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Alric Rüter studied philosophy and human medicine in Munich, Budapest and Alicante (Spain) before training in Internal Medicine and Oncology at the Universities of Munich and Freiburg, and has received further training in Medical Informatics. He participated in the establishment of the German Cochrane Centre at the Institute for Medical Informatics and Biometry, University of Freiburg. Since 1999, he has been with the German Institute for Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI), Federal Ministry of Health, and has worked to establish and build the discipline of HTA in German health care. Alric was the founder and the head of the German Agency for HTA (DAHTA) from 2001 until 2007. In 2008, Alric took over the responsibility of the Department of Health Care Quality at the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG). From October 2015 on, Alric has led the IQWiGs unit responsible for International Affairs.

Alric has been engaged in worldwide HTA development since 1999. With HTAi, he has been active with the organization since its founding, at the policy forum from the start and with the HTAi Board of Directors since 2016. After chairing HTAi's Annual Meeting Committee for three years, he took over the lead of the newly founded Scientific Development and Capacity Building Committee in 2018. Alric has also been engaged in INAHTA and with EUnetHTA since its beginning. Alric is a member of the German Society for Medical Informatics, Biometry and Statistics (GMDS) and chair of the HTA working group, as well as a member of the German Network for Evidence-Based Medicine and chair of the field of HTA. Alric is an associate professor at the University of Bielefeld and Aalen, lecturing on HTA.

### **Vision for HTAi**

Three years ago I said "HTAi is on the edge" and we need to ensure we are all "hands on." Well, we all worked hard and today HTAi is doing quite well. Having experienced the engagement of so many people working together to make HTAi a worldwide-acknowledged platform for HTA has become my main motivation to continue my work on the HTAi Board of Directors HTAi by applying for the position of Vice President. I would not say HTAi is "on the edge" anymore. The Society has grown stronger through fostering its independence and reliability. But it is definitely not the time for leaning back. The goal remains to establish HTAi as a facilitator or even catalyst of HTA internationally. There are some priorities we should be taking care of now:

- Strengthening the membership: Support and facilitate the activities of the interest groups (IGs) as these are the heart of the society. This can be done through the provision of pathways for internal and external exchange, establishment of education and training, foster outcomes and results through high qualitative accreditation process and there may be lot more. This will depend on the needs. So the most important step is to listen to the IGs.

Therefore, the interactions between the IGs themselves and especially the one interaction between the IGs and the Board has to be checked thoroughly and improved for guaranteeing effective support.

- Do “capability building” instead of just “capacity building”: It is not about just provision of training in HTA it is about integration into the HTA “family”. No matter whether it is Australasia, the Americas, Africa, or Europa, HTAi should provide the means and the channels for collaboration at eye level.
- Continuing the work with the Policy Fora as a successful platform for stakeholder exchange. The interaction between all fora has to be enhanced. But, even more important, the visibility of the work to the members is not quite well established and needs improvement.
- Strengthening relationship with regional HTA networks through expertise and establishment of channels for collaboration and development.
- Strengthening the relationship with external strategic partners, as there are academia or important organizations as WHO, INAHTA or EuroScan in order to foster the development and acknowledgment of HTAi as scientific society.
- And most important: To establish a continuous evaluation of HTAi’s activities and products. This must be based on a reliable organizational structure and governance.

To put it in a nutshell: HTAi has shown that it could be the independent platform for the worldwide HTA family. Now the society has to stabilize, strengthen and develop. So again and with enthusiasm, I would say: “hands on”.