

HTAi Information Retrieval Group (IRG) Business Meeting (in person) Monday, June 26, 2023



Chair: Ingrid Harboe

Vice Chair: Amanda Hodgson

Technical Officer: Nebyu Mengestie

Steering Committee Members

Catherine Voutier

David Kaunelis

Diane Lorenzetti

Lisa Tjosvold

Siw Waffenschmidt

Contents

Attendees	1
Agenda.....	1
Welcome.....	1
IRG activities	1
Other activities.....	2
Objectives for the upcoming term	3
Any other business and Questions	4
Closing remarks.....	4
Appendices	5
Appendix A: Cochrane Update	5
Appendix B: The European HTA collaboration – presentation slides	9
Appendix C. Update on the international HTA database - presentation slides	26

Attendees

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Room</u>
Monday	12:05	13:05	Riverbank 4

Attending: Amanda Hodgson, Siw Waffenschmidt, Catherine Voutier, Sunny Pathak, Jacqueline Hodgkinson, Maria-Dolors Estrada, Beatriz Casal-Acción

Agenda

Welcome – Amanda Hodgson, Catherine Voutier, Siw Waffenschmidt

1. Approval of minutes from IRG Hybrid Business Meeting 2022 <https://htai.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Minutes-IRG-Business-Meeting-2022-Utrecht.pdf>

- i) Amendments:

- (a) Apologies from Carol Lefebvre, who could not attend last year's ABM meeting

2. Apologies – Ingrid Harboe, David Kaunelis, Diane Lorenzetti, Nebyu Mengestie, Julie Glanville, Jaana Isojarvi, Carol Lefebvre

3. Revisions to agenda:

- i) Removed the following items from Other Business, as these were items from last year's ABM agenda.

- (a) Invitation to collaborate with the Interest Group for Patient and Citizen Involvement

- (b) Collaboration with the Disinvestment and Early Awareness Interest Group

IRG activities

4. IRG Webinar held June 1, 2023: [Finding search filters for study designs: using the ISSG Search Filter Resource](#)

- i) Over 200 registrants

- ii) Link to presentation is now on the HTAi youtube channel, and will also be posted on the IRG website shortly

5. Pre-Conference Workshop 2023

- i) Full day workshop held Sunday, June 25, 2023 at the HTAi Annual Meeting in Adelaide, Australia. Presenters were Catherine Voutier (Australia), Guido Zuccon(Australia), Amanda Hodgson (Canada), Siw Waffenschmidt (Germany), and Justin Clark (Australia)

6. [eNewsletter](#) update

- i) IRG Newsletter Issue 19 (June 2023) has been distributed and will be posted on the IRG website shortly

Other activities

7. SuRe Info

[SuRe Info](#) update – Julie Glanville and Jaana Isojarvi (prepared statement presented by Amanda Hodgson)

Update on SuRe Info from Julie Glanville and Jaana Isojarvi (co-managers)

We are very grateful to SuRe Info authors who have updated their chapters over the past year.

We are also very excited that three chapters (ethical analysis, organisational aspects

and search filters) have received much needed revisions and updates, and we received a brand new chapter on grey literature.

The current state of the chapter updates is as follows:

- Value of using different search approaches (15 Feb 2023)
- Service provides and search interfaces (20 March 2023)
- Search strategy development (29 March 2023)
- Search filters (23 Nov 2022)
- Other limits (29 March 2023)
- Peer reviewing search strategies (31 March 2023)
- Documenting and reporting the search process (8 April 2020)
- Health problem and current use of the technology (8 March 2023)
- Description and technical characteristics of technology (8 March 2023)
- Safety (8 March 2017)
- Diagnostic accuracy (14 April 2023)
- Clinical Effectiveness (29 March 2023)
- Costs and economic evaluation (24 April 2023)
- Ethical analysis (29 March 2023)
- Organizational aspects (24 March 2023)
- Legal aspects (8 March 2017)
- Qualitative research (28 October 2021)
- Grey literature (15 March 2023)

As always, we are grateful for any feedback on the site.

