



eunetha
EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

EUnetHTA Joint Action (2010-2012)

WP8 - Strategy and business model development

Report of HTA training and capacity building line of activities

July 2011

This report has been prepared by the organisation responsible for the WP8 HTA training and capacity building line of activities, AETS-ISCI, with support from the Lead Partner of WP3 (Evaluation), NETSCC.

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http://www.isciii.es/htdocs/en/investigacion/Agencia_quees.jsp

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1. Introduction

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is increasingly being used to inform decision making in the healthcare sector. The EUnetHTA Joint Action (JA) (2010-2012) is a response to the request by the EU Commission and EU Member States, in the Work Plan 2009 of the Health Programme, to continue fostering the development of HTA in Europe. The main objective of the JA is to put into practice an effective and sustainable HTA collaboration in Europe that brings added value at the European, national and regional level.

The EUnetHTA JA focuses on HTA in Europe to facilitate the efficient use of resources available for HTA, to create a sustainable system of HTA knowledge sharing, and to promote good practice in HTA methods and processes. The EUnetHTA JA builds on the methods and tools developed by the EUnetHTA project (2006-2008) and the work done in the Working group on Relative Effectiveness of the High Level Pharmaceutical Forum. The EUnetHTA JA involves a total of 35 government appointed organisations from 24 EU Member States, Norway and Croatia and a large number of relevant regional agencies and non-for-profit organisations that produce or contribute to HTA.

The EUnetHTA JA includes eight Work Packages (WPs)- three horizontal WPs and five core WPs. The WP8, led by the National Board of Health of Denmark, is dedicated to the development of a general strategy and a business model for sustainable European collaboration on HTA. Other tasks in WP8 include:

- developing a stakeholder policy
- facilitating support for the sustainability of the European HTA collaboration from external parties
- establishing contacts with European institutions
- developing governance and organisational structure
- developing working relationships with academic and research institutions.

In addition, WP8 includes two specific lines of activities associated with the development of the business model component “facilitation of national strategies for continuous development and sustainability of HTA and HTA training and capacity building”. Two different HTA European organisations coordinate these two separate lines of activity:

- AHTAPol (Poland) coordinates the section on facilitation of national strategies for continuous development and sustainability of HTA
- AETS-ISCI (Spain) coordinates the section on HTA training and capacity building.

The following organisations were involved in the specific line of activity on HTA training and capacity building of the WP8: AAZ, Croatia; AIFA, Italy; AGENAS, Italy; AHTAPol, Poland; CAHTAR, Spain; GÖG, Austria; IPH-RS, Slovenia; ISCI, Spain; MoH, Czech Republic; MoH, Spain; NBoH, Denmark; NOKC, Norway; NSPH, Greece; Regione del Veneto, Italy; SDU, Denmark; SSD/MSOC, Malta; UMIT, Austria; UTA, Estonia; and VASPVT, Lithuania.

1.1 HTA Training and Capacity Building line of activities

The objective of the specific line of activity of WP8 on HTA training and capacity building is to contribute to WP8’s objective: ‘Development of a general strategy and a business model for sustainable European collaboration on HTA’. This contribution will be focused on HTA training and capacity building activities connected to the processes and tools built in the EUnetHTA 2006-2008 project collaboration.

This specific line of activity has already performed the following activities:

- Designing a survey about use, barriers and training needs of EUnetHTA tools. A survey proposal was discussed at the first WP8 face-to-face meeting that took place in Warsaw in May 2010. The positive cooperation between WP2, WP3, WP6 and WP8 lead to include questions from all of these WP in the internal evaluation baseline survey, which was coordinated by WP3.

The survey included five questions about the EUnetHTA tools; regarding use, awareness, priority for training, preferred training method and problems using the tools. The survey was

launched on 2010, May 3rd to the 175 EUnetHTA JA individual participants. The replies reception was closed on 2010, 2nd July. The response rate was 88% (154 of the 175 recipients replied). The survey was analysed in order to identify what views the EUnetHTA JA participants have about training possibilities, barriers and suggestions they made to overcome those problems.

Results from the survey were presented and discussed in the second face to face meeting of WP8 which took place in Warsaw on February 2011. According to the results a face-to-face training course is being prepared to take place in Madrid on September 2011.

This report aims to describe and analyse HTA training and capacity building activities focused on the EUnetHTA tools that have been done in the WP8 of the EUnetHTA Joint Action 2010-2012, and to recommend further actions according to the identified needs.

1.2 EUnetHTA tools

As a result of the EUnetHTA 2006-2008 Project and EUnetHTA 2009 Collaboration a series of tools were built. Although the EUnetHTA tools are evolving, we used the tools definitions at the moment of the survey design (May 2010). At that moment thirteen EUnetHTA tools were defined and accessible through the EUnetHTA Members Only website. Because these tools were different in terms of scope, methodology, approach and development grade, we divided the tools according to their scope into two categories: methodological and communication tools. The following terms were used in the survey to define those tools:

Methodological tools: “HTA Core Model”, “EIFFEL”, “POP Database”, “Adaptation Toolkit” and “Adaptation Glossary”.

Communication tools: “Contact Database”, “E-meetings”, “EunetHTA Toolbar”, “Mailing List”, “Members Only Website”, “Members Only Workrooms”, “News Aggregator”, and “Workroom Bulletin Boards”.

This chapter is dedicated to describing the EUnetHTA tools in their current status. According to this there are some changes between the adopted names for the survey and the current names for the tools.

1.2.1. Methodological tools

HTA Core Model

– *Aim of the tool*

The tool supports easy use of the HTA Core Model to produce HTA information and access to the produced information.

– *Content of the tool*

The HTA Core Model is a framework for producing HTA information in a structured format. The model consists of an ontology that defines the structure, i.e. questions that are answered within an HTA; a methodological guidance on answering the questions, and a common reporting structure.

The tool contains the following features:

- Design of a research protocol, based on the HTA Core Model, with questions to be answered and methodological guidance
- Entering and storing results to the questions defined by the protocol
- Publication of the results
- Search and retrieval of information produced with the tool
- Adaptation of information into local settings

– *Using instructions:*

The tool is available at www.corehta.info. Persons affiliated with EUnetHTA Partner organizations or EUnetHTA Associates have access to it with EUnetHTA id. Handbook is freely available without login.

