



eunethta

**Draft Stakeholder Policy for  
the EUnetHTA Collaboration**

# Draft Stakeholder Policy for the EUnetHTA Collaboration

6 June 2008

A proposal for a European Collaboration for HTA was issued for public consultation in November 2007 and all comments received and the review, which includes a whole section on stakeholder involvement, are accessible at the EUnetHTA Internet site: [http://www.eunetha.net/News\\_archive/](http://www.eunetha.net/News_archive/)

After the public consultation the EUnetHTA Executive Committee revised the document - Proposal for EUnetHTA Collaboration version 3.1 - which with amendments was endorsed by the EUnetHTA Steering Committee in a meeting on May 29 2008. The endorsed, revised version 3.2 will be made public at the EUnetHTA web-site on June 16 2008.

This draft EUnetHTA Collaboration Stakeholder Policy is developed by the EUnetHTA lead partner for Work Package 6 (WP 6) - *Transferability of HTA to health policy* - the Danish Centre for Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA), in collaboration with a working group in WP 6 of the EUnetHTA Project. The Policy document will be discussed at the EUnetHTA Project Stakeholder meeting in Rome, June 13, 2008 and revised according to the discussion.

The Policy document can be directed to the EUnetHTA Project Leader to be brought forward to the group of EUnetHTA partner institutions that is expected to implement the proposal for EUnetHTA Collaboration.

A list of the stakeholder organisations invited to participate in the stakeholder meeting can be found in annex 1.

## 1. The EUnetHTA Collaboration

### 1.1 Participants

The EUnetHTA Collaboration is an organisation consisting of partners from health technology assessment (HTA) institutions in EU Member States and countries in the EEA (Norway, Iceland) and EFTA (Switzerland). All publicly funded organisations which produce or contribute to HTA can become partners in the EUnetHTA Collaboration. The intention is for the EUnetHTA Collaboration to be more than a membership organisation, but a collaboration that strives to obtain synergies through effective partnership collaboration.

### 1.2 Values

The work of the EUnetHTA Collaboration is based on the principle of subsidiarity, which means that HTA must be undertaken within the policy context of the country rather than at the European level, taking account of national priorities and systems, including regionalisation. The partners in the EUnetHTA Collaboration share the overarching values of universality, good quality, equity and solidarity of the European Union for the health systems. The vision of the EUnetHTA Collaboration is to inform policy and health care decision making at national/regional level in European countries through collaboration between national/regional HTA agencies, so that new health technologies can be adopted and obsolete technologies

discarded in a well-informed manner. Hereby EUnetHTA seek to contribute to high quality, safe, accessible and efficient health care for citizens across Europe.

## **2. HTA Stakeholders and the EUnetHTA Collaboration**

### 2.1 Stakeholder definition

The EUnetHTA Collaboration recognises that there are several interests in HTA, and thereby also in the activities of the EUnetHTA Collaboration. When identifying stakeholders for the Advisory Council the EUnetHTA Collaboration proposes the following definition of stakeholders:

*Stakeholders are groups or organisations which potentially will be affected by, or have an interest in and may in a consultative role influence on the actions or aims of an organisation, project or policy direction.*

### 2.2 Stakeholder criteria

Many types of actors can be affected by or have a stake in HTA, e.g. as users of HTAs, producers of health technology or as patients. In the communication with stakeholders the EUnetHTA Collaboration has chosen to focus on umbrella organisations operating at the European level. Further the EUnetHTA Collaboration has specified the scope of stakeholders to contain generic rather than disease specific organisations. The EUnetHTA Collaboration aims at balancing the representation of the stakeholder groups when communicating with them.

The following six types of stakeholder groups have been identified as especially important for the EUnetHTA Collaboration:

1. Policymakers at regional/national level
2. policymakers at hospital level, in statutory health insurance or in health maintenance organisations
3. Patient organisations
4. Healthcare professionals
5. Industry
6. Health related media

## **3. Transparency in the EUnetHTA Collaboration**

### 3.1 EUnetHTA integrity

To protect its integrity while acknowledging the many interests in HTA, the EUnetHTA Collaboration seeks to ensure transparency in its processes. EUnetHTA considers the question of transparency especially relevant in relation to transparency in stakeholder involvement, transparency in financing, and transparency in working methods.