We also welcome anyone who would like to join SuRe Info as an author - we have a couple of chapters that need new authors, in particular the chapter on legal aspects. If you know someone who would be interested in joining as a co-author, please contact Julie (julie@glanville.info) or Jaana (jaana.isojarvi@gmail.com).

In the March 2023 email to co-authors we canvassed opinion on whether co-authors would like a webinar, but there was no demand and no agenda items, so we do not intend to hold a webinar during 2023.

SuRe Info would also benefit from more active marketing - so if you would like to join the SuRe Info team to promote the resource on email lists and social media we would be very happy to hear from you.

8. **Cochrane updates** – Carol Lefebvre (prepared statement and recording)

- i) Video recording of Carol's message was played.
- ii) Prepared statement

(a) Please see [Appendix A](#)

9. **EUnetHTA and HTA Database updates** – Siw Waffenschmidt

- i) EUnetHTA update
- ii) International HTA Database update

(a) Please see [Appendix C](#)

Objectives for the upcoming term

- 10. Invitation to collaborate with the [Interest Group for Patient and Citizen Involvement](#)
- 11. Collaboration with the [Disinvestment and Early Awareness Interest Group](#)
- 12. Funding proposal this autumn
 - i) Calls for interest group funding proposals will now occur in the autumn and winter timeframes. We anticipate a call for funding this September.

Any other business and Questions

13. Introducing our new Technical Officer, Nebyu Mengestie
14. IRG membership – individual memberships is now at 93. This number has risen from 29 in November 2022, but is still significantly less than other active interest groups currently.
15. IRG listserv
 - i) We are currently transitioning to a new listserv protocol. We appreciate the listserv members' patience as we navigate through the change.

Appendices (3 attachments)

16. [Appendix A: Cochrane update](#)
17. [Appendix B: The European HTA Collaboration](#)
18. [Appendix C: Update on the international HTA database](#)

Closing remarks

Amanda Hodgson (Vice Chair) thanked all for attending the meeting.

Appendices

Appendix A: Cochrane Update

COCHRANE INFORMATION RETRIEVAL METHODS GROUP (IRMG)

REPORT FROM CAROL LEFEBVRE,

LEAD CONVENOR

Report recorded 20 June 2023

Thanks to Ingrid Harboe and Siw Waffenschmidt for inviting me

and to Jürgen Klostermann for tech support with the recording.

Sorry not to be with you in person but for past medical reasons

I need to be at the cautious end of the COVID spectrum!

No need to take notes – the report will be circulated after the mtg.

Meetings update

Cochrane Colloquium

The Cochrane Colloquium, and with it the Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group meeting, has not been held since 2018. (2019 = disrupted by civil unrest in Chile; 2020-2022 = COVID.)

The next Cochrane Colloquium will take place in London, UK from 3-6 Sept 2023. We are planning to hold an IRMG meeting there but it is unlikely that there will be facilities for it to be virtual / hybrid.

<https://events.cochrane.org/colloquium-2023>

Projects and/or developments in practice

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions

The fully revised Searching for and Selecting Studies chapter of the Cochrane Handbook, co-authored by a number of members of the IRMG, which was published, on behalf of IRMG, within Cochrane in July 2019 and more widely in December 2019, is being fully revised again during for publication in Sept 2023. This applies to both the main text of the Searching for and Selecting Studies chapter and the Technical Supplement, both of which were last re-published in February 2022. The Appendix of Resources, which complements the material in the main text and technical supplement, by providing further detail together with names and URLs of resources, will be updated later in late 2023. The full citations together with the most direct possible links to the current versions are below:

Where to find and how to cite the:

Searching for and selecting studies chapter (main text)

Lefebvre C, Glanville J, Briscoe S, Featherstone R, Littlewood A, Marshall C, Metzendorf M-I, Noel-Storr A, Paynter R, Rader T, Thomas J, Wieland LS. **Chapter 4: Searching for and selecting studies**. In: Higgins JPT, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston M, Li T, Page MJ, Welch VA (editors). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* version 6.3 (updated February 2022). Cochrane, 2022. Available from www.training.cochrane.org/handbook
<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook>
<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04>