– *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*

THL, Finland. Contact person: Kristian Lampe - kristian.lampe@thl.fi

Adaptation Toolkit

– *Aim:*

- The Adaptation Toolkit was developed by WP5 of the EUnetHTA 2006-2008 project, ‘Adapting existing HTAs from one country into other settings’.
- This tool aims to help HTA agencies to adapt HTA reports from other countries, regions or settings for their own use.
- The purpose of adaptation is to enable an HTA agency in one setting to make use of an HTA report produced elsewhere, thus saving time and money.

– *Content:*

- The tool is composed of a series of checklists, questions and resources. Its purpose is to enable assessment of a report’s relevance, reliability and transferability. By doing so, the user can determine whether a report, or parts of a report, written for another setting, can be adapted for their own report in the context of their own setting.
- The toolkit has two sections:
 - 1) Speedy sifting - A screening tool which would enable rapid screening of existing HTA reports to assess the relevance of the HTA report for adaptation.
 - 2) Main toolkit - A more comprehensive tool with questions on reliability and issues regarding transferability.

– *Using instructions:*

- This tool is currently available as a pdf document at the following link:
www.eunetha.eu/Public/Work_Packages/EUnetHTA-Project-2006-08/EUnetHTA_Deliverables_project_2006-2008/
- There are plans to convert this into an interactive web version in the future.
- An HTA Monograph has been produced: Development of a toolkit and glossary to aid in the adaptation of health technology assessment (HTA) reports for use in different contexts. Health Technol Assess 2009;13(59):1–142.

- An article has been published in the Int J Technol Assess: The health technology assessment adaptation toolkit: Description and use. International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care, 25:Supplement 2 (2009), 37–41.
- *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*
- The responsible people are Prof Ruairidh Milne and Dr Andrew Cook at NETSCC.
 - Please direct enquiries through Dr Eleanor Guegan – e.guegan@soton.ac.uk

Adaptation Glossary

- *Aim:*
- The ‘Glossary of HTA Adaptation terms’ was developed by WP5 of the EUnetHTA 2006-2008 project, ‘Adapting existing HTAs from one country into other settings’.
 - This tool aims to identify and highlight key words and concepts that are easily misunderstood between countries.
 - This glossary is intended to be a resource for identifying issues related to different uses and meaning of various HTA terms with a view to aiding the adaptation of HTA reports between settings.
- *Content:*
- It provides a series of descriptions for HTA terms and contains examples of where the usage of these terms may differ between countries.
- *Using instructions:*
- This tool is currently available as a pdf document at the following link:
www.eunetha.eu/Public/Work_Packages/EUnetHTA-Project-2006-08/EUnetHTA_Deliverables_project_2006-2008/
 - It is also available on the EUnetHTA Members’ Only website.

- An HTA Monograph has been produced: Development of a toolkit and glossary to aid in the adaptation of health technology assessment (HTA) reports for use in different contexts. *Health Technol Assess* 2009;13(59):1–142
 - An article has been published in the *Int J Technol Assess*: Enhancing understanding: The development of a glossary of health technology assessment adaptation terms. *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care*, 25 (2009), 42-47.
- *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*
- The responsible people are Prof Ruairidh Milne and Dr Andrew Cook at NETSCC.
 - Please direct enquiries through Dr Eleanor Guegan – e.guegan@soton.ac.uk

EVIDENT Database (former EIFFEL Database)

The EVIDENT database (Evidence Database on New Technologies) is an operational web-based toolkit for a structured exchange and storage of information on additional evidence generation on promising health technologies. The database is supposed to include information on additional studies requested by HTA bodies after a HTA, and on the related technology, which are called Additional Data Collection (ADC) studies. EVIDENT is aimed to support European collaboration and help avoiding duplication of ADC studies and promote global analysis of results.

Agencies will be able to register ADC studies they have requested and search for studies being registered by other agencies. In order to have an overview on the status of a technology in Europe, every time a new study has been registered all users will be asked to input the minimum set of information on the related technology (HTA status, coverage), and eventually on similar studies if requested or planned.

Therefore, EVIDENT will provide the following information on promising technologies: level of diffusion of the technology in different health systems; status of technology assessment; status of monitoring actions for evidence development; protocols and results of ADC studies; effective use of the developed evidence for reassessment and/or revising a decision.

EVIDENT will have a system of alerts informing on new information being entered in the database and eventual matches. It will include also a basic and advanced research engine.

This tool is being developed and maintained by HAS, France.

POP Database

This is a description of the current “Interim POP Database”, which includes the excel sheet & the POP workroom.

– Aim

The Planned and Ongoing Projects database/workroom allows EUnetHTA partners to share with other members planned or ongoing projects conducted at their agency. Overall aim is to reduce duplication and facilitate collaboration among European HTA agencies.

– Content

The collection of information for the POP database started in 2009 as a part of the WP 7B activities to find practical ways of reducing duplication of activities and facilitating an active information flow on planned and ongoing projects between the EUnetHTA partners.

In early 2010, WP7 Co-LP (LBI-HTA) joined efforts with WP6 LP (KCE), to first provide an online repository (POP workroom) allowing to store and share the collected information (currently stored in an Excel worksheet) as part of the EUnetHTA Information Management System.

The regular, quarterly updates of the Excel worksheet, which currently includes more than 1.000 project listings, are facilitated by an active service and management by the WP7 Co-LP team. Regular calls (POP requests) soliciting input into the database have been issued.

The synthesis of all POP request information ends up in quarterly POP updates that include an alert list of redundancies. The alert list is supposed to be a point-of time support of information flow on new technologies prompting those, where identical assessments of same technologies are detected, and where opportunities for information sharing and closer collaboration might be given.

In late 2010, WP7B and WP6 started the development of an online solution that will be more user-friendly, fit into the EUnetHTA Information Management System and allow interoperability with the other relevant (non-duplicating) existing databases. This web-based

POP DATABASE will be launched in August 2011 (version 1) and in June 2012 as a second, more extended version.

– *Access*

Access to the POP workroom is limited to those EUnetHTA Partners and Associates only, who actively and regularly provide input (that includes regularly replying to email requests).

Responding agencies' personnel is allowed to LOGIN to the POP workroom with a personal Members Only Username and Password by using the following link:
<http://www.eunetha.net/Workrooms/Planned-and-Ongoing-Projects-workroom-POP-WR/>

– *Navigate*

After entering the workroom, the user can find a tab called "Document", which includes a folder called "POP database [current excel list]". This folder contains the latest version of the POP excel list, which is composed of different worksheets: "ALL partners" (a list of all EUnetHTA JA partners involved), "all projects" (the list of all projects, alphabetically ordered by alert topic), "alerts" (alert topics and those agencies which are simultaneously working on them), "MeSH" (a list of 114 MeSH terms used for indexing all projects), followed by individual POP worksheets (one per agency), alphabetical ordered.

