eunethta
European network for Health Technology Assessment
Aims, organisation, and progress
Finn Børlum Kristensen | DACEHTA | Denmark
Outline

- EUnetHTA background – what led to the project
- EUnetHTA short – the partners
- EUnetHTA tasks and objectives
- EunetHTA organisation
- Common core of evidence, framework, and taxonomy
November, 2004

Report of the EU Commission’s High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care (HLG) dated November 30th concluded:

“HTA has become a political priority and there is an urgent need for establishing a sustainable European network for HTA.”
EUnetHTA Partners

- 60 partners
  - 35 Associated Partners (national/regional HTA agencies, MoH, research institutions, international organisations (Cochrane Collaboration)
  - 25 Collaborating Partners (e.g. WHO, OECD, CoE)
- 24 EU countries (÷ Slovakia)
- 2 EEA (Norway, Iceland)
- Switzerland
- 4 institutions in countries outside Europe (Israel, Australia, Canada, USA)
EUnetHTA Objectives

The general objective:

To establish *an effective and sustainable European Network for Health Technology Assessment – EUnetHTA* - that informs policy decisions.

The general *strategic objective of the Network*:

To connect public national HTA agencies, research institutions and health ministries, *enabling*

- *effective exchange of information*
- *support to policy decisions by the Member States*
EUnetHTA two strands

1. Development of an *organisational framework* for a sustainable European network for HTA

2. Development of *practical tools* to fit into this framework
EUnetHTA Strategic Objectives

- Better coordination of HTA activities
- Less duplication
- Increase the HTA output and input to decision-making in the Member States and EU
- Strengthen the link between HTA and healthcare policy making
- Support countries with limited experience with HTA

More effective use of national resources put into HTA
Vision for the future

By the end of the project EUnetHTA will

- transform into a permanent network for HTA in Europe - with a supporting secretariat - to be established by EU and its Member States

- have established a transparent structure of stakeholder involvement
EUnetHTA Work Packages (WPs)

- **WP1:** Coordination (*DACEHTA, Main Partner*)
- **WP2:** Communications (*SBU, DAHTA*)
- **WP3:** Evaluation (*NOKC*)
- **WP4:** Common Core HTA (*FinOHTA*)
- **WP5:** Adapting existing and Common Core HTAs to other settings (*NCCHTA*)
- **WP6:** Transferability to policy (*DACEHTA*)
- **WP7:** Monitoring emerging technologies and HTA prioritisation (*HAS*)
- **WP8:** HTA support system in Member States without institutionalised HTA (*CAHTA*)
**EUnetHTA Project**

- **Steering Committee**
  - (Main Partner and Associated Partners)
  - (35 Members, Chair – Head of Main Partner)

- **Executive Committee**
  - (Main Partner and WP Lead Partners)
  - 9 people

- **Coordinating Secretariat**
  - at DACEHTA
  - (Main Partner)

- **Advisory Group:**
  - HLG?
  - DG SANCO?

- **EUnetHTA FORUM**
  - (all interested parties and stakeholders)

- **Info and feedback exchange**

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WP 1 → WP 2 → WP 3 → WP 4 → WP 5 → WP 6 → WP 7 → WP 8
Latest Developments - selection

- EUnetHTA Steering Committee meeting: 3-year work plan adopted
- first Core HTA technology identified (drug-eluting stents)
- structure for the HTA-policy study developed
- EUnetHTA update positively received by High Level Group
- Initial contacts with major stakeholder groups initiated
  - **Forum Gastein, October 4-5** – **European HTA Forum**, stakeholder dialogue
Work Packages 4-7

WP 4
Common Core HTA

WP 5
Adapting existing and Common Core HTAs

WP 6
Transferability to health policy

WP 7
Monitoring emerging technologies and prioritisation of HTA

2 pilot common core HTAs

Responsiveness of common core HTAs to health policy making

Prioritisation of HTA topics in relation to commissioning and adaptation issues

Responsiveness of adaptation process to health policy making

Ensuring health policy relevance in the process of identifying HTA topics
The Common Core of evidence, concepts, and methods

Framework
Systematic assessment of
- Clinical evidence
- Epidemiology
- Organisation
- Economy
- Societal/ethical issues
- using common generic
HTA-methodological framework

Common core of evidence that can be shared

Taxonomy of HTA concepts
Relationship between WP4 and WP5

Policy Questions

HTA Questions

WP4

WP5

A) A1) Common generic HTA-methodological framework based on best practice
A2) Common generic HTA-taxonomy