Where to find and how to cite the:

Searching for and selecting studies chapter Technical Supplement

Lefebvre C, Glanville J, Briscoe S, Featherstone R, Littlewood A, Marshall C, Metzendorf M-I, Noel-Storr A, Paynter R, Rader T, Thomas J, Wieland LS. Technical Supplement to **Chapter 4: Searching for and selecting studies**. In: Higgins JPT, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston MS, Li T, Page MJ, Welch VA (eds). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* Version 6.3 (updated February 2022). Cochrane, 2022. Available from: www.training.cochrane.org/handbook.
<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04-technical-supplement-searching-and-selecting-studies>
<https://training.cochrane.org/technical-supplement-chapter-4-searching-and-selecting-studies-v63>

Where to find and how to cite the:

Searching for and selecting studies chapter Appendix of Resources

Lefebvre C, Glanville J, Briscoe S, Featherstone R, Littlewood A, Marshall C, Metzendorf M-I, Noel-Storr A, Paynter R, Rader T, Thomas J, Wieland LS. Chapter 4: Searching for and selecting studies: Appendix of Resources. In: Higgins JPT, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston M, Li T, Page MJ, Welch VA (editors). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* version 6.0 (updated July 2019). Cochrane, 2019. Available from www.training.cochrane.org/handbook
<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04-appendix-resources>

Searching for studies for diagnostic test accuracy reviews

The revised and updated chapter on searching for DTA studies for the revised and updated Cochrane Handbook for DTA reviews was last updated in Oct 2022. It is available free of charge but you must be logged into your Cochrane account to access it (Cochrane accounts are available to all, free of charge).

<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook-diagnostic-test-accuracy>

Spijker R, Dinnes J, Glanville J, Eisinga A. Chapter 6: Searching for and selecting studies. Draft version (4 October 2022) for inclusion in: Deeks JJ, Bossuyt PM, Leeflang MM, Takwoingi Y, editor(s). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy* Version 2. London: Cochrane.

New Cochrane Handbook on systematic reviews of qualitative evidence / studies

A further Cochrane Handbook on systematic reviews of qualitative studies is also under development and this also has a chapter on searching for studies.

Cochrane Interactive Learning Modules update

As part of the update and revision of the Cochrane Interactive Learning Modules, the Searching for studies module underwent revision and was republished with the rest of the modules in Sept 2022. The press release noted that:

Module 3: Searching for studies have been thoroughly reworked to emphasise the essential role of Information Specialists in conducting systematic reviews.

As part of this round of updating, I removed all references to Information Specialists helping, assisting, guiding, supporting, providing help, assistance, guidance, support etc and reworded the text to indicate that it is the role of the IS to undertake searches as a collaborator with other members of the review team. (The same applies to the forthcoming updates of the Cochrane Handbook searching chapter mentioned above. All such wording has been removed / revised.)
<https://training.cochrane.org/interactivelearning>

SuRe Info

(You may have a separate update on that from someone else? – but in case not:)

Many members of the Cochrane IRMG are involved in maintaining and developing the [SuRe Info \(Summarized Research in Information Retrieval\)](#) web site, providing updated research-based information relating to the information retrieval aspects of producing systematic reviews and health technology assessments. These updates are published every 6 months, under the leadership of Julie Glanville (UK) and Jaana Isojärvi (Finland).

Search Filter Resource

A number of members of the Cochrane IRMG are involved in maintaining and developing the [InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group Search Filter Resource](#), which aims to identify, assess and test published and unpublished search filters designed to retrieve research by study design or focus (as opposed to topic-specific filters). The editorial team consists of Julie Glanville, Carol Lefebvre, Paul Manson, Sophie Robinson, Igor Brbre and Lois Woods. Julie gave a presentation on the Search Filter Resource for the HTAi IRG on 1 June 2023. I'm not sure whether there was a recording for those of you who missed it but hopefully someone in the audience today will know!

Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods journal

Cochrane released a new journal recently entitled *Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods*. They are seeking volunteers to peer review articles, to bring an information retrieval methods perspective. The journal focusses on two separate areas:

different types of evidence syntheses across health and social care including scoping reviews, rapid reviews, evidence gap maps, brief reports

methods research evaluating how we plan, produce, and disseminate evidence syntheses.