– *Search*

Within the POP excel list one can search through the general search function [push Ctrg + F] or with the help of filter functions in the column headlines (drop-down menus).

– *FAQs*

http://www.eunetha.eu/Members_only/Resources/EUnetHTA-Tools/Planned-and-ongoing-projects-database

– *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*

Institution: Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Health Technology Assessment (LBI-HTA)/ Austria. Contact person: Claudia Wild, Gerda Hinterreiter, Marisa Warmuth

1.2.2. EUnetHTA communication tools

Contact Database

The EUnetHTA Contact Database lists all EUnetHTA partners and provides contact information. The Contact database aims to provide contact information (email, phone and picture) of people working in EUnetHTA. Clicking on the person's name allows to access to a complete personal profile of that person.

The contact database is developed by SBU, Sweden, and maintained by EUnetHTA Secretariat.

E- meetings

EUnetHTA maintains a communication tool to facilitate conducting meetings over the Internet. These meetings are live (information is conveyed according to an agenda, with a starting and ending time) and interactive i.e. information transmission is two-way between the audience and presenter. Each participant sits at his/her own computer anywhere in the world and connects to the meeting via Internet. EUnetHTA routinely uses e-meetings as a way to conduct their activities.

This tool is maintained by EUnetHTA Secretariat.

EUnetHTA id

– Aim

To provide single sign on (SSO) facility to all EUnetHTA tools (using the same login and password).

– Content

Users update their information through the profile page of the Contact database (MO site). Data are stored and shared using a centralised authentication server (LDAP).

– *Using instructions*

Users update their information through the profile page of the Contact database (MO site).
Tools developers are provided with a handout.

This tool is developed by DIMDI. The EUnetHTA ID is granted by EUnetHTA Secretariat.

– *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*

EUnetHTA Secretariat.

1.2.2.4. EUnetHTA Toolbar

– *Aim*

EUnetHTA Toolbar centralize access to the information useful for EUnetHTA partners.

– *Content*

- Links to EUnetHTA tools
- Links to EUnetHTA Communication tools,
- Links to work areas (and work rooms)
- Links HTA resources,
- News feed of public news from EUnetHTA and EUnetHTA partners (through the EUnetHTA News aggregator).
- A world clock facilitating contact within an international context

– *Using instructions*

The toolbar is an extension for the Web browser. It is available for Windows, MacOSX and Linux on the following browsers: Internet Explorer (Win), Firefox (all), Safari (Mac) and Google Chrome (Win, beta). Administrator rights may be needed to install the toolbar (IE, Safari).

- *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*

The tool is maintained by KCE. Contact person: Patrice Chalon - patrice.chalon@kce.fgov.be

1.2.2.5. Inbox

- *Aim*

This system allows storing private conversations on the system.

- *Content*

Form to send messages, mailbox.

- *Using instructions*

To contact a person within the network, find the contact personal page in the Contact database and click on "Send a message". The contact will be notified by email.

- *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*

The tool is maintained by KCE. Contact person: Patrice Chalon - patrice.chalon@kce.fgov.be

1.2.2.6. Mailing List

This tool is not available yet. It will allow providing mail discussions to EUnetHTA: when registered to a mailing list, a partner will be able to send an email to the whole group using a unique email address. The tool will be developed by DIMDI, Germany.

1.2.2.7. Members' Only Website

- *Aim*

The Members' Only (MO) Website is a private website restricted to EUnetHTA Partners and Associates.

- *Content*

The MO website contains an “About” section describing EUnetHTA structure, activities and policies; a “Work areas” section providing access to workrooms and specific sub sites; a “Resources” section providing a description of and link to the “Communication tools” (contact database, MO calendar, MO News, MO website, Workrooms, Inbox, E-meetings, Toolbar), “EUnetHTA tools” (EIFFEL, Adaptation glossary, EUnetHTA id, News aggregator, Core Model, Planned and Ongoing Projects) and a “Library” of documents related to EUnetHTA and its tools; and a “Contact” section providing contact information.

– *Using instructions*

The MO website is restricted to employees of Partner or Associates of EUnetHTA. Access requires a EUnetHTA id provided by EUnetHTA Secretariat. MO website can be used with any browser, Workrooms require Internet Explorer.

– *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*

The tool was developed by SBU, Sweden. Access to the MO website is managed by Secretariat. The tool is maintained by KCE, Belgium. Contact person: Patrice Chalon - patrice.chalon@kce.fgov.be

1.2.2.8. News Aggregator

– *Aim*

This tool is aimed to aggregates RSS feeds published on the web site of HTA agencies in one place and produce an aggregated RSS feed that can be used at other places.

– *Content*

RSS feed.

– *Using instructions*

News aggregator is available online for free. News can be browsed or searched.

– *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*

The tool is maintained by KCE, Belgium. Contact person: Patrice Chalon - patrice.chalon@kce.fgov.be

1.2.2.9. Workrooms

– *Aim*

A Workroom supports team working. Only members of the team can access the Workroom, all members of the team can create content in the Workroom.

– *Content*

The Workrooms provides you with the following functionalities to support team working:

- Overview: get general information about the aim of the Workroom.
- Document: upload / download documents, organize them with folder, add new versions and see version history, check-in check-out.
- News: publish news specifically for your team.
- Calendar: hold a calendar dedicated to your team.
- **Bulletin Board**: discuss with your team on a dedicated forum.

– *Using instructions*

Lead partners provide Secretariat with a list of persons allowed to access the Workroom. Once granted, access occurs with the EUnetHTA id. Workrooms require Internet Explorer. A webcast explaining how to use Workrooms is provided in the Library.

– *Institution responsible for it and contact for enquiries:*

Access to the Workrooms is managed by Secretariat. The tool is maintained by KCE, Belgium. Contact person: Patrice Chalon - patrice.chalon@kce.fgov.be

2. Methods

2.1 Survey design

It was decided that a baseline survey should be performed at the start of the EUnetHTA JA to ask EUnetHTA JA participants about the tools; regarding use, barriers and training needs. A proposal was discussed at the WP8 face-to-face meeting that took place in Warsaw in April 2010.

