



**Health Technology Assessment international**  
An International Society for the Promotion of Health Technology Assessment

## HTAi-**INAHTA** Interest Sub-Group on Ethical Issues in HTA

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### Survey on new activities of the Interest Sub-Group (ISG) 2014

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**Responsible for the survey:**

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## 1. Background

In the last years some discussions on more continuous activities of the HTAi-INAHTA Interest Sub-Group on Ethical issues in HTA took place. In 2013 for example the idea of building-up a Methods Working Group emerged.

New activities are time consuming and not feasible with the existing capacities of the ISG. Thus, additional resources and people committing themselves to selected tasks are required.

To get a more representative picture of the interests of all ISG members regarding new activities a survey has been developed and conducted in 2014. The aim of this survey was to:

- a) identify the most important new activities and
- b) find people who are interested to participate and give support.

The results of this survey are presented in this report.

## 2. Methods

In July and August 2014 the survey was conducted. An URL address to a SurveyMonkey® form was sent to all current members of the ISG on Ethical Issues in HTA. For this purpose the ISG mailing list hosted by the HTAi secretariat was used. The online form was open for 4 weeks. One reminder was sent out.

The identity of survey participants was anonymous unless the participants stated to be willing to give support to one or more of the announced activities.

### 3. Results

18 members of the ISG participated in the survey. Currently 54 persons are member of the ISG mailing list. Thus, the response rate is 33.3%.

The results are presented by using the order of the survey questions.

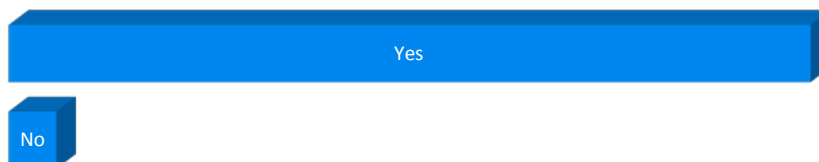
#### 3.1 New activities

##### 3.1.1 Methods Working Group

###### Question 1: Do you see a need for a Methods Working Group within the ISG?

Responses:

		%
Yes	17	94.4
No	1	5.6
$\Sigma$	18	100.0



###### Question 2: What should be the aim of this Methods Working Group (multiple answers allowed)?

Responses:

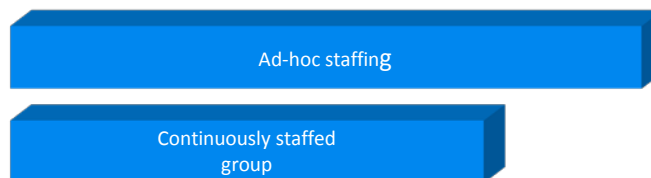
Answer		%
Identifying of the most important research gaps and knowledge deficits in the field of Ethics and HTA, developing and discussing jointly on solutions, applying, validating new methods and finally, presenting the results	10	55.6
Prioritizing the most important methodological problems in the field of Ethics and HTA and elaborating scientific reviews on the current state of knowledge - depending on systematic processes	9	50.0
Preparing and publishing papers on methodological issues in the field of Ethics and HTA - depending on the personal interests of the Methods Working Group members	7	38.9
Not specified	4	22.2
	$\Sigma$ 18	100.0

- Comments:**
- Outreach to people not yet members of the group (e.g. people working in ethics but not HTA, or HTA but not ethics) by participating / targeting those conferences, journals, etc.
  - It's a question of trust what you can do. No trust no joint projects as somebody else may pick-up your results as her/his.

**Question 3: What are your preferred conditions for a Methods Working Group?**

**Responses:**

		%
Ad-hoc staffing related to the topic of interest	8	44.4
Continuously staffed group	6	33.3
Not specified	4	22.2
$\Sigma$	18	99.9



**Question 4: How should the topics of interest be identified for the coming two years (multiple answers allowed)?**

**Responses:**

Answer		%
By discussion and acceptance on the Annual Meetings (lunchtime business meeting)	13	72.2
By discussion and acceptance on ISG workshops	8	44.4
By the members of the Methods Working Group	8	44.4
By horizon scanning and prioritization of all ISG members	7	38.9
Other: More regular communications and discussions on the ISG mailing list (or a separate devoted mailing list, if more appropriate)	1	5.6
Not specified	4	22.2
	$\Sigma$	18
		100.0

**Question 5: How should the Methods Working Group present itself to the “outside world” (e.g. authorship on publications)?**