The content should not overlap with Cochrane Reviews traditionally published in the Cochrane Library.

Please also consider the journal when you are considering where to publish your information retrieval research.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/28329023>

Communications and collaboration

IRMG and the Cochrane Information Specialists' (CIS) Exec

IRMG continues to hold regular joint meetings with the Cochrane Information Specialists' (CIS) Exec, to ensure good communication and to offer support to CISs via the CIS Exec during this time of uncertainty for many CISs as a result of organizational change in Cochrane (see below).

Cochrane IRMG and Campbell IRMG

I attend quarterly meetings of the newly re-launched Campbell IRMG, to ensure close collaboration between Cochrane and Campbell on information retrieval issues.

<https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/news-and-events/news/new-campbell-group-started-information-retrieval-methods-irm.html>

<https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/contact/coordinating-groups.html>

Cochrane IRMG held a joint panel session with the Campbell IRMG at the Campbell conference, What Works Global Summit (WWGS 18-20 Oct 2022), by invitation from Vivian Welch, the then interim CEO and Editor in Chief of the Campbell Collaboration, where I presented: "[Cochrane guidance on searching for and selecting studies for systematic reviews: an evidence-based revision of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions](#)".

Note: the Campbell guidance on searching for studies is based heavily on the Cochrane Handbook searching chapter, with our permission and encouragement!

IRMG and NICE

I continue to attend regular meetings of both the UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence *Joint Information Group* and the *InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group* to ensure close liaison between Cochrane, NICE and related organizations.

Promoting IRMG

I contributed, by invitation, a short piece entitled: '*Meet Carol Lefebvre from the Information Retrieval Methods Group*', designed to bring a more personal touch to the Cochrane Methods Newsletter while showcasing the IRMG and promoting the role of Information Specialists within Cochrane.

<https://pages.cochrane.org/Methods-Newsletter-April-2023>

Other

Cochrane re-organization


Last year, I reported that Cochrane was undergoing major organizational change and this is still ongoing. In March 2023, all the Cochrane Review Groups in the UK (c. half of the then c. 50 CRGs) lost their main source of funding and the majority of them have ceased to operate. With respect to Cochrane Information Specialists, the IRMG has tried to support CISs facing redundancy by forwarding any suitable job adverts seen on wider library and information science community lists to the CISs list and the IRMG list. If you have any IS positions at your institutions or know of any suitable IS positions, please let me know and I can post them to the internal CIS list.

<https://futurecochrane.org/>

END

Appendix B: The European HTA collaboration – presentation slides

Slide 1




The European HTA collaboration

Dr. Siw Waffenschmidt
Head of the Information Management Department
Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care
Germany

HTAI 2023, Panel: “The Highway to Evidence? Re-using and Sharing Existing Evidence”, Adelaide, 27 June 2023

Slide 2



Content

- 1) European collaboration on HTA: regulation background
- 2) Preparations within EUnetHTA
- 3) Similar collaborations
- 4) Conclusion

27.06.2023

Sir Waffenschmidt / European HTA collaboration

2

Content

- 1) **European collaboration on HTA: regulation background**
- 2) Preparations within EUnetHTA
- 3) Similar collaborations
- 4) Conclusion

EU-HTA Regulation (HTAR)

22.12.2021 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 458/1


I
(Legislative acts)

REGULATIONS

REGULATION (EU) 2021/2282 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 15 December 2021
on health technology assessment and amending Directive 2011/24/EU
(Text with EEA relevance)

27.06.2023 Siw Waffenschmidt/ European HTA collaboration

IQWiG



- Proposed by the Commission on 31 January 2018
- Adopted on 15 December 2021
- Applies from 12 January 2025

WHAT'S IN THE EU HTA REGULATION?



FRAMEWORK FOR JOINT HTA COOPERATION

- » Joint clinical assessments (JCAs).
- » Joint scientific consultations (JSCs).
- » Identification of emerging health technologies.
- » Common procedures and methodologies across the EU.



KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE HTA REGULATION

- » Only on clinical domains of the assessment: No economic assessment or any conclusion on pricing and reimbursement.
- » Driven by EU HTA bodies who remain responsible for drawing conclusions on added value for their health systems.
- » High quality, timeliness and transparency.
- » Use of joint work in national HTA processes.
- » Input from independent experts.
- » Stakeholder engagement and inclusiveness.
- » Progressive implementation.

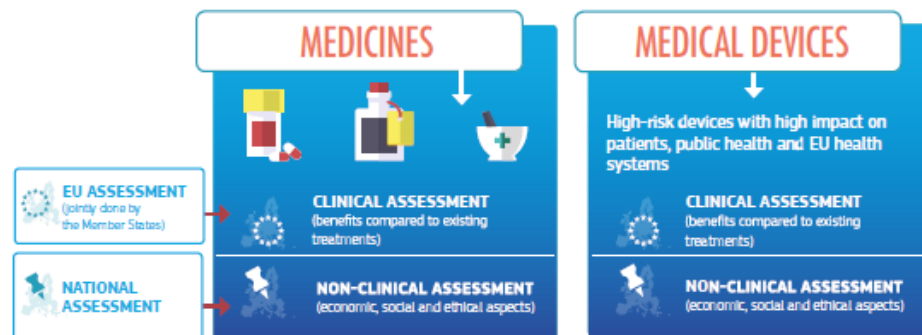


TIMELINE FOR MEDICINES

- » 12 January 2025: New oncology medicines and advanced therapy medicinal products will be assessed at EU level.
- » 13 January 2028: Orphan medicinal products to be added to the joint work.
- » 13 January 2030: All new medicines will come under the scope of the regulation.

https://health.ec.europa.eu/latest-updates/factsheet-implementing-eu-health-technology-assessment-regulation-2023-05-16_en

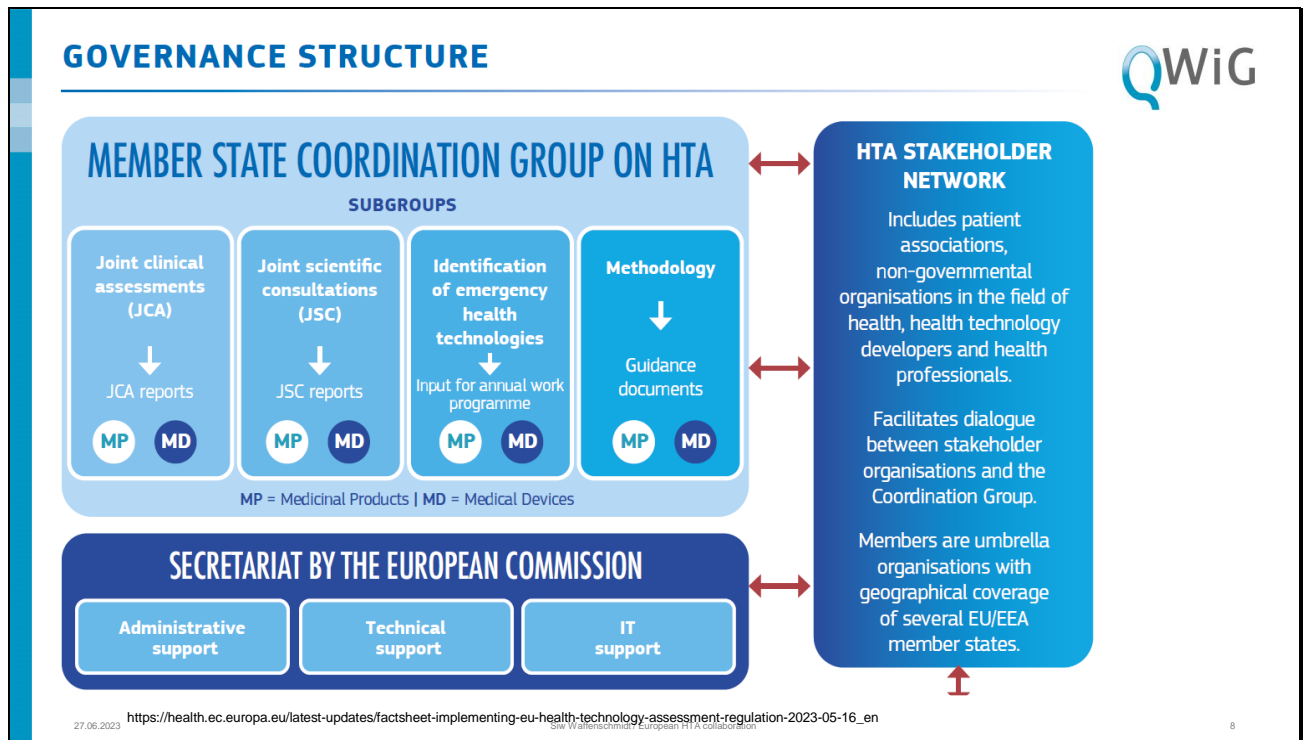
WHAT WILL BE ASSESSED AT EU AND AT NATIONAL LEVEL?