WP8 members approached WP3 (Evaluation) about combining their questions into the WP3 EUnetHTA JA Participants' 2010 Baseline Survey. These surveys were being planned to be sent to the same survey population at the same time and provided the opportunity of combining surveys. WP3 designed the comprehensive EUnetHTA JA Participants' 2010 Baseline Survey to include questions from WP8, WP2 and WP6. Several e-meetings were held between the lead of this strand, WP3 LP and WP6 LP. The combined survey was piloted at a workshop in the WP6 face-to-face meeting in April 2010.

Section 6 of the survey contained the five WP8 questions about the thirteen EUnetHTA tools; awareness, training need and barriers to use.

The first three questions were designed as a unique complex matrix question. The five questions were the following:

1. Please indicate your use/awareness of the EUnetHTA tools and opinions about training:

- Have used it
- Aware of it & might use in future
- Aware of it but unlikely to use in future
- Not aware of it

2. Please indicate your priority for training:

- Top priority
- High priority
- Low priority
- No importance

3. Please indicate your preferred training method:

- Face-to-face workshop
- Self-directed with a manual
- Training e-meeting
- Webcast
- None required
- Don't Know

4. What may affect your personal use of EUnetHTA tools?

- None
- From the tool itself
- IT issues
- Organisational issues
- Training
- Don't Know

5. Please, suggest any ideas to overcome problems using the EUnetHTA tools.
(Free-text, 250 word limit).

All of these questions were about the following EUnetHTA tools:

1. Adaptation Glossary
2. Adaptation Toolkit
3. Contact Database
4. EIFFEL
5. E-meetings
6. EUnetHTA Toolbar
7. HTA Core Model
8. Mailing List
9. MO Website
10. MO Workrooms
11. News Aggregator
12. POP Database
13. Workroom Bulletin Boards

2.2 Data collection

The survey was designed as a web-based and was hosted by surveymonkey.com. WP3 refined the database of contacts obtained from the EUnetHTA Secretariat. The survey was sent to all 175 individuals of EUnetHTA JA partner organisations on 3rd May 2010. The replies reception was close on 2010, 2nd July. Two targeted follow-ups were sent to increase the response rate. A response rate of 88% was achieved (154 replies from the 175 recipients surveyed).

2.3 Analysis

The survey included questions about the thirteen EUnetHTA tools, which have been divided into two categories: Methodological (“HTA Core Model”, “EIFFEL”, “POP Database”, “Adaptation Toolkit” and “Adaptation Glossary”), and communication tools (the rest of the tools).

We calculated percentages for the response categories for questions 1 to 4. Figures were used to present results for questions 1 and 2, where the EUnetHTA tools were ordered according to the highest results for the two response options “Have used it” and “Aware of it and might use in future”. Question 3 results were presented in a table. Question 4 results were presented in several figures, one per barrier considered. Question 5 was an open question, which was analysed for content, looking for common issues in the text provided by the participants, aided by using NVivo (version 8). Quantitative data were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (version 16).

3. Results

3.1. Demographics

154 participants from 50 organisations completed and submitted the questionnaire.

- Gender: all 154 respondents answered, 62% (n=95) were female and 38% (n=59) were male.
- Age: all 154 respondents answered the question. The modal group was 30-39 years (34%, n=53).

The results were the following:

- 20-29 years: 11% (n= 17)
- 30-39 years: 34% (n=53)
- 40-49 years: 32% (n=49)
- 50-59 years: 20% (n=31)
- 60-69 years: 2% (n=3)
- 70+ years: 1% (n=1)

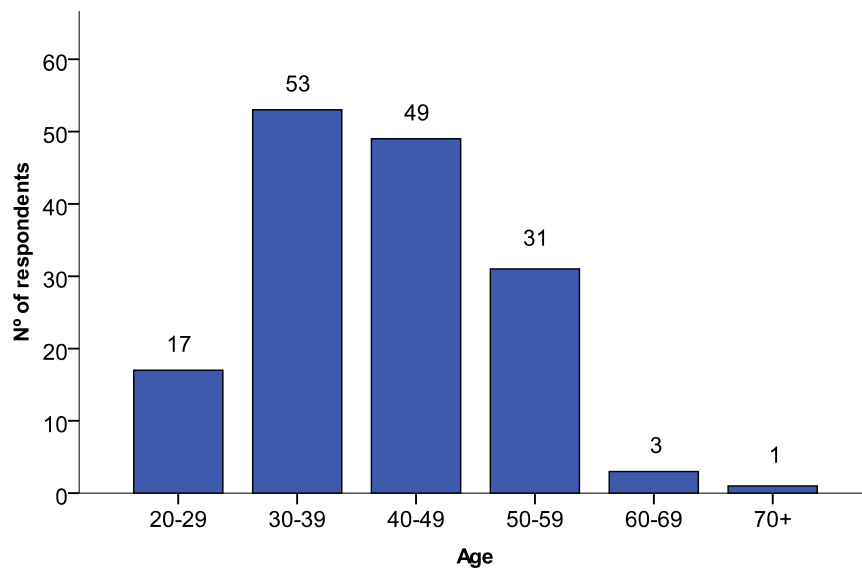


Figure 1. Age groups of survey respondents (n=154)

- Professional expertise within HTA: all respondents (n= 154) answered the question. The results are shown in table 1.

Table 1. Main professional HTA expertise of survey respondents (n=154)

| Main professional HTA expertise | Frequency (%) |
|---|----------------------|
| Medical Doctor | 37 (24%) |
| Other healthcare professional/scientist | 30 (20%) |
| Economist | 27 (18%) |
| Project manager | 20 (13%) |
| Information scientist/IT | 13 (9%) |
| Administration | 6 (4%) |
| Management | 5 (3%) |
| Health services researcher | 4 (3%) |
| Public health specialist | 3 (2%) |
| Epidemiologist | 3 (2%) |
| Communication | 3 (2%) |
| Statistician | 1 (1%) |

- Length of time working in HTA: 152 participants (99%) answered the question. The results are shown in table 2.

Table 2. Length of time working in HTA by survey respondents (n=152)

| Years | Frequency (%) |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Less than one | 31 (20.4%) |
| 1-5 | 66 (43.4%) |
| 6-10 | 33 (21.7%) |
| 11-15 | 17 (11.2%) |
| 16-20 | 4 (2.6%) |
| 21-25 | 1 (0.7%) |

Regarding membership of other international HTA networks the answers options were the following:

- EUROSCAN
- HTAi
- INAHTA
- None
- Don't Know
- Other - please specify

The results are presented in the table 3.

