consultation on e.g., deliverables and answering specific questions emerging from the Work Packages. The Executive Committee will discuss the stakeholder involvement policy and concrete procedures with the members of the Stakeholder Forum. A call for declaration of interest to participate in the EUnetHTA Stakeholder Forum will be issued by the EUnetHTA Secretariat in March 2010.

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EUnetHTA (European network for Health Technology Assessment) was established in 2006 with the aim of coordinating the efforts of 27 European countries, including 24 Member States of the European Union, in evaluating health technologies in Europe. In 2009 National ministries of health officially nominated organisations to participate in a EUnetHTA Joint Action (European network for HTA Joint Action) between Member States and the European Commission that now unites 33 partners in 23 EU Member States and Norway. It aims at delivering highest quality, transparency and value added for the EU Member States in its activities and in its governance and organisational processes. The EUnetHTA Joint Action will build on the momentum and achievements of previous European initiatives including the [EUnetHTA Project](#) and the High Level Pharmaceutical Forum (in the area of relative effectiveness assessment of pharmaceuticals). The EUnetHTA Joint Action is co-financed by the European Commission and partner institutions according to a grant agreement (signed in December 2009).

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