https://health.ec.europa.eu/latest-updates/factsheet-implementing-eu-health-technology-assessment-regulation-2023-05-16_en

HTA Regulation – Key principles

- Joint work on common scientific, clinical aspects of HTA
- Joint work driven by Member State HTA bodies
- Ensure high quality, timeliness and transparency
- Ensure use of joint work in national HTA processes
- Member States remain responsible for:
 - **Drawing conclusions on added value for their health system**
 - **Making decisions on pricing & reimbursement**
- Addresses stakeholders' engagement in joint work
- Progressive implementation



Content

- 1) European collaboration on HTA: regulation background
- 2) Preparations within EUnetHTA**
- 3) Similar collaborations
- 4) Conclusion

EUnetHTA 21

Guidance Document

**D5.3.1 - Procedural guidance for appointment of assessors and co-assessors
for JCA/CA**

https://www.eunetha.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/D5.3.1_Appointment_Assessors_CoAssessors-final-version-v1.0.pdf

Minimum criteria to satisfy the requirements for persons fulfilling the role of information specialist or statistician within an assessment team

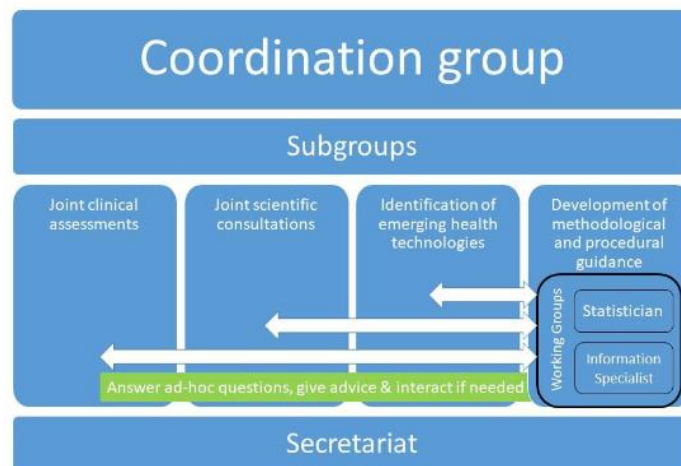
Confirmation that the person proposed is working as an **information specialist / statistician** for the HTAb (as an employee or a freelancer)

AND

- has experience in developing search strategies and conducting searches for HTAs, systematic reviews and / or other evidence syntheses (**information specialist**)
- OR
- has experience in statistical data analysis for clinical and epidemiological trials, meta-analyses and other evidence syntheses (**statistician**)

https://www.eunetha.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/D5.3.1_Appointment_Assessors_CoAssessors-final-version-v1.0.pdf

Suggested integration of the HTAb technical expert working groups within the HTAR governance



Content

- 1) European collaboration on HTA: regulation background
- 2) Preparations within EUnetHTA
- 3) Similar collaborations**
- 4) Conclusion