DE NOVO

ADAPTATION OF EXISTING HTA

B) Systematic search & review of literature
• Diagnosis (Screening) and/or
• Intervention
• “Natural history of the disease”
• Relevant economic models
• Technology/disease specific social and/or ethical issues

B) systematic extraction of HTA information from existing HTA report(s)
• Diagnosis (Screening) and/or
• Intervention
• “Natural history of the disease”
• Identification of relevant economic models
• Overview of technology/disease specific social and/or ethical issues addressed

C1) Methodic assessment of
- Epidemiology - Organisation
- Economy - Societal/ethical issues
using common generic HTA-methodological framework and HTA-taxonomy

C1) Application of adaptation toolkit using common generic HTA-methodological framework and HTA-taxonomy

C2) Reporting to inform policy

C2) Reporting to inform policy
Information Platform
Work Package 2 | June 2006

Nina Rehnqvist | SBU | Sweden
WP 2 Milestones & Deliverables

2006

April | Logo/graphic profile, 3 year plan & info package

June | EUnetHTA web site/info platform launch

December | An elaborate communication strategy
WP 2 Milestones & Deliverables

2007

June | Seminar/open meeting at the HTAi Conference 2007

December | Clearinghouse functionality structure finalised
WP 2 Milestones & Deliverables

2008

November 20 | EU netHTA Conference, Paris

December | Final report from the project
**EUnetHTA Information Platform**

**Milestone M6 | June 2006 (Month 6)**

- Public web site, www.eunethta.net
- Members-only-area with log-in function
- 8 extranets, one for each Work Package, edited by Lead Partner
- Content Management System: Episerver
Please visit:

www.eunethta.net

(www.eunethta.org and www.eunethta.eu)
Work in Progress

• The information platform will be developed further during the project

• Input needed from members and other organisations and target groups to make the information platform as useful as possible
Follow the Project on the Web

• Updates from the project and individual Work Packages
• Latest publications
• Conferences and events
• EUnetHTA Open Forum (to be developed)
• Surveys
• etc
Functions Available

- Calendar
- Search engine
- Group mail
- Site map
- Slide show
- Contact database
- Printer adapted page
- Discussion forum
- News function
- Form template
Welcome to EUnetHTA
European network for Health Technology Assessment

EUnetHTA - what is about...
- European network for Health Technology Assessment, EUnetHTA, coordinates the efforts of 27 European countries including 24 Member States of the European Union in evaluating health technology in Europe. Read more...

EUnetHTA objectives
- To establish the organizational and structural framework for the Network with a supporting secretariat
- To develop and implement generic tools for adapting assessments made for one country to new contexts
- To develop and implement effective tools to transfer HTA results into applicable health policy advice in the Member States and EU - including systems for identification and prioritisation of topics for HTAs and assessment of impact of HTA advice
- To effectively disseminate and handle HTA results, information sharing and coordination of HTA activities through the development and implementation of elaborate communication strategies and clearinghouse activities
- Effective monitoring of emerging health technologies to identify those that will have greatest impact on health systems and patients
- To establish a support system to countries without institutionalised HTA activity

European HTA Forum at the Health Forum Gastein
On October 4-5, 2006 a European HTA Parallel Forum will be held as a part of the European Health Forum Gastein in Austria.
Speakers from The European Commission’s DG Sanco and DG Enterprise, Ministries of Health, NICE (UK), HAS (France), Public Health institutions, and industry associations, will present and discuss European stakeholders’ perspectives on the HTA process, their involvement in and their experiences with HTA.

EUnetHTA Fact Sheet
Download EUnetHTA Fact Sheet (pdf-file).

LATEST NEWS
EUnetHTA - part of EU-Health Portal
EUnetHTA is a part of the EU-Health Portal, the official public health portal of the European Union. Link to the EUnetHTA Information Platform is....
June 21, 2006

3-year Work Plan and Structure in Place
The EUnetHTA Steering Committee comprised of the Associated Partners in the project met in Copenhagen on May 11, 2006. Representatives from 32 out of...
May 22, 2006

EUnetHTA at the HTAi Annual Meeting
On July 3, 2006 (12:30-14:00) EUnetHTA will hold a lunch forum “EUnetHTA - European network for Health Technology Assessment: Work in...”
May 02, 2006
Upcoming Meetings

On July 3, 2006 (12:30-14:00) EUnetHTA will hold a lunch forum "EUnetHTA - European network for Health Technology Assessment: Work in progress" at the HTAi Annual Meeting in Adelaide, Australia.