### 3.2 Stakeholder involvement in Advisory Council

The EUnetHTA Collaboration finds it crucial to ensure the stakeholders' involvement through consultation and discussion of the work of EUnetHTA in a transparent manner. Stakeholder

involvement is assured through their participation in an Advisory Council, which consists of but not limited to members from the stakeholder groups mentioned above. The Advisory Council communicates directly with the Management Board of the EUnetHTA Collaboration.

### 3.3 Financing

With regard to financing, the EUnetHTA Collaboration protects its integrity and independence by requiring transparency in all financial activities. Partners of the Collaboration contribute financially by yearly membership fees, and financial contributions are further accepted from EU, governments, publicly funded statutory health insurance organisations or non-for-profit organisations. Other sources of funding will need approval from the EUnetHTA Plenary Assembly; only unrestricted funding will be considered and in all cases disclosure of conflicts of interests is requested.

### 3.4 Working methods

The following values for quality processes are fundamental for the work of the EUnetHTA Collaboration: use of best available evidence, common methodological and process standards and common review processes. The EUnetHTA Collaboration aims to maintain methodological and scientific independence, ensure transparency in analysis and facilitate information sharing.

Transparency in working methods is ensured by thorough review and public consultation processes and by allowing individuals from stakeholder groups to participate in working groups. These individuals can participate as experts in the working groups under the conditions that they do not represent a stakeholder organisation, cannot constitute a majority in any working group, and they disclose conflicts of interest.

Information about EUnetHTA products will be given on the EUnetHTA website and at meetings and conferences where discussion will be welcomed.

The EUnetHTA Collaboration adheres to the principles on conflicts of interests promulgated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. All persons contributing to EUnetHTA products or giving speeches at meetings or conferences are obliged to declare sources of support and potential conflicts of interests.

## Annex 1

Stakeholder organisations invited to participate in the Stakeholder Meeting, Rome, June 13, 2008:

<b>Policymakers at regional/national level</b>	
<b>CCRE</b>	The Council of European Municipalities and Regions
<b>Policymakers at institutional level</b>	
<b>AEMH</b>	European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians
<b>EAHM</b>	European Association of Hospital managers
<b>EHMA</b>	European Health Management Association
<b>HOPE</b>	European Hospital and Healthcare Federation
<b>Patients organisations</b>	
<b>BEUC</b>	European Consumers' Organisation
<b>CIPAST</b>	Citizen Participation in Science and Technology
<b>EDF</b>	European Disability Forum
<b>EPF</b>	European Patients' Forum
<b>EPTA</b>	European Parliamentary Technology Assessment
<b>HFE</b>	Health First Europe
<b>EPHA</b>	European Public Health Alliance
<b>HAI</b>	Health Action International – Europe
<b>IAPO</b>	International Alliance of Patients' Organizations
<b>Health care professionals</b>	
<b>CED</b>	Council of European Dentists
<b>CPME</b>	Standing Committee of European Doctors
<b>EFN</b>	European Federation of Nurses Associations
<b>UEMO</b>	European Union of General Practitioners
<b>UEMS</b>	European Union of Medical Specialists
<b>Industry</b>	
<b>AESGP</b>	Association of the European Self-Medication Industry
<b>ADVAMED</b>	Advanced Medical Technology Association
<b>EAEPC</b>	The European Association of Euro-Pharmaceutical Companies
<b>EBE</b>	European Biopharmaceutical Enterprise Products
<b>EDMA</b>	European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association
<b>EGA</b>	European Generic Medicines Association
<b>EFPIA</b>	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
<b>ECHAMP</b>	European Coalition of Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products
<b>EUCOMED</b>	EUCOMED
<b>EuropaBio</b>	EuropaBio