*Table 3. Membership of international HTA networks
by survey respondents’ organisations*

| International HTA networks | Frequency |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| EUROSCAN | 51 |
| HTAi | 108 |
| INAHTA | 91 |
| None | 23 |
| Don't Know | 13 |
| Other | |
| AUnETS | 1 |
| Cochrane Collaboration | 1 |
| Campbell Collaboration | 1 |
| EUSANAH | 2 |
| GIN | 3 |
| Health Economics Portuguese | 1 |
| ISPOR | 7 |
| SNHTA | 2 |

3.2. Use and awareness of the EUnetHTA tools

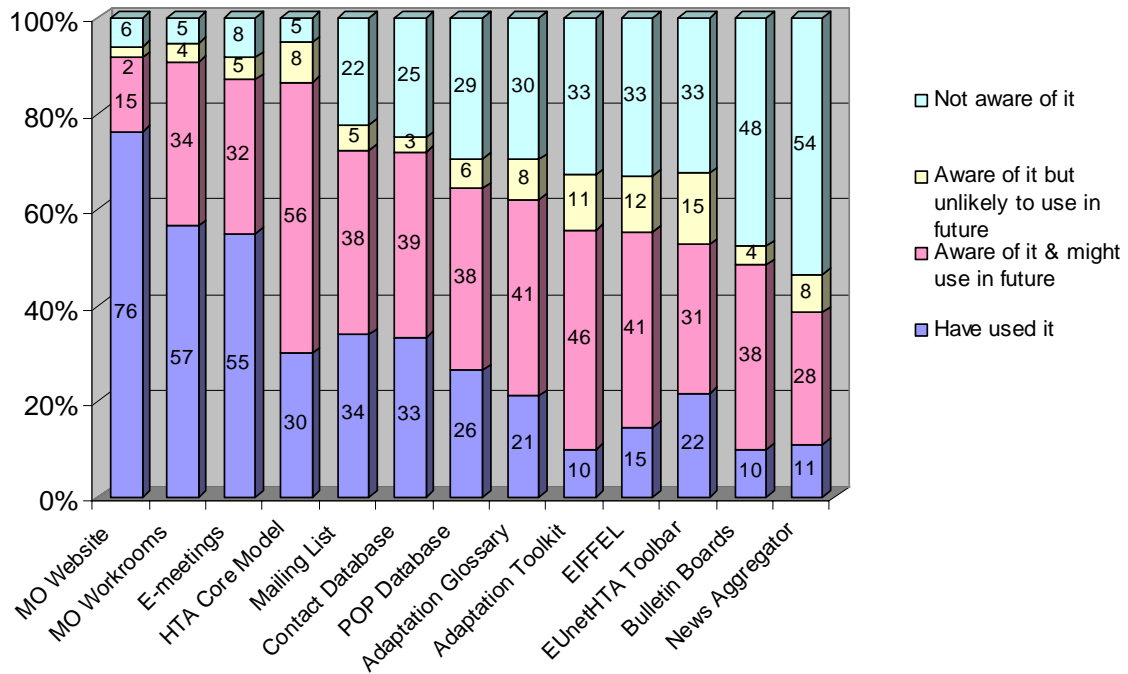
The survey included a question about awareness and use for each of the EUnetHTA tools: *“Please use the drop-down menus below to indicate your use/awareness of the EUnetHTA tools”*.

The answer options were the following for each of the thirteen tools:

- Have used it
- Aware of it & might use in future
- Aware of it but unlikely to use in future
- Not aware of it

The overall results are presented in figure 2, where the obtained percentage for the four response options is showed for each of the EUnetHTA tools. The tools are ordered according to the combined percentages obtained in the two best options, which are “Have used it”, and “Aware of it & might use in future”.

Figure 2. Use and awareness of the EUnetHTA Tools



The “MO website” was the tool with the highest frequency for use. In contrast, the “News Aggregator” was the last in the adopted classification. If we limit our analysis to the methodological tools and according to the adopted classification the most valued tool would be the “HTA Core Model”, and the rest would be in the following order: “POP Database”, “Adaptation Glossary”, “Adaptation Toolkit” and “EIFFEL”.

3.3. Priority for training about the EUnetHTA tools

The survey included the following question to classify the EUnetHTA tools according to their perceived training need: “Please use the drop-down menus below to indicate your opinion about training. Please only select ONE tool as top priority for training.”

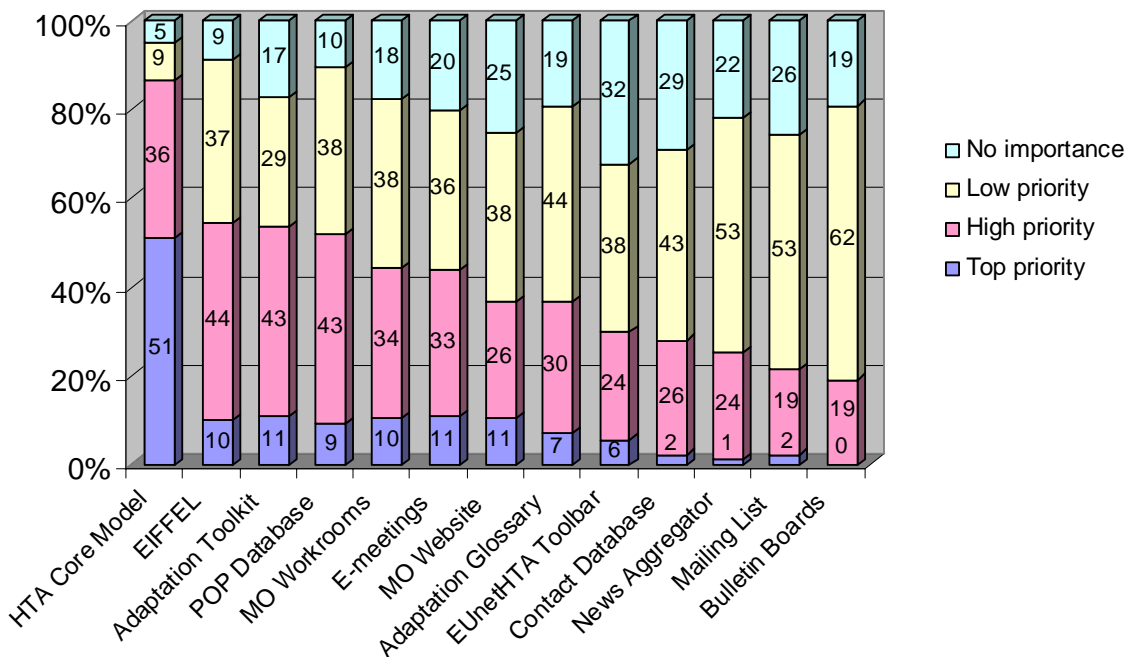
The answer options were the following for each of the thirteen tools:

- Top priority
- High priority
- Low priority
- No importance

The overall results are presented in figure 3, where the obtained percentage for the four options is shown for each of the EUnetHTA tools. The tools are ordered according to the combined percentage obtained in the two best options, which are “Top priority”, and “High priority”.