Representatives of the EUnetHTA partner organisations leading work in eight Work Packages will present latest developments in their groups and be available to answer questions from the audience.

The forum will focus on the issues of the Core HTA development and adaptation of core HTAs and existing HTA reports to various local settings.

Overview of the meetings 2006:
- **WP1** July 2, Adelaide (Australia), informal face-to-face WP1 members meeting
- **WP2** December 8-9, Cologne (Germany), WP2 members face-to-face meeting
- **WP3** September (date to be set), e-meeting, WP3 members – (in the work plan, but not specifically confirmed)
- **WP4** September 19, Helsinki (Finland), WP4 members internal meeting
- **WP5** July, September, November – e-meetings, dates to be set, selected WP5 members (Lead Partner to inform)
- **WP7** September 26, 10am-12 GMT, WP7 members e-meeting November 14-15, Sevilla (Spain), WP7 face-to-face meeting

Updates

- **General EUnetHTA presentation (ppt)**
  Click here to download

- **Fact sheet about EUnetHTA pdf-format**

- **EUnetHTA Graphical Guide**
  Click here to download (pdf, 240 KB)

- **Photos from the first Steering Committee Meeting on May 11, 2006 in Copenhagen**

- **SOP Manual is approved and updated (June 2006)! Please check it for latest info on management and financials.**

- **3-year work plan (May 11)**

- **Project deliverables**

- **Principles on communications in the EUnetHTA project Read more...**

- **Winners of the EUnetHTA Sudoku competition**
EUnetHTA Work Packages

The EUnetHTA project consists of eight separately managed work packages (WPs), each led by one Associated Partner (Lead Partner).

- **WP1 - Coordinating Secretariat**
  Lead partner: DACEHTA, Denmark

- **WP2 - Internal and External Communications**
  Lead partners: SBU, Sweden & DAHTA-DIMDI, Germany

- **WP3 - Evaluation of the project**
  Lead partner: NOKC, Norway

- **WP4 - Common core HTA**
  Lead partner: FinOHTA, Finland

- **WP5 - Adapting existing HTAs from one country into other settings**
  Lead partner: NCHTA, UK

- **WP6 - Transferability of HTA to health policy**
  Lead partner: DACEHTA, Denmark

- **WP7 - Monitoring development for emerging new technologies and prioritization of HTA**
  Lead partners: HAS, France, and ITA, Austria

- **WP8 - System to support HTA in member states with limited institutionalisation of HTA**
  Lead partner: CAHTA, Spain

- **WP 4-5-6-7 Coordination**

WP 4-5-6-7 are the technical EUnetHTA work packages developing practical tools to facilitate reduced duplication of efforts during the HTA process. Read more...
Communication

WP2 - Internal and External Communications

> Fact sheet WP 2 (pdf)

**Overall objective:**

“Effective dissemination and handling of HTA results, information sharing and co-ordination of HTA activities through the development and implementation of elaborate communication strategies and Clearinghouse activities.”

**The objectives of Work Package 2 are to:**

- Facilitate coherent, effective and sustainable external and internal communication of the project, where its aims, objectives, work in progress, results and final products are known to all partners, identified stakeholders and target groups on the EU and national/regional levels.
- Identify scientific literature databases of relevance to HTA and ways to provide access to support the work of the project members.
- Provide common data structures and common communication interoperability of information systems building on existing systems and databases such as INAHTA’s HTA Database.
- Offer structures for semantic interoperability.
- Explore best solutions to providing a contemporary electronic publishing facility for results, methodological and scientific developments and public information of the network.
- Provide structure for assuring the quality of the information produced by the network.
To receive EUnetHTA updates by e-mail, please register on:

www.eunethta.net
EUnetHTA: Work Package 4 (Marjukka Mäkelä) - Common core HTA

Lead Partner
FinOHTA, Finland

16 Associated Partners:
Belgium (1), Denmark (2), Estonia (1), Germany (2), Italy (1), Lithuania (1), Netherlands (1), Norway (1), Spain (3), Sweden (1), United Kingdom (2)

6 Collaborating Partners:
G-I-N;
Austria (1), Iceland (1), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Switzerland (1)

Deliverables (3):
• A generic methodological HTA framework based on current best practices (Core HTA Structure) (Deliverable 5) - Month 11
• 2 pilot examples of Core HTAs for different types of questions (e.g. diagnosis and treatment) (Deliverable 6) – Month 17 – 1st pilot, Month 33 – 2nd pilot
• Handbook on Core HTA development and use (Deliverable 7) – Month 33
WP4 Objectives

WP4 General Objectives:
• WP4 is linked to the EUnetHTA specific objective of

  “To develop and implement … tools for producing a common core of HTA evidence on clinical effectiveness, basic economic data and models, and for identifying key social, cultural and ethical issues relevant to assessed technologies.”

