

# EUREGIO II

## Working Package 5

November 22, 2010 Vienna

# WORKING PACKAGE 5

## Usage of generic HTA in cross-border cooperation

### Specific objective


Testing HTA in small-size settings.

### Output/Deliverable

Guideline for the use of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) applications within the decision making processes in border regions.

# WORKING PACKAGE 5


## Methodology



Analysis of state of the art regarding the development of HTA in local settings and cross-border environments;  
literature analysis



Enquiry about needs regarding the Health Technology Assessment in border regions;  
survey and interviews



Evaluation of different HTA methodologies: pros and cons of their application in cross-border settings  
literature analysis and discussion with experts



First draft of a guideline for the use of HTA in border regions  
To be tested in hospital located in cross-borders regions

# Literature analysis



No literature (and no experiences) about cross-border HTA



Some literature about local HTA



Different kinds of framework and methodologies about Health Technology Assessment in local/hospital settings



Choice of mini-HTA methodology to be adapted and tested in cross-border settings

# Survey and Interviews

7 countries: Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Romania

Three main topics:

## 1. Decision making process

- Level of formalization of decision making process
- Stakeholder role and influence

## 2. Analysis of technologies

- Presence/strength of health technology assessment mechanism in institution
- Level of HTA inclusion in decision making
- Level of consideration of catchment area considered (is the other side of the border considered?)
- Elements considered (Role of national guidelines)

# Survey and Interviews

## 3. Cross border cooperation

- Number of fields of cooperation
- Stability of cooperation
- Facilitators and barriers
- Advantages and disadvantages



Identification of elements and reasons for which a guideline would be useful, the needs it would answer and the use it would have in cross border settings.

# Survey and Interviews

		A	B	C	D	E	F
Decision making process	Level of formalization of decision making process	++	+++	-	++	++	+
	Stakeholder role and influence	+	+	-	++	++	--
Analysis of technologies	Presence/strength of health technology assessment mechanism in institution	++	-	+	+++	++	-
	Level of HTA inclusion in decision making	+++	--	--	++	++	---
	Level of consideration of catchment area considered (is the other side of the border considered?)	-	+++	+	+++	++	---
	Elements considered	++	++	++	++	+++	-
	Role of national guidelines	-	-	-	+	+++	---
Cross border cooperation	Number of fields of cooperation	++	+++	+	+++	+++	---
	Stability of cooperation	++	+++	++	+++	+++	---
	Facilitators and barriers	+	++	+	++	+++	-
	Advantages and disadvantages	+	+++	+++	+	+++	-

# Characteristics of the guideline

Answer specific local requirements making a good use of all the knowledge developed in other national and local settings

- ↳ Gathering - translating and reinterpreting existing knowledge (Transferability)
- ↳ Taking specific context into account (qualification, resources, interfaces, health needs, regulations etc.) – Appropriateness
- ↳ Documentation, Monitoring, Evaluation
- ↳ Provide prompt and well-timed answers

# Guideline

## TWO SECTIONS



Product (how to do): Adaptation of mini-HTA methodology to the cross border situation



Process (how to use): how to implement mini-HTA (product) in cross-border cooperation and how to use it in the decision-making process

- based on the results of the interviews (it has to fit in the decision-making process within hospitals)

- based on the test (as required within the project)

In order to validate the guideline two pilot projects concerning the use of mini-HTA in the decision-making process will be implemented in cross-border settings.

# Pilot projects: involvement of hospitals



## Motivation paper:

Very brief paper which evidences gaps, problems, difficulties decision-makers have in the evaluation of new technologies in border regions, emphasising the usefulness and usability of a mini-HTA methodology



## Regions involved:

- University hospital Maastricht and University clinical hospital Aachen

Technology to be tested: nuclear medicine tool

Start testing: December 2010/ January 2011

- University Hospital of Odense and University of applied Sciences of Flensburg

Technology to be tested: telemedicine tool

Start testing: December 2010/ January 2011

# Structure of the guideline

## SECTION

## CONTENT

Introduction

General intro based on cross-border literature and literature on HTA

Best practice approach

Analysis of the literature on local HTA and of HTA methodologies  
Plus results of interviews: evidence based approach regarding the issues of decision-making process in border regions

Guideline:  
-Product (how to do):  
-Process (how to use):

Adaptation of mini-HTA methodology to the needs of border regions  
Implementing mini-HTA in cross-border cooperation and its use in the decision-making process

Two local HTA reports

Reports describing the work done between December and April in the two case-studies

Evaluation of the guideline

Report gathering feedbacks from decision-makers using the guideline

# Challenges

- ↪ Long decision procedure
- ↪ Developing the two HTA case studies on time
- ↪ Scarcity of resources

# Solutions

- ↪ Choice of well motivated hospitals
- ↪ Increasing of resources for the HTA expert

# HTA

## What is a Health Technology?

“... prevention and rehabilitation, vaccines, pharmaceuticals and devices, medical and surgical procedures, and the systems within which health is protected and maintained.”

## What is a Technology Assessment?

“... a multidisciplinary field of policy analysis, which studies the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of development, diffusion, and use of health technology”

*Source: International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) <http://www.inahta.org/HTA/>*

# HTA

## What is a Health Technology Assessment?

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a multidisciplinary process that summarizes information about the medical, social, economic and ethical issues related to the use of a health technology in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner.

Its aim is to inform the formulation of safe, effective, health policies that are patient focused and seek to achieve best value.

### Examples of Health Technology

- ✓ Diagnostic and treatment methods
- ✓ Medical equipment
- ✓ Pharmaceuticals
- ✓ Rehabilitation and prevention methods
- ✓ Organisational and supportive systems within which health care is provided

Source: European network for Health Technology Assessment  
(EUnetHTA) <http://www.eunetha.net/HTA/>

# MINI-HTA

Mini-HTA is a management and decision support tool based on the reasoning involved in HTAs. The tool may be used for instance where a hospital is contemplating the introduction of new health technology.

- ✓ A mini-HTA is a form or a check list with a number of questions concerning the prerequisites for and consequences of using (new) health technology.
- ✓ The purpose is to provide (part of ) the decision-making basis for a proposal to introduce a specific new health technology or in connection with changes in the indication for the use of existing technology
- ✓ Both the preparation and the use of the decision-making basis may take place at local or regional level and be adapted to local or regional objectives, decision criteria and time schedules.

Source:

[http://www.sst.dk/publ/publ2005/cemtv/mini\\_mtv/introduction\\_mini\\_hta.pdf](http://www.sst.dk/publ/publ2005/cemtv/mini_mtv/introduction_mini_hta.pdf)

# EUREGIO II

## Solutions for improving health care cooperation in border regions

### General aim

To stimulate and promote cooperation in health care in border regions by fostering the usability of various existing instruments and methods, such as structural funds, Health Technology Assessment, indicators.

### Outputs

- ✓ a Handbook for the effective use of EU Structural Funds, especially those received under the INTERREG IVa programme, which supports activities in border regions (WP4 'Making effective use of the structural fund Interreg');
- ➔ a guideline for the use of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) applications within the decision making processes in border regions (WP5 'Usage of generic HTA in cross-border cooperation');
- ✓ a legal report on the effects of tort and data protection rights in the provision of cross border health care services (WP6 'Legal aspects of data/information exchange as well as liability rights in cross border cooperation').