



eunethta  
EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

## European HTA Collaboration Years 2009+

### Executive summary

Health technology assessment (HTA) is a multidisciplinary process that systematically assesses the medical, social, ethical, and economic implications of the development, diffusion and use of health technology. The overall aim of HTA is to systematically and objectively assess evidence to inform decision makers in their formulation of health policies and provide patients with equitable access to safe, effective, high quality health technologies that achieve best value.

The EUnetHTA Project<sup>1</sup> is developing innovative tools to improve the process of HTA. These tools will facilitate objective, transparent analyses that can be used as a basis for decision making and facilitate pan-European collaboration in HTA. The tools are:

- A prototype of a web-based information and knowledge sharing facility for HTA in Europe;
- A common framework for all HTA information, which covers nine distinct domains and identifies context independent information elements that can be shared across borders;
- Tools to help adapt the analyses for a health technology from one setting into another setting;
- Models for support and capacity building in new and developing HTA-institutions;
- Mechanisms for screening and sharing information on new and emerging health technologies.

During the first half of the EUnetHTA Project its partners and stakeholders have developed effective, synergistic working models and respectful relationships that should be utilised and developed further. The tools developed in the EUnetHTA Project have a potential to add real value to HTA processes. This will lead to increased inter-agency collaboration on specific health technology issues. However, the tools need piloting in a variety of European countries, further individual development and integration with other EUnetHTA tools. Therefore, to maintain the momentum created in the EUnetHTA Project and fulfil the Project's main objective, the Steering Committee of the EUnetHTA project (constituting a large group of its partners) proposes in the following document certain approaches to ensure long-term sustainability of and adequate support to a formal European HTA collaboration, which has a legal entity.

The vision of the EUnetHTA Collaboration is to facilitate high quality, safe, efficient healthcare for citizens across Europe through comprehensive, coordinated health technology assessment and provision of expert HTA input to inform health policies in Europe.

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The proposed key functions of the EUnetHTA Collaboration are to build on the work of the EUnetHTA Project by developing its tools for use across Europe:

1. Setting up and managing a web-based HTA information system for Europe;
2. Facilitating the development of HTA institutions;
3. Developing and improving common processes for performing and reporting HTA;
4. Providing the access point for expertise on HTA in Europe;
5. Piloting processes to create common core HTA information.

The aim is to create a sustainable European collaboration with a nucleus of HTA organisations from Members States, EEA countries and Switzerland. The EUnetHTA Collaboration will inform the field of health policy and practice, by facilitating an increasing volume of timely, high quality and relevant HTAs, reducing duplication of work, and increasing quality of HTA methods. A network of partner institutions in academia and government and a Stakeholder Forum will facilitate inclusion of a wide range of perspectives and needs.

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