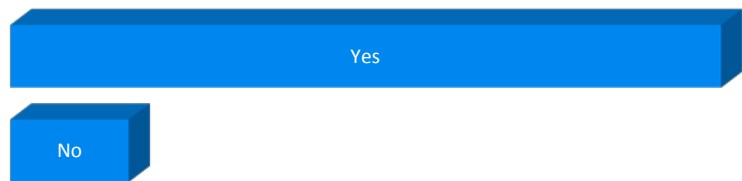
**Responses:**

Answer		%
Concerted appearance of the group	12	66.7
Every group member stands and speaks for her-/himself	2	11.1
Not specified	4	22.2
	$\Sigma$	18
		100.0

**Question 6: Would you like to become a member of such a Methods Working Group?**

**Responses:**

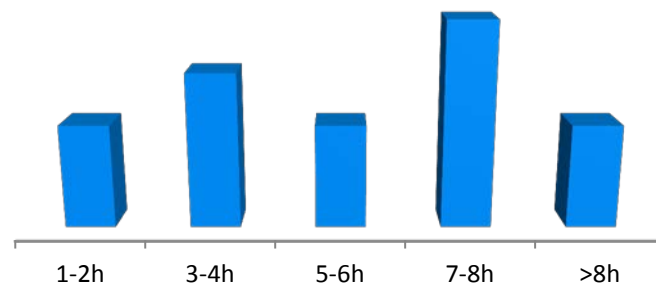
		%
Yes	12	66.7
No	2	11.1
Not specified	4	22.2
	$\Sigma$	18
		100.0



**Question 7: If yes, how many hours per month would you be willing to invest in this activity? At most ...**

**Responses:**

A total of about 80 h per month is offered by 13 persons (range: 1 -20h).





**Question 8: Any further ideas or comments regarding a Methods Working Group?**

**Responses:**

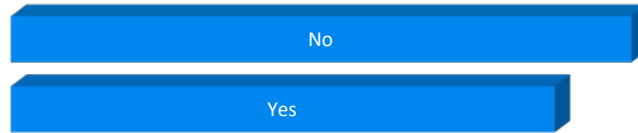
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1. Joint working on existing methodological questions = using synergies of existing expertise most efficiently.
  2. No Methods Working Group is necessary for just writing reviews on a topic of interest of somebody.
  3. ... I would like to work in pairs with people of my Region or Europe with same aspects first, in order to share similar experiences.
  4. I think outreach to new members would be important - both within the HTA community and the non-HTA community (ethics, epidemiologists, social scientists, health policy people, etc.). I'm not sure what the best way to do this is - perhaps it is a matter for discussion amongst us as a group.
-

### 3.1.2 HTAi Vortal Editorial Group “Selected Resources on Ethics and HTA”

#### Question 9: Would you like to become a member of this Editorial Group “Ethics and HTA”

Responses:

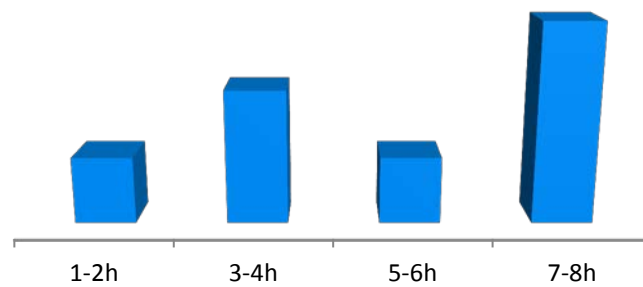
			%
Yes	7		38.9
No	8		44.4
Not specified	3		16.7
	$\Sigma$	18	100.0



#### Question 10: If yes, how many hours per month would you like to invest in this activity? Please enter the maximum number of hours

Responses:

A total of about 37 h per month is offered by 7 persons (range: 1 -8h).

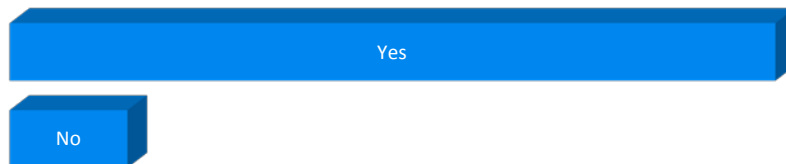


### 3.1.3 Editorial Group “A-Z of HTA”

**Question 11: Should the ISG build-up an A-Z HTA Group for basic HTA information to the Ethics community?**

**Responses:**

		%
Yes	13	72.2
No	2	11.1
Not specified	3	16.7
$\Sigma$	18	100.0



**Question 12: What should be the responsibilities of such a group (multiple answers allowed)?**

**Responses:**

Answer		%
Editorial tasks only, as defining topics and time schedules, recruiting authors, reviewing articles	9	50.0
A-Z article writing with external support by authors who are not member of the A-Z HTA Group or ISG	6	33.3
Complete A-Z article writing by group members	3	16.7
Not specified	5	27.8
	$\Sigma$	18
		100.0

