



eunethta

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# XII Meeting of the Spanish Society of Health Technology Assessment

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## The EUnetHTA Project

An initiative to coordinate the European agencies for health technology assessment – with the intent to establish a sustainable European network for HTA

 Sundhedsstyrelsen  
National Board of Health

**DACEHTA**



eunethta

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# What is HTA

- **Health technology** is the application of scientific knowledge in health care and prevention
- **Health Technology Assessment (HTA)** is a multidisciplinary process that **summarises information** about the medical, social, economic and ethical issues related to the use of a health technology **in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner**
- The **aim** of HTA is to **inform** the formulation of safe, effective, **health policies** that are patient focused and seek to achieve best value

# HTA goals

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- To provide input to decision making in healthcare policy and practice
- Essential attributes of HTA
  - Orientation toward decision making
  - Systematic interdisciplinary process
  - Wide scope

# Examples of technologies for HTA

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- Diagnostic and treatment methods
- Medical equipment
- Pharmaceuticals
- Rehabilitation and prevention methods
- Organisational and supportive systems within health care

# November, 2004

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**Report of the EU Commission's High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care (HLG) dated November 30<sup>th</sup> concluded:**

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

# Spanish HTA society - key messages

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## Make international HTA more effective

- *less duplication* of work
- *more division of work* inside common framework

## Make international HTA work for national / regional agendas

## Develop best ways to do and present HTA to policy

- *meeting policy needs* in a methodological sound way
- *sharing HTA methodologies*, and sometimes *results*
- knowing *when policymaking takes over* from HTA

# Outline

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- **EUnetHTA short – the partners**
- **EUnetHTA tasks and objectives**
- **EUnetHTA plans and progress in the development of transnational methods**



# EUnetHTA Objectives

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## 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 Partners

- **59 partners**
  - **34 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 two strands

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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

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- To reduce overlap and duplication of efforts and hence promote a more effective use of resources
- To increase the HTA output and input to decision-making in the Member States and EU and hence increase the impact of HTA
- To strengthen the link between HTA and healthcare policy making in the EU and Member States
- To support countries with limited experience with HTA

# EUnetHTA Specific Objectives - I

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- To establish the organisational 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 EU – including systems for identification and prioritisation of topics for HTAs and assessment of impact of HTA advice

# EUnetHTA Specific Objectives - II

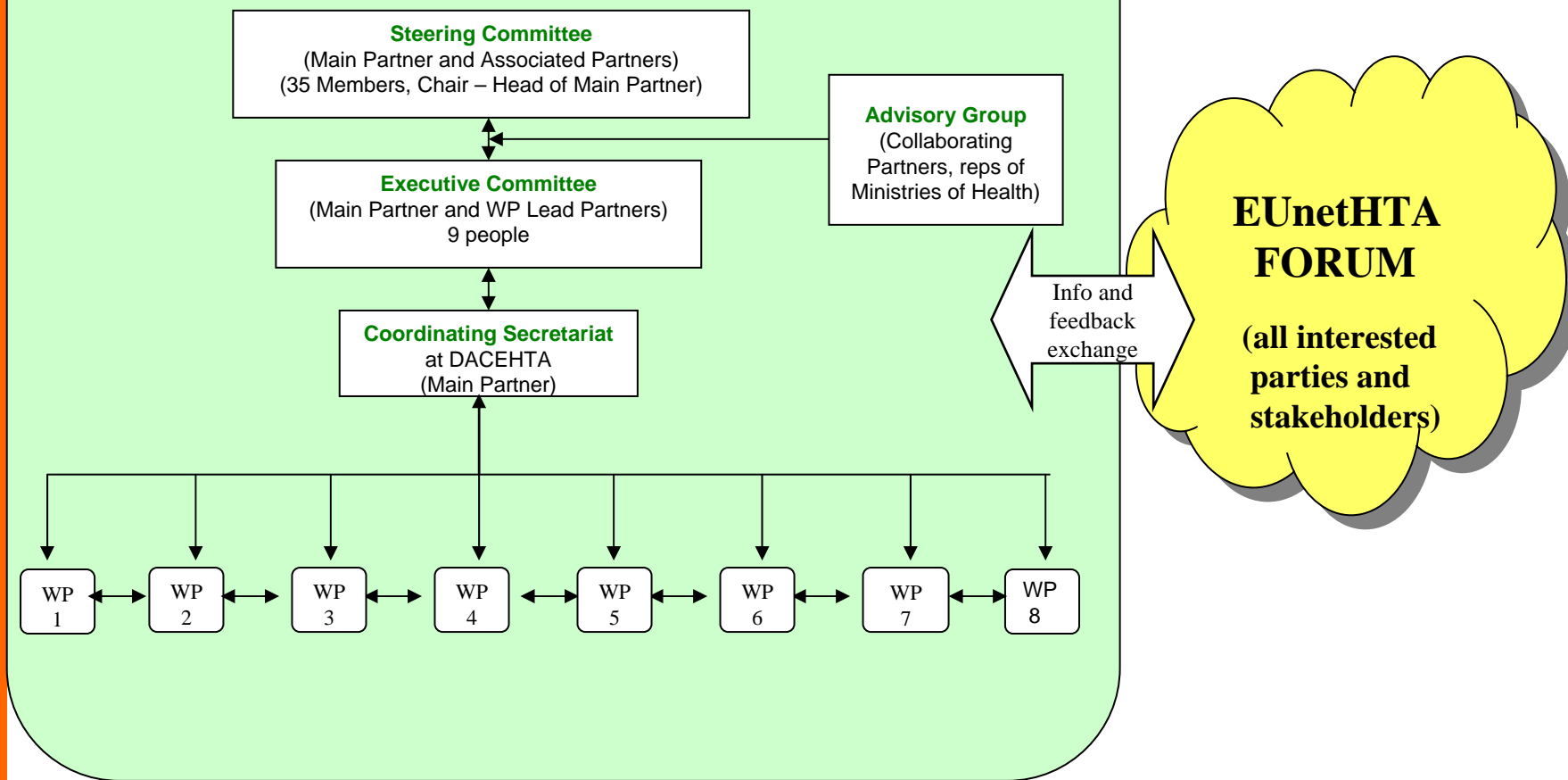
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- To effectively disseminate and handle HTA results, information sharing and coordination of HTA activities through the development and implementation of elaborate communication strategies and the description of a clearinghouse functionality
- Effective 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