The “HTA Core Model” was the most valued tool as a training priority, following by “EIFFEL”, “POP Database” and “Adaptation Toolkit”, but far from the Core model. These four tools were all methodological tools. The following communication tools all had high response rates for “No importance” or “Low priority” for training: “Bulletin boards”, “Mailing list”, “News Aggregator”, “Contact database” and “EUnetHTA Toolbar”.

Figure 3. Priority for training of EUnetHTA Tools



3.4. Preferred training method on the EUnetHTA tools

The survey included a question about preferred training method for the EUnetHTA tools. The text of the question was: *“Please use the drop-down menus below to indicate your opinions about training”*.

The answer options were the following for each of the thirteen tools:

- Face-to-face workshop
- Self-directed with a manual
- Training e-meeting
- Webcast
- None required
- Don't Know

We calculated percentages for category and tool. The overall results are presented in table 4, where the most (**orange**) and the second (**yellow**) frequent answer per tool have been highlighted.

“Face-to-face workshop” was selected as the preferred method for “HTA Core Model”. Both, “Face-to-face workshop” and “Self-directed with a manual” were selected as the preferred training method for the “Adaptation Toolkit”. Apart from the “E-meetings”, “Self-directed with a manual” was the most or second preferred method for training on the rest of the tools. “E-meetings” was the preferred training method for “EIFFEL” and also for the “E-meetings” tool. “Webcast” was not valued as preferred training method for any of the EUnetHTA tools.,

“No training required” was the most frequent answer for the following communication tools: “Contact Database”, “EUnetHTA Toolbar”, “Mailing List”, “MO Website”, “MO Workrooms” and “News Aggregator”.

Table 4. Collated training preferences for tools

| | N | Self-directed with manual (%) | Face-to-face workshop (%) | E-meeting (%) | Webcast (%) | None required (%) | Don't know (%) | Total (%) |
|---------------------|-----|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Adaptation Toolkit | 93 | 24,7 | 24,7 | 12,9 | 12,9 | 9,7 | 15,1 | 100 |
| Adaptation Glossary | 97 | 33 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 25 | 13 | 100 |
| EIFFEL | 92 | 26 | 18 | 20 | 15 | 5 | 15 | 100 |
| POP | 86 | 43 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 19 | 10 | 100 |
| Bulletin Boards | 88 | 30 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 27 | 19 | 100 |
| HTA Core Model | 104 | 19 | 56 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 100 |
| E-meetings | 94 | 22 | 2 | 29 | 12 | 28 | 7 | 100 |
| Contact Database | 88 | 24 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 41 | 10 | 100 |
| EUnetHTA Toolbar | 89 | 18 | 10 | 10 | 17 | 30 | 15 | 100 |
| Mailing List | 92 | 23 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 48 | 10 | 100 |
| MO Website | 73 | 22 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 48 | 9 | 100 |
| MO Workrooms | 96 | 28 | 2 | 17 | 11 | 36 | 5 | 100 |
| News Aggregator | 85 | | 1 | 8 | 13 | | 18 | 100 |

Most frequent

Second frequent

3.5. Barriers to using the EUnetHTA tools

The survey included two questions aimed at identifying problems or barriers to using the EUnetHTA tools. The first is a nominal categorical question that investigated the most important problems which could limit the utilization of each of the tools. The text of this question was the following:

“What may affect your personal use of EUnetHTA tools? Multiple options can be chosen for each tool”.

The answer options were the following for each of the thirteen tools:

- None
- From the tool itself
- IT issues
- Organisational issues
- Training
- Don't Know

The following figures provide summarised results by type of problem and tool. Figure 4 presents the percentages of those who found **training barriers** as a limitation for using the tools. 41% of participants indicated “Training barriers” as barriers to use the “HTA Core Model”. 28% and a 23% of the participants found training barriers to use the “Adaptation Toolkit” and “EIFFEL” respectively.

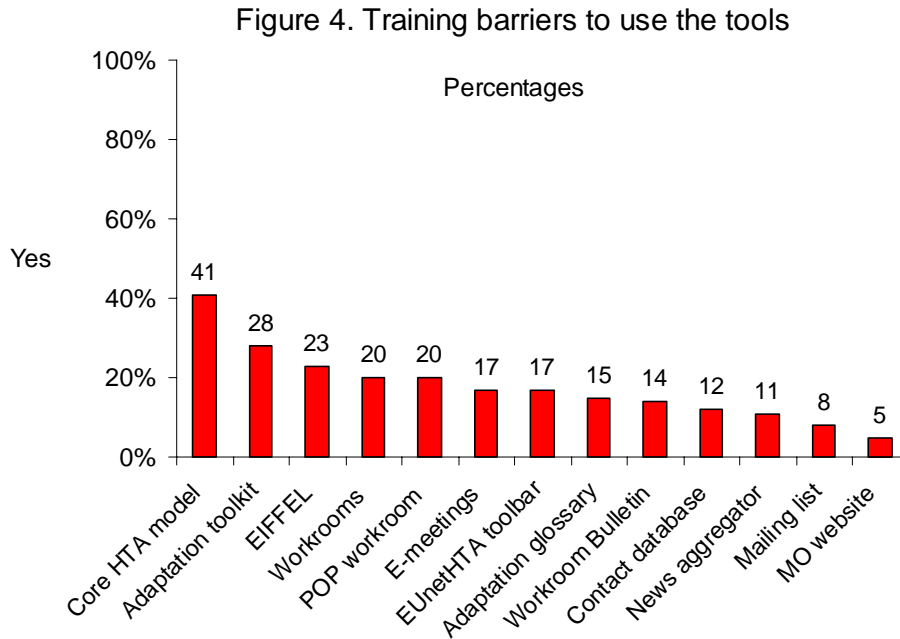


Figure 5 illustrates percentages of respondents who found barriers to use the tools from Information Technologies (IT) issues. IT issues were identified as a barrier to using the “E-meetings” tool” for 30%, “EIFFEL” for 18%, and “POP Database” and “MO Workrooms” for a 17% of the participants.