**Question 13: What kind of journal/s should be addressed (multiple answers allowed)?**

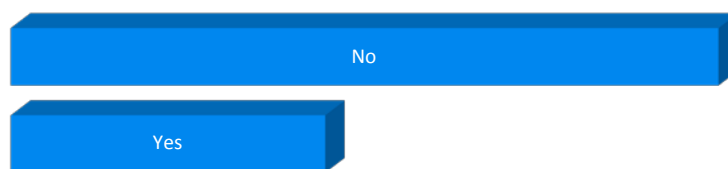
Responses:

Answer		%
International journal on Ethics, as BMC Med Ethics, Kennedy Inst Ethics J etc.	12	66.7
National Ethics journals, non-English languages too	6	33.3
Open access journal	6	33.3
Supranational journal, as Med Health Care Philos etc.	4	22.2
MEDLINE fully indexed journal	3	16.7
Other: perhaps also more generalist philosophy journals	1	5.6
Not specified	5	27.8
$\Sigma$	18	100.0

**Question 14: Would you like to become a member of an A-Z of HTA Group?**

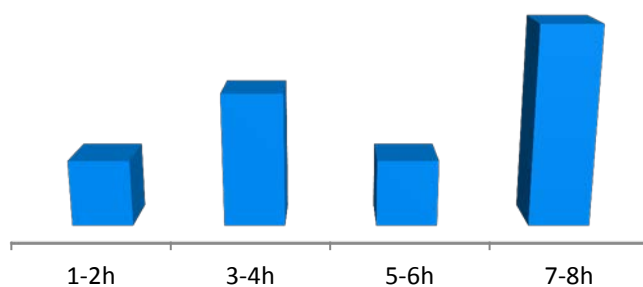
Responses:

		%
Yes	4	22.2
No	9	50.0
Not specified	5	27.8
$\Sigma$	18	100.0



**Question 15: If yes, how many hours per month would you like to invest in this activity? Please enter the maximum number of hours.**

A total of about 25h per month is offered by 4 persons (range: x -12h).

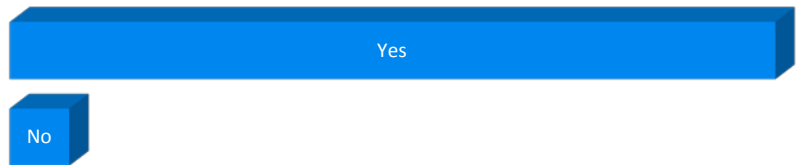


### 3.1.4 Workshops on Ethics and HTA

#### Question 16: Do you prefer to have Workshops on Ethics and HTA regularly?

Responses:

		%
Yes	13	72.2
No	1	5.6
Not specified	4	22.2
$\Sigma$	18	100.0



#### Question 17: How often should it take place?

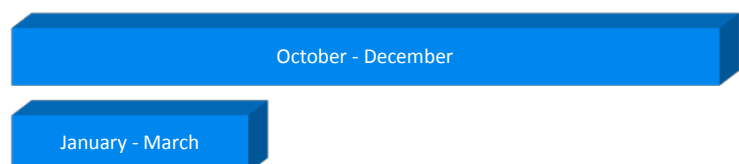
Responses:

Answer		%
Every second year	7	38.9
Once a year	5	27.8
Every third year	0	0.00
Not specified	6	33.3
$\Sigma$	18	100.0

#### Question 18: What would be the best time for you?

Responses:

		%
October - December	9	50.0
January - March	3	16.7
Not specified	6	33.3
$\Sigma$	18	100.0



### Question 19: What are your preferences regarding the Workshop venue?

#### Responses:

Answer		%	
Rotate venues within Europe	4	22.2	
Cologne, Germany	4	22.2	
Rotate venues within Europe, Canada and Australia	3	16.7	
Splitting into two venues as in 2013: Germany and Canada	1	5.6	
Not specified	6	33.3	
	$\Sigma$	18	100.0

- Comments:**
- the same place with rotating responsibilities for the program might be the most efficient and cheapest way to organize it routinely
  - Interest in topic might dictate specific location

### Question 20: Have you got any further comments?

#### Responses:

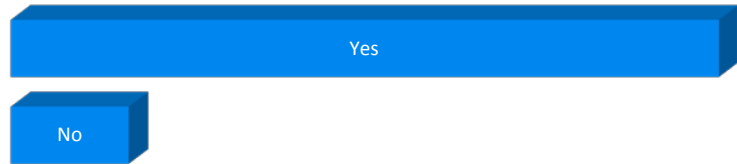
1. Cologne as venue is ok, but changing partners for the program. Invitation to all ISG members.
2. Europe is probably the closest to an "in the middle" meeting spot for Europeans, Australians, Asians and North Americans. Cologne was fantastic (thanks so much, Sigrid and Alric!) so I'd be happy going back for more workshops.
3. One other idea, could be to arrange our workshops for a couple of days before or after HTAi - since most of us attend every year, anyway...?