# 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

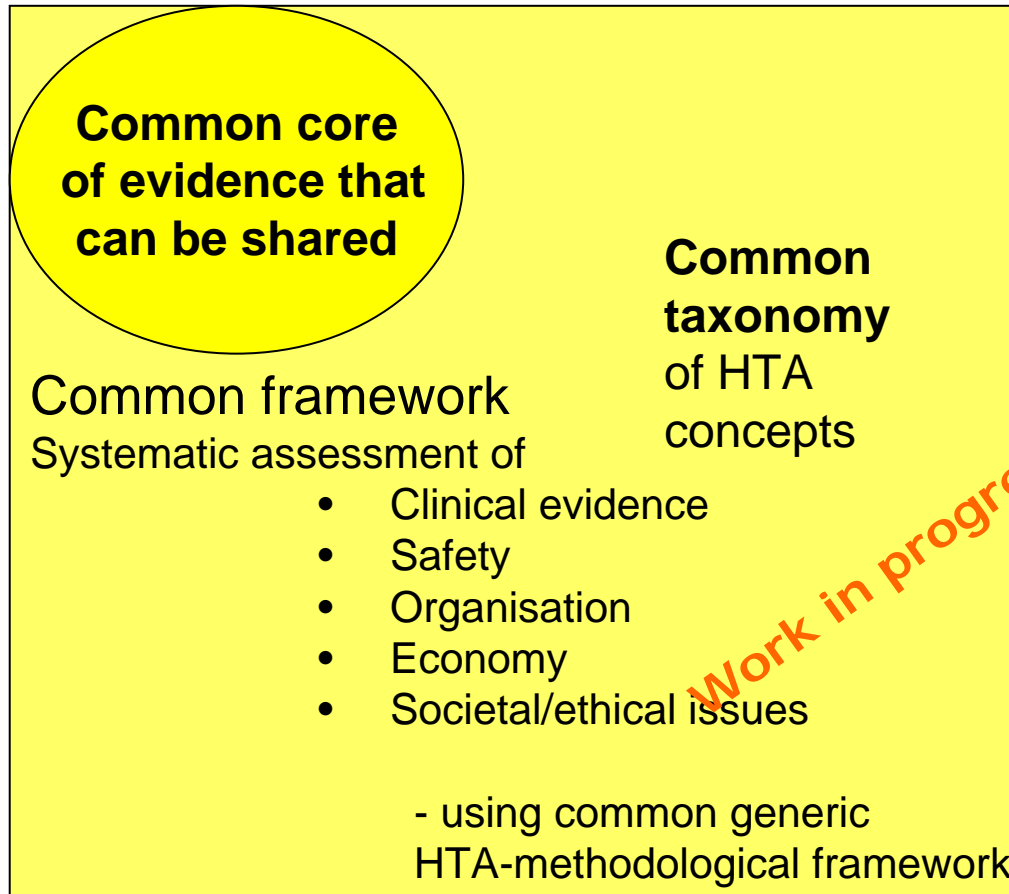




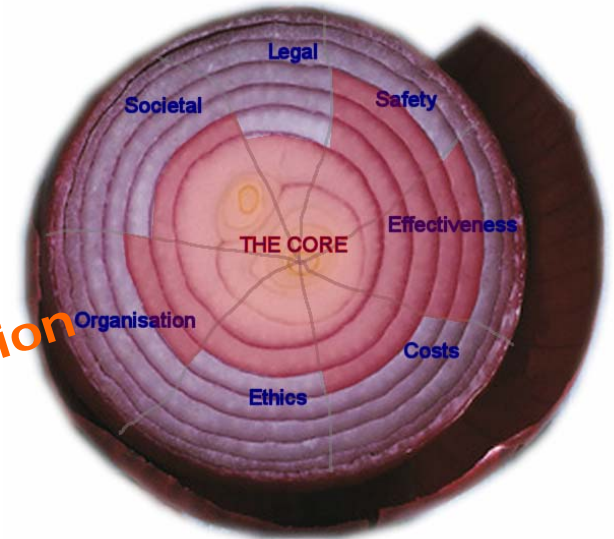
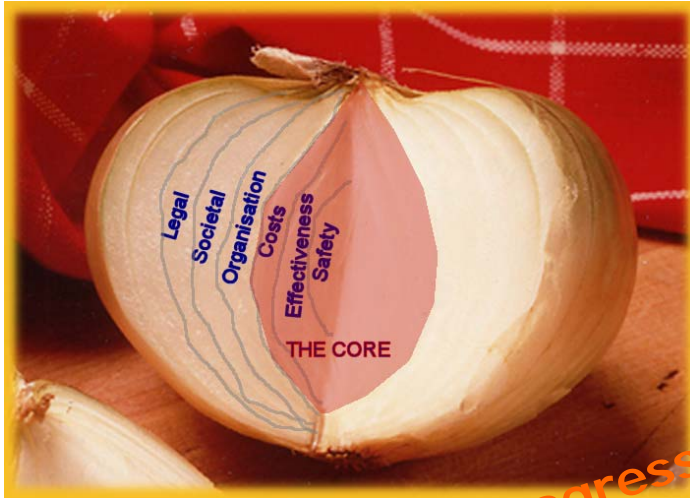
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- **WP2:** Communications (*SBU, DAHTA*)
- **WP3:** Evaluation (*NOKC*)
  
- **WP4:** **Common Core HTA (*FinOHTA*)**
- **WP5:** **Adapting existing and Common Core HTAs to other settings (*NCCHTA*)**
  
- **WP6:** Transferability to policy (*DACEHTA*)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

# The Common Core of evidence, concepts, and methods



# How does HTA split the onion?



Work in progress, not for citation



(K. Lampe)

# Relationship between WP4 and WP5

Policy Questions

HTA Questions

WP4

WP5

Work in progress, not for citation

- 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

INTER / TRANS-NATIONAL  
 NATIONAL / REGIONAL



# EUnetHTA:

## Work Package 4 - 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; Iceland(1), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Switzerland (1) Austria (1),

### Deliverables (3):

- A generic methodological HTA framework based on current best practices (Core HTA Structure) (*Deliverable 5*)
- 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

*Work in progress, not for citation*

- 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 subject 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 were distributed for comments to APs/CPs three times before the first Workshop. FinOHTA may involve other experts and co-workers than those currently signed up for the project

# EUnetHTA:

## Work Package 5 - Adapting existing and 'common' core HTA

### Lead Partner

NCCHTA, UK

### Associated Partners:

Austria (1), Belgium (1), Denmark (2), Estonia (1), Germany (2), Italy (4), Netherlands (1), Norway (1), Slovenia (1), Spain (3), United Kingdom (2)

### 6 Collaborating Partners:

Austria (1) Germany (1), G-I-N, Iceland(1), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Switzerland (1)

### Deliverables:

- 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)
- a **glossary** of 'adaptation' terms
- **applicability testing**



# Aim of adaptation toolkit

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**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?

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## Two linked needs

### Critical appraisal

is it relevant?

is it reliable?

### Use

how do I localise this report?

# WP5 process

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**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**

1<sup>st</sup> round taken from EUR-ASSESS

**APs to work on discrete ‘modules’**

to identify evidence

*Work in progress, not for citation*

# The work

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## 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

*Work in progress, not for citation*

# 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?

*Work in progress, not for citation*

# The Glossary: Dec 2006

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