



eunethta

Response to Eucomed

Copenhagen, September 15, 2008

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Eucomed has requested that EUnetHTA provides a formal response to the critical issues raised in the Discussion Topic Catalogue based on stakeholder input to the public consultation on proposal for EUnetHTA's future, which was distributed in relation to the meeting with stakeholders on 13 June, 2008, Rome.

It is important to stress that the Discussion Topic Catalogue reflects input to an outdated version of Proposal for Collaboration. The proposal has since been revised taken all comments from the public consultation into careful consideration (for description of responses to the consultation see <http://www.eunethta.eu/upload/Public%20Consultation%20Nov2007/Overview%20of%20public%20consultation%20final03042008.pdf>). A new version of Proposal for EUnetHTA Collaboration which was made public on June 16, 2008 has been endorsed by the EUnetHTA Steering Committee, and this version addresses many of the questions raised in the Discussion Topic Catalogue. The Proposal for EUnetHTA Collaboration is accessible at: http://www.eunethta.net/upload/EUnetHTA%20Collaboration%20proposal/EUnetHTA%20Collaboration%20Proposal_Final_June2008.pdf. References to sections in this document are listed in parenthesis.

Response to critical issues:

In relation to selected critical issues in the Discussion Topic Catalogue, EUnetHTA wishes to stress the following:

1.1. Aim of EUnetHTA 2009+

Should the EUnetHTA Collaboration develop common HTA methods, outcomes or both?
Should focus be on best or good HTA practice?

The EUnetHTA Collaboration will facilitate the establishment and continuous development of HTA institutions and will provide models of good practice for the methodology and processes supporting HTA (section 2.3.5).

1.2. Governance of EUnetHTA 2009+

Which relations should the EUnetHTA Collaboration have to external actors at national, European and international level? How to assure the accountability and reliability of EUnetHTA?

The organisation and governance structure is developed in the proposal document, which defines the status of actors (section 4). The EUnetHTA Collaboration is accountable to the Plenary Assembly of the Collaboration.

1.3. Financing of EUnetHTA 2009+

How should the EUnetHTA Collaboration be financed, and how do the financial and the organisational structures mutually influence each other?

Financial contributions would be accepted from:

- EU funding
- governments
- publicly funded statutory health insurance organisations
- international non-for profit organisations
- partners
- donations/grants from non-for-profit organisations.

Other sources may be accepted but would need to be approved by the Plenary Assembly. In all cases, grants should be unrestricted and conflicts of interests should be disclosed.

1.4. Stakeholder involvement in EUnetHTA 2009+

Which stakeholders should be involved in the EUnetHTA Collaboration and how?
How can stakeholders contribute to the Collaboration and what do they gain from it?

The EUnetHTA Collaboration (2.1.3 Mission) has an interest in communicating with stakeholders about general HTA processes and issues and will as such engage with stakeholders (2.2.3 Stakeholders). As European umbrella interest organisations stakeholders have an option of becoming a member of the Advisory council. Individuals belonging to stakeholder groups can be involved in EUnetHTA Collaboration work groups as experts.

1.5. Levels of collaboration in EUnetHTA 2009+

How to distinguish between national and European HTA responsibilities and how to understand the division between appraisal and assessment with regard to EUnetHTA activities?

All activities of the EUnetHTA Collaboration arise from the premise that its outputs will be used to inform but not mandate the content of national/regional/institutional HTA and appraisal reports (section 2.1.). Concerning division between appraisal and assessment, EUnetHTA is focused on developing practical tools and facilitating collaboration. EUnetHTA plays no role in national assessment and appraisal processes (Annex 2.).

3.1. Choice of assessment approach

Should different approaches for different technologies be developed?

In general HTA is suited for assessment regardless of the type of technology. However, EUnetHTA recognises that different technologies require consideration of different questions. This is reflected in the development of the core model, which is currently developed for medical and surgical interventions, and for diagnostic technologies.

4.1. Appeal processes

How to assure formal appeal processes for stakeholders and which level to apply appeal options at?

The proposal for EUnetHTA Collaboration does not describe appeal processes. Appeal processes in relation to decisions and recommendations are not relevant in relation to

EUnetHTA since EUnetHTA informs and does not make decisions or recommendations on the application of technologies.

EUnetHTA efforts to involve stakeholders:

According to the EUnetHTA work plan EUnetHTA should exchange views, expectations and feedback on HTA with stakeholders. This task has e.g. been executed in the following way:

- Presentation of EUnetHTA: European Health Forum Gastein, 2006; ISPOR 2006; HTAi 2007; EUPHA 2007, WHO ministerial conference 2008
- Dialogue with stakeholders: Policy workshop 2007 (WP6); Policy workshop 2007 (WP8); Stakeholder Meeting 2008 (WP6)
- Consultation on draft results from EUnetHTA to ensure transparency: public consultation on Core model and Core HTA information (WP4); public consultation on Adaptation Toolkit (WP5); publicly available newsletter on new and emerging technologies (WP7); public consultation on proposal for EUnetHTA Collaboration 2009+
- Development of EUnetHTA Stakeholder Open Forum website; EUnetHTA E-news

Main messages of future development:

EUnetHTA will continue to develop the relations to stakeholders according to the proposal for EUnetHTA Collaboration (June 18, 2008). As discussed at the Stakeholder meeting in Rome this includes establishment of an Advisory council which will allow EUnetHTA to discuss remaining issues from the Discussion Topic Catalogue with stakeholders.

Concluding remarks

The answers given above reflect as best possible the common views shared by the EUnetHTA partners. The issues that are raised will be revisited during the implementation of the permanent collaboration by the founding partners.



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