Figure 5. Barriers from Information Technologies

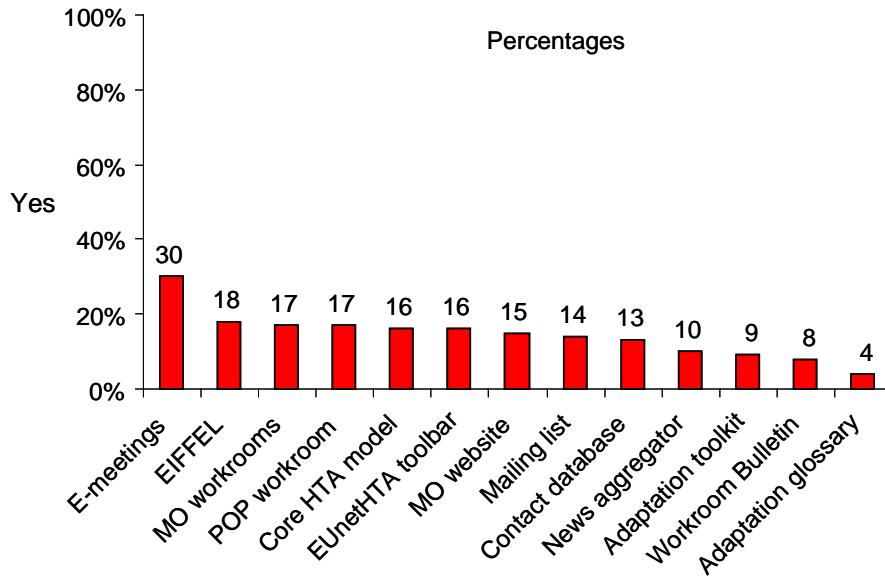


Figure 6 illustrates percentages of participants who found organisational barriers to use the EUnetHTA tools. Organisational issues were identified as barriers to use the “HTA Core Model” 24%, “E-meetings” 22%, and “MO Workrooms” and “Adaptation Glossary” 17% of the participants.

Figure 6. Organizational barriers to use the tools

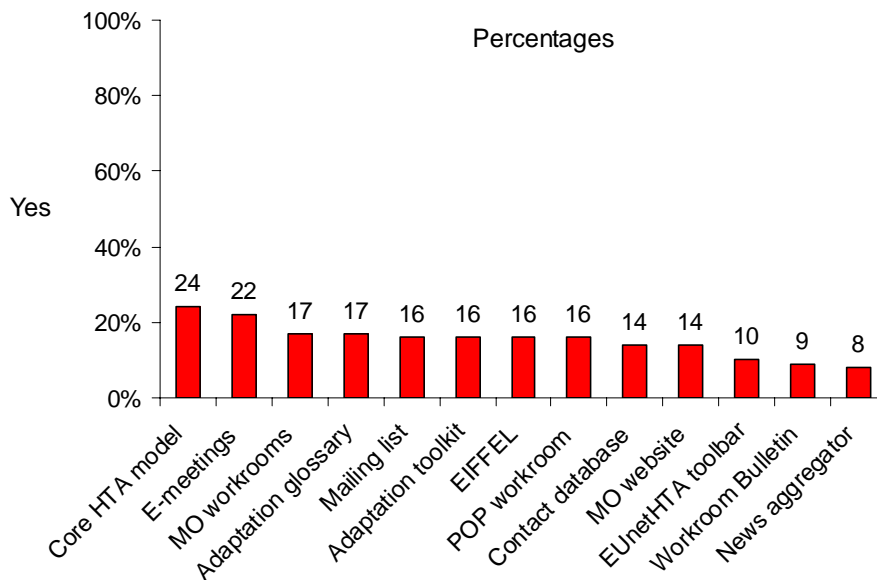
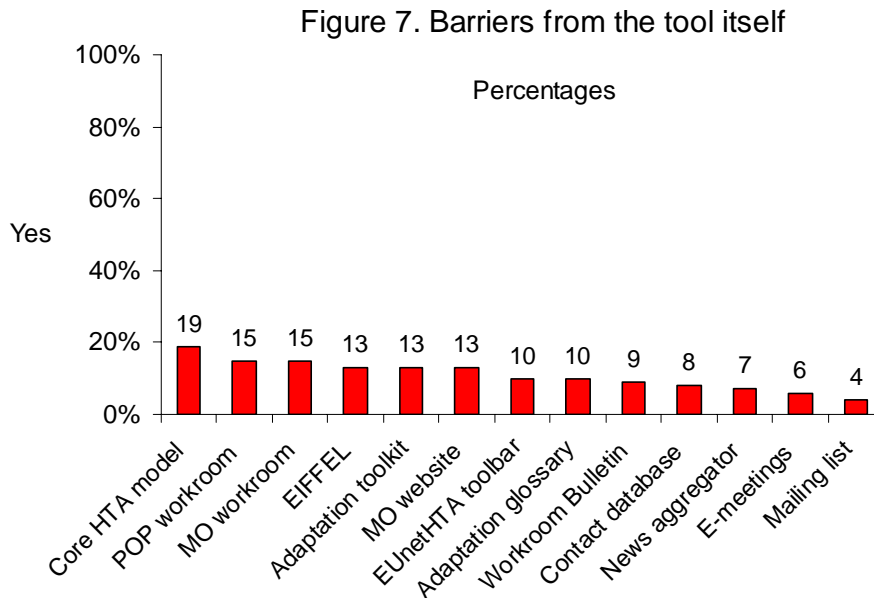


Figure 7 illustrates the percentages of respondents who found barriers to use the tools that came from the tool itself. This kind of barrier was identified as barriers to using the “HTA Core Model” for 19%, and “POP Database” and “MO Workrooms” for 15% of the participants.



The second question was an ‘open’ qualitative enquiry that asked for ideas to overcome the barriers to using the tools. Analysis into themes has enabled identification of the following proposals to overcome the identified problems using the EUnetHTA tools:

- Greater training and communication about the tools
- Simplicity and friendly design. User friendly design for the tools. Reduce the number of tools. Single point of access for all the tools
- Learning by doing. Test and ask users.
- Flexibility to use the tools with any internet browser, not just Internet Explorer.

A more detailed description of results about the whole survey is available in the “EUnetHTA JA Participants’ 2010 Baseline Survey Report”¹.

