



eunethta
EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

EUnetHTA WP7: Implementation Strategy

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The EUnetHTA implementation strategy

The EUnetHTA implementation strategy outlines the principles, approach to activities and responsibilities to increase use of joint HTA work at a European level. The activities in the strategy include drivers designed to help create an environment where EUnetHTA outputs are visible and enablers that help prospective users use EUnetHTA outputs. Activities are divided into those for which EUnetHTA has a main responsibility and those for which EUnetHTA partners are responsible. Responsibilities and activities are summarised in figure 1.

The EUnetHTA implementation strategy is underpinned by 5 key principles:

1. EUnetHTA outputs should be fit for user needs
2. Users of EUnetHTA outputs should be aware of the outputs available
3. Practical support to use EUnetHTA outputs
4. Implementation activities must have appropriate regard to proposals for a permanent model of HTA cooperation
5. Uptake is regularly monitored and evaluated

1. EUnetHTA outputs should be fit for user needs

Production of an output that is fit for user needs is fundamental to enabling implementation, improving resource benefits associated with using joint HTA outputs and reducing duplication of effort between HTA organisations.

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA

The following areas of production activities require opportunities for broad user involvement because of their importance to successful implementation:

- Topic identification, selection and prioritisation (Other Technology priority)
- Scoping of assessments and defining the relevant research questions
- Timing of assessments
- Defining and standardising the content of joint assessments
- Development of assessment report structures

Users should have opportunities to engage in activities affecting the likely outputs of a permanent model of HTA cooperation regardless of their status in any particular EUnetHTA work package.

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA partners

Individual EUnetHTA partners have a responsibility to:

- (1) identify prospective users of EUnetHTA outputs
- (2) facilitate access of prospective users to EUnetHTA activities so that user feedback is integrated into the development of EUnetHTA outputs

2. Users of EUnetHTA outputs should be aware of the outputs available

To use a EUnetHTA output efficiently users require timely notification of availability.

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA

Communication about EUnetHTA outputs starts as part of a broader communication strategy that promotes the value of EUnetHTA outputs to users, decision makers and stakeholders. EUnetHTA can engage and influence these groups directly to create an environment where EUnetHTA outputs are valued, and indirectly by creating resources that agencies can use to promote these messages.

Communication responsibilities for individual EUnetHTA outputs rest in all work packages and work packages need to work collaboratively with the EUnetHTA Communications Officer to support communication to all potential users. EUnetHTA is responsible for:

- Timely communication about planned, initiated and completed joint HTA outputs and timelines (and timeline changes) for these
- Communication through a variety of channels including direct communication based on the needs of target communication groups
- Access to assessments in a way that is easy to find and accessible
- Ongoing evaluation and feedback about communication and appropriate modalities of communication through advisory or liaison groups

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA partners

EUnetHTA partners have a responsibility to promote EUnetHTA and its outputs to relevant users within their organisation and with other organisations within their area to disseminate awareness of EUnetHTA outputs and promote uptake.

3. Practical support to use EUnetHTA outputs

Practical support to implement EUnetHTA outputs helps agencies understand how they can be used in agency processes and improve resource benefits of uptake.

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA

Involvement in EUnetHTA production and development processes supports subsequent implementation of the joint HTA outputs by developing familiarity and trust with the procedures and outputs. The following production activities are specifically identified by partners as supporting uptake:

- Increase the number of assessments prepared (pharmaceutical priority)
- Broad involvement of partners in production processes and procedure development
- Coordination of topic selection so that all agencies will have had the opportunity to use an assessment in a topic of national relevance by the end of JA3

In addition, the following implementation activities support uptake

- Review existing resources to support implementation
- Shared examples of successful uptake initiatives.

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA partners

EUnetHTA partners have a responsibility to promote participation in the production of EUnetHTA outputs and support their uptake. Where relevant, EUnetHTA partners should be involved in the production of assessments and use published assessments in agency procedures. EUnetHTA partners should encourage other agencies within their country to use EUnetHTA assessments where relevant.

4. Implementation activities must have appropriate regard to proposals for a permanent model of HTA cooperation

EUnetHTA JA3 supports the development of a permanent model of HTA cooperation. Implementation activities requiring changes in agency processes must be consistent with both the short term aims of increasing implementation in JA3 but also the longer-term proposals for a permanent model of HTA cooperation. In order to be able to make permanent changes to processes agencies require an understanding of what will be expected in the future.

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA

- Provide support for EUnetHTA partners to understand how joint assessment products can fit into their wider decision-making processes (pharmaceutical priority).
- Undertake in-depth case studies and interviews with partners to analyse their uptake processes and changes that would be required with implementation of a permanent model of HTA cooperation

- Establish definitions and indicators of ‘acceptable’ use within the context of developing a permanent model of HTA cooperation

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA partners

EUnetHTA partners are responsible for:

1. Analysing the impact of introducing EUnetHTA outputs into their processes and starting to develop plans for how EUnetHTA outputs could be incorporated into agency processes.
2. Participating in case studies and interviews to support EUnetHTA to analyse uptake processes and ensure that implementation issues are addressed both in the remainder of JA3 and in a permanent model of HTA cooperation.

5. Uptake is regularly monitored and evaluated

Accurate and timely data about uptake is critical to increasing the visibility of the impact of using EUnetHTA outputs, evaluating the success of the outputs and HTA cooperation and ensuring the EUnetHTA outputs produced remain relevant to changes in the HTA environment.

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA

- Regularly review the implementation strategy and amend as requirements for HTA cooperation change
- Collate and publish information about uptake of joint HTA outputs

Responsibilities of EUnetHTA partners

To provide EUnetHTA with timely feedback about the use of EUnetHTA outputs. To facilitate feedback from other relevant users within their organisation or in other organisations within the country on the use of EUnetHTA outputs.

Figure 1: Summary of activities to promote increased implementation