### 3.1.5 Newsletter on Ethics and HTA

#### Question 21: Would you like to receive a Newsletter on Ethics and HTA?

Responses:

		%
Yes	12	66.7
No	2	11.1
Not specified	4	22.2
$\Sigma$	18	100.0



#### Question 22: If yes, how often would you like to receive a Newsletter?

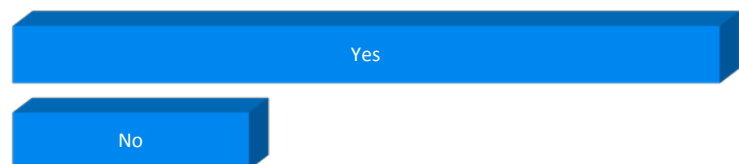
Responses:

Answer		%
Twice a year	8	44.4
Annually	2	11.1
Three times a year	2	11.1
Quarterly	1	5.6
Not specified	5	27.8
$\Sigma$	18	100.0

#### Question 23: Would you like to participate in writing / editing such a Newsletter?

Responses:

		%
Yes	9	50.0
No	3	16.7
Not specified	6	33.3
$\Sigma$	18	100.0

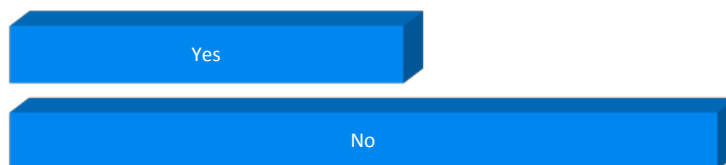


### 3.1.6 Organizational and administrative tools

**Question 24:** Some HTAi ISGs developed tools to manage organizational and administrative tasks, for example application forms for new ISG projects. **Should the ISG on Ethical Issues in HTA prepare some organizational and administrative tools too?**

**Responses:**

		%
Yes	5	27.8
No	9	50.0
Not specified	4	22.2
$\Sigma$	18	100.0



**Question 25: If yes, which tools should be prepared?**

**Responses:**

1. Platforms
2. Would need to see some specific examples of these tools to comment.
3. I think I would need more clarity on what tools specifically the other ISGs have prepared and how well they have worked. But in principle, if this makes things more efficient, then yes we should have them.



### 3.2 Prioritizing the new activities

#### Question 26: What are your priorities for the proposed activities?

**Responses:** 14 responder, 4 not specified (N=18=100%)

I find the proposed activity:	very important	important	less important	not important
Methods Working Group	11 (61.1%)	3 (16.7%)	0	0
Workshops	7 (38.9%)	7 (38.9%)	0	0
HTAi Vortal Editorial Group	2 (11.1%)	10 (55.6%)	2 (11.1%)	0
A-Z articles on HTA	2 (11.1%)	10 (55.6%)	2 (11.1%)	0
Newsletter	1 (5.6%)	6 (33.3%)	6 (33.3%)	1 (5.6%)
Organizational and administrative tools	1 (5.6%)	3 (16.7%)	5 (27.8%)	5 (27.8%)

### 3.3 Other ideas and suggestions

#### **Question 27: Do you have other ideas and suggestions for further activities?**

##### **Responses:**

- 
1. I think it would be wonderful if we could put in collaborative grant applications for projects, but I am aware that there may be institutional and jurisdictional hurdles to this.
  2. We need to establish a deeper dialogue with ethicists and philosophers - rather than specialist ethicists who know about HTA. Some of the suggested activities in this questionnaire will be very good for achieving this, e.g A-Z articles.
-

## 4. Summary

### Activities

The majority of survey participants prefer to initiate the following new activities:

- Methods Working Group
- HTAi Vortal Editorial Group “Selected Resources on Ethics and HTA”
- Editorial Group “A-Z of HTA”
- Workshops on Ethics and HTA
- Newsletter on Ethics and HTA

The majority of survey participants prefer not to initiate the following new activities

- Organizational and administrative tools

### Resources

Enough persons with interest in active support were identified for all the majority’s preferred new activities. Thus, no prioritizing according to the results of Question 26 is necessary.

**Thanks to all participants**

**and in particular**

**great thanks to those who are interested in participating and giving support to the new activities!**