WP4 Specific Objectives
• To produce generic Core Models for HTAs on questions of two essential categories of health technology, as well as Core HTAs on selected topics for each category.

• To provide a basis for and collaborate with WP5 (Adapting existing HTAs) and WP 6 (Transferability to health policy)
WP4 Activities/Methods

- Topic selection in a dialogue with APs by an email survey
- Methods developed and accepted earlier by INAHTA and ECAHI/ECHTA will be utilised. Data from existing HTAs and systematic reviews will be applied according to the Model to produce a context-independent Core HTA
- The Models and the HTAs will be subjected to validation in various participating countries for applicability, scope and availability of data sources
- After validation, final Core Models and Core HTAs will be prepared for use
- **Core Model and HTA development** will take place at FinOHTA based on the data. Drafts will be distributed for comments to APs/CPs at least three times before the first Workshop. FinOHTA may involve other experts and co-workers than those currently signed up for the project
WP5: Adapting existing and ‘common’ core HTA (Nick Hicks)

Develop a toolkit for adapting the “core” in existing HTA reports made for one country into advice appropriate to other contexts (social, political, economic and health system)

Produce a glossary of ‘adaptation’ terms

NCCHTA
Debbie Chase
Ruairidh Milne
Nick Hicks
Aim of adaptation toolkit

To help users of an HTA report assess relevance and reliability

and

to decide how to use it; “How can this HTA report from elsewhere help decision makers in my country?”
What is an adaptation toolkit?

Two linked needs

Critical appraisal
  is it relevant?
  is it reliable?

Use
  how do I localise this report?
WP5 process

Initial ideas developed by Lead Partner

Iterative surveys of APs/CPs

possible structure proposed in Delphi round 1
discussed at WP5 face to face meeting

Agreed the core headings of an HTA

1st round taken from EUR-ASSESS

APs to work on discrete ‘modules’
to identify evidence
The work

WP5 partners’ commentaries
Partners asked to produce commentaries on appraisal of HTA report areas (Draft toolkit December 2006)

Applicability testing

Delphi survey rounds 2 and 3
Applicability testing

Two rounds of testing the toolkit

1 existing HTA    Sept 2007
1 common core HTA  June 2008

Two outputs

adapted reports;
revisions to toolkit

Evaluation of toolkit?

Stand-alone deliverable; and part of toolkit

A practical tool, to facilitate communication between HTA people in Europe (What do they mean by…?)

Focusing on HTA adaptation concepts that cause confusion

Issues, terms and definitions come

Initially: from WP5 APs; and WP6
Later: from web feedback from all EUNetHTA
Glossary

Live web-based glossary

- EUnetHTA Web based revisions
- WP5 suggestions
- Draft Glossary
- Compilation
Summary of WP5 activities

Surveys: experience & issues of adaptation
Generating ideas for development of toolkit
Development of glossary
Commentaries on HTA adaptation processes
Adaptation & applicability tests of 2 HTAs
Issues for WP5 activities

Engaging partners

Understanding concept of Toolkit
  Scope & limitations

Participation in work tasks
  Development of glossary
  Commentaries on HTA adaptation processes
  Adaptation & applicability tests
EUnetHTA: Work in progress

European Network for HTA
Work Package 6
July 3, 2006
Role of WP6

1. to show connections between HTA and health policymaking (impact, responsiveness)

2. to establish contact, communication and coordination with relevant stakeholders
Objectives I

to get a systematic overview of the relations between HTA and health care policy making in selected member state and the EU representing different health systems, remuneration systems etc., and to classify and analyse common characteristics of the relations

to improve responsiveness of HTA to the demands of the HTA consumers with the purpose of promoting HTA as policy input
Objectives II

to show concrete use of HTA in policy making in member states and the EU

to position HTA in relation to other relevant sources of input to health policy making and to regulatory processes

to support improved responsiveness by building a sustained sustainable open forum for EUnetHTA to exchange views, expectations and feedback on HTA with HTA stakeholders
Deliverables

A book describing:

the policy structures and policy processes related to the production and use of HTA in selected member states and the EU

the demands of HTA to health care and clinical policy makers in member states and the EU

possibly the actual handling of EUnetHTA prototype HTA in member states and the EU

The establishment of a EUnetHTA Stakeholder Forum and a stakeholder conference
Work plan – important milestones

October 2006  Presentation at European Health Forum, Gastein
February 2007  EUnetHTA forum established
March 2007  Workshop with researchers and policymakers
December 2007  Peer-review of book
June 2008  Book published
July 2008 →  Dissemination
Status WP6

June 2006

Agreement on content and distribution of work on the book project – ready to get started!