Similar

- New: CADTH/ ICER / NICE
- Pan-Canadian HTA Collaborative
- Beneluxa (Initiative on Pharmaceutical Policy): Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, Ireland, Luxembourg
- FINOSE (a process for joint assessments): Finnish Medicines Agency (Fimea), the Norwegian Medicines Agency (NoMA), Sweden's Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency (TLV) and Danish Medicines Council (DMC)

Content

- 1) European collaboration on HTA: regulation background
- 2) Preparations within EUnetHTA
- 3) Similar collaborations
- 4) **Conclusion**

Conclusion

- Several initiatives are being formed for collaborative working
- Decisions - regional / national
- Body of evidence - international
- Many challenges in working together
- Special needs due to extremely expensive pharmaceuticals
- Assumed advantages: sharing information, sharing workload, easier to negotiate, ...

Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG)



Im Mediapark 8
D-50670 Cologne

Phone +49 221 35685-0
Fax +49 221 35685-1

info@iqwig.de

www.iqwig.de
www.gesundheitsinformation.de
www.themencheck-medizin.de

Twitter: @iqwig and @iqwig_gi

IQWiG

Questions? Comments?
Siv.waffenschmidt@iqwig.de

Appendix C. Update on the international HTA database - presentation slides

Slide 1



Update on the international HTA database

Dr. Siw Waffenschmidt
Co-Chair, Database Steering Committee
IQWiG - Head of Information Management Department

Juan Antonio Blasco Amaro
Co-Chair, Database Steering Committee

1

Background

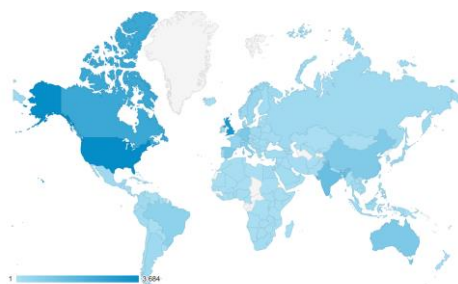
- **2019-20:**
 - Database rebuild by INAHTA with records transferred from CRD
 - Funding (CAD 60,800) through INAHTA members
(AHTA, CADTH, CDE, CMeRC, HIS, IHE, IQWiG, KCE, LBI-HTA, MTU-SFOPH and SBU)
- **April 2020: Launch - <https://database.inahta.org/>**

Organisation

- Institute of Health Economics (Alberta, Canada): Secretariat
- Database Steering Committee: Oversees database operations & Strategic issues
co-chairs: Juan Antonio Blasco Amaro (AETSA, Spain) & Siw Waffenschmidt (IQWiG, Germany)
members: Charis Miller (Healthcare Improvement Scotland), Lisa Tjosvold (IHE, Canada), Lydia Jones (G-BA, Germany), Grace Li-Ying Huang (Center for Drug Evaluation, Taiwan), Patrice Chalon (KCE, Belgium), Jenni Washington (Health Technology Wales)
- Board of Directors: Decision making authority

Statistics: access numbers

Year	June 2021-June 2022	June 2022-June 2023
New Users	22,259 (84% new visitor)	25,504 (82% new visitor)
Average session	03:58	04:00
Country of origin	Top 10: USA, UK, Canada, Australia, India, Germany, Belgium, Spain, China, Italy	Top 10: USA, UK, Canada, India, Australia, Germany, Spain, China, Belgium, Italy



LMIC users (example):
Nigeria, Romania,
Ecuador, Ethiopia,
Kenya, Ghana, Rwanda..

DATABASE STEERING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Survey (March 2023)

- Answers from 30 agencies
- 63 % contribute to the HTA database content (reasons not to: resource and capacity issues)
- Feedback:
 - working well;
 - MeSH browser cumbersome,
 - more advanced search features,
 - missing/ questioning coverage

Support the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Collaborative (PCC) feature

- PCC is informal network of 5 HTA agencies in Canada; 4 are INAHTA members (INESSS, IHE, Ontario Health, CADTH, BC HTA)
- Allows them to share:
 - HTA topics under consideration
 - HTA topics dropped/deferred/on hold
 - Ongoing confidential HTAs (for PCC members)
- Currently in beta testing stage
- If works well, may be opportunity for other members to similarly use