¹ NETSCC. EUnetHTA JA Participants’ 2010 Baseline Survey Report. Available at:
http://www.eunetha.eu/Members_only/About/Activities-of-the-collaboration/EUnetHTA-JA-2010-2012/JA-WP3---Evaluation

4. Discussion

The survey has allowed us to extract some conclusions about use and future development of the EUnetHTA tools. Some of the more clear conclusions were that between the current thirteen EUnetHTA tools, the “HTA core model” was valued as top priority for training and the most preferred method for this training was a “Face-to-face workshop”. Both, “Face-to-face workshops” and “Self-directed with a manual” were the preferred training methods for the “Adaptation Toolkit”.

The results of the survey have a high internal validity because of the high response rate from the vast majority of the project participants. Next we are going to discuss the results separately between both types of tools, communication and methodological tools.

4.1. *EUnetHTA methodological tools*

We have divided the thirteen EUnetHTA tools according to their scope and objectives into two groups. The first group consisted of five tools designed to methodologically support HTA production and processes within the EUnetHTA Network, and the second group consisted of eight tools designed to assist with the communication and liaison between partners through the whole EUnetHTA Network.

Regarding EUnetHTA methodological tools, the “HTA Core Model” is the tool that most people indicated was ‘top priority’ for training. “HTA Core Model” was also the highest valued in terms of use and awareness. By contrast, among the methodological tools, “EIFFEL” was the least valued regarding use and awareness. Regarding priority for training all of the methodological tools achieved higher values than the communication tools. It has to be mentioned that the “HTA Core Model” was clearly the first priority for training.

“Face-to-face workshops” was undoubtedly the preferred training method for the “HTA Core Model”. “Face-to-face workshops” and “Self-directed with a manual” were the preferred training methods for the “Adaptation Toolkit”. “Self-directed with a manual” was, however, the most preferred training method for all the other methodological tools.

Low percentages of participants found barriers to using the tools, being the most significant barrier the necessity for training to use the “HTA Core Model”. Training barriers were also identified by large proportion of respondents as a limitation to using the “Adaptation Toolkit” and the “EIFFEL”. Information Technologies issues were identified as barriers to using e-meetings, “EIFFEL”, “MO Workrooms” or “POP Database”. Organisational barriers were also mentioned by participants as a limitation to using the “HTA Core Model” and the “E-meetings”.

Fewer participants identified barriers from the tool itself, being the “HTA Core Model” the tool which was more frequently mentioned, followed by the “POP Database” and the “MO Workroom”.

Some of the surveyed participants suggested ideas to overcome barriers to using the tools. Most of the comments were extensive to all the tools. However, there were some specific issues for the methodological EUnetHTA tools. Several participants expressed the need for greater training and communication about the tools. Other stated that the appropriate mechanisms to overcome those barriers were “learning by doing” and “continuous feedback”. Some participants also suggested that an easier and friendlier design of the tools would facilitate their use and overcome a lot of training needs.

4.2. EUnetHTA communication tools

Among the communication tools the “Members Only Website” is the most known and used tool, with the “MO Workroom” placed in second position. However, the “News Aggregator” was the least used tool, followed by the “Workroom Bulletin Boards” as the second least used.

Most of the communication tools were valued as a low priority for training. In fact, “None required” was the most frequent answer about the training method preferences in all of these communication tools with the exception of the “Workroom Bulletin Boards” and “E-meetings”. For these two tools, “Self-directed with a manual” was the preferred training method for “Workroom Bulletin Boards”, whilst “E-meetings” was the preferred training method for the “E-meetings” tool.

The most important barriers found by participants to using the communication tools were “information technologies issues” and “organisational barriers” using “E-meetings”. A low percentage of participants indicated also training, IT and organisational barriers to using the “MO Workrooms”.

The most repeated ideas that the participants suggested to overcome the barriers to using the EUnetHTA tools were the following: simplicity, flexibility, friendly design, learning by doing, more training and communication about the tools. Some participants suggested that a friendlier user design of the tools could make training unnecessary. ‘Learning by doing’ was also suggested to substitute in-class courses. Other participants suggested more flexibility to use other internet browser different than IE (Internet Explorer), reducing the number of tools and a single point of access for all the tools.

5. Conclusions

- The EUnetHTA participants have expressed that there is a necessity for training about the EUnetHTA methodological tools. Training is not perceived as a priority for EUnetHTA communication tools. Therefore, further efforts should be concentrated for EUnetHTA methodological tools only.
- The EUnetHTA participants have valued “HTA Core Model” as top priority for training.
- Face to face workshops are the preferred method expressed for training on the “HTA Core Model”.
- Both, “Face-to-face workshops” and “Self-directed with a manual” were the preferred methods expressed for the “Adaptation Toolkit”.
- Self-directed training with a manual has been requested as the preferred method training on “EIFFEL”, “POP Database”, and “Adaptation Toolkit”.
- The “EIFFEL” and the “Adaptation Toolkit” are the least known and used among the EUnetHTA methodological tools.
- The “Members’ Only Website” and the “Members’ Only Workrooms” were the most known and used among the entire EUnetHTA tools.
- The percentages of EUnetHTA participants who found barriers to using the EUnetHTA tools were fairly low. However, some participants found training as a barrier to using the “HTA Core Model”, “Adaptation Toolkit”, and “EIFFEL”. Some barriers were also identified related with information technologies using the “E-meetings”. Other participants found organisational barriers when using the “HTA Core Model” and the “E-meetings”. Finally, a low number of participants found barriers from the tool itself using the “HTA Core Model”.
- Simplicity, flexibility, friendly design, and learning by doing were the most repeated ideas that the participants suggested to overcome the existing barriers, as well as the existence of formal training and more communication about the tools, the possibility to use other internet browsers, reducing the number of tools and having a single point of access for all the tools.

6. Actions suggested

- A “Face to face workshop” should be organised with a special focus on the “HTA Core model”.
- Communication and dissemination activities should be organised to increase the use and awareness of “EIFFEL” and “Adaptation Toolkit”.
- E-learning materials should be prepared to facilitate the utilisation and training on the “POP Database”.
- A structured continuous exchange process between partners should be established to facilitate continuous training and improving performance of the EUnetHTA tools.
- Some effort should be made to improve the design of the tools. This includes a friendlier design, greater simplicity and better access for the tools from the webpage.
- Liaison between WP8 and WP3 (Evaluation) should continue to incorporate “Training and Capacity Building” issues in the following EUnetHTA JA Participants’ Surveys.



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