Stakeholder analysis will take place during the autumn

The Stakeholder Forum will develop during the project, but the introductory work will begin this autumn
EUneTHTA – WP7 : Work in progress
European Network for HTA
July 3, 2006
EUnetHTA: Work Package 7 - Monitoring development for emerging/new technologies and prioritization of HTA

**Lead Partner**
HAS, France (Strand A)

**Co-Lead Partner**
LBI@HTA (former ITA), Austria (Strand B)

**18 Associated Partners:**
- Denmark (1), Estonia (1), Germany (3)
- Ireland (1), Italy (3), Netherlands (2), Norway (1)
- Slovenia (1), Spain (3), Sweden (1), Cochrane Collaboration

**8 Collaborating Partners:**
- European Observatory,
- EuroScan, OECD,
- Denmark (1), France (1), Israel (1), Poland (1), Switzerland (1)

**Deliverables (2):**

- **Design of a structured information service on emerging/new technologies** *(Deliverable 13) - Month 14*

- **A tool for monitoring emerging technologies** *(Deliverable 12) – Month 33*
WP7 Objectives

• To set up an effective monitoring of emerging health technologies to identify those that will have the greatest impact on health systems and patients.
• To develop and implement effective tools to transfer HTA into applicable health policy advice in member states and the EU – including systems for identification and prioritisation of topics for HTAs…

➢ to provide tools that enable countries to monitor the development of (emerging, new or established) health technologies and to share data and results of this monitoring (Strand A).

➢ to provide healthcare decision makers with policy relevant information (Strand B)
WP7 Activities/Methods

Strand A:
• **overview** of existing monitoring tools (registers, application studies, post-marketing studies, ....) and of technologies (drug, device, procedure, organisational innovation) that are currently monitored with these tools.
• **development** of a commonly shared monitoring tool
• **pilot** of one monitoring tool and testing the feasibility of pooling data from different countries using a common monitoring tool.

Strand B:
• **development** of structured information service (electronic newsletter, bulletin) on high volume technologies (etc.) according to common criteria to determine which technologies should be the target for specific information.
• distribution of a **pilot info service** to the target audience
• **readjustment** of information service according to information needs of target audience.
Details for 2006 - Strand A : overview of existing monitoring tools

• Literature review : there is little published information on methods and organizational aspects of monitoring studies
• Survey among CPs and APs on existing monitoring models and the type of technologies monitored with these tools in their countries:
  – ongoing analysis of responses
  – some countries seem to have experience with setting up monitoring systems. Their protocols could be presented and discussed during the workshop.
• E-meeting in September : presentation of the results and the issues raised
• Workshop in November: development of a first draft of a tool
Emerging technologies monitoring tool

✓ Which benefits for a country/region from a European common system to monitor new/emerging health technologies
✓ Which obstacles to a European common system to monitor new/emerging health technologies

Definition of
• decision-taking process for the choice of the technology to be monitored by several EU countries
• objectives of the monitoring system and the type of study needed
• minimum of data to be collected on a common basis
• information on the quality control to be set up by each country, legal authorisation to get
• data circulation in the country and across Europe
• funding of a European monitoring system
Details for 2006 - Strand B: design of a structured policy relevant info-service on new & emerging technologies

– Design of content of Newsletter by EUROSCAN-University of Birmingham
– Presentation of a draft to the partners in September
– Workshop in November: consensus on the Newsletter draft, in particular on
  • Frequency: 2, 3 or 4 times a year?
  • Content: specific or non-specific to a speciality, or both?
  • Editorial board: who should be in there?
  • Redaction of the editorial: who should do that?
– Target group identification: for pilot and then for „reality“ (Coop with WP 2 and WP6)
Open questions

– Strand A : At the end
  • Could there be a centralisation of the data on the EUnetHTA database or an exchange of aggregated data through the EUnetHTA website?
  • Should there be a registry of existing monitoring activities in the different countries (input into EUnetHTA-database)?

– Strand B : At the end
  • Should there be a „long-term“ perspective for the Emerg.Tech Newsletter? Who pays for it? Copyright, responsibilities (Euroscan & EUnetHTA)?