



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (September 2020 – August 2021)

EUPHA SECTION ON HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

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1. Section members

The EUPHA-HTA section currently has 1295 active members.

The aim of the section is to bring together academicians, researchers, healthcare professionals and decision makers to share knowledge and developing new ideas and projects in the field of HTA applied to public health.

2. Activities at the European Public Health (EPH) 2020 collocate with the World Congress on Public Health

The EUPHA-HTA section has organized a 60-minute workshop titled “Assessment, regulation and use of apps for health management: where we are and where we are going?”, in collaboration with EUPHA-DH.

Furthermore, the EUPHA-HTA section has been involved in another 60-minute workshop organized by EUPHA-IDC titled “*Bringing evidence during Public Health Emergencies: addressing the challenge through HTA*”. The collaboration involved the European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) Joint Action, the European Medical Informatics Association (EFMI), HL7, and HTAi. The output of this effort was synthesized as a paper, which has been published in the International Journal of Technology Assessment in Healthcare (IJTAHC) (see below).

A further collaborative effort of EUPHA-HTA section, jointly organized with HTAi, was the round table “*Fair processes and fair pricing: examining deliberative processes and the role of HTA for Universal Health Coverage*”.

3. Annual meeting

The annual meeting was held on October 16th, 2020. During the annual meeting Carlo Favaretti stepped down from the presidency. An agreement was reached to have Chiara de Waure as president and Elena Petelos as vice-president. Furthermore, nominations for the Steering Committee were presented and accepted. The new Steering Committee of the sections is composed by:

- Chiara Cadeddu - Assistant Professor, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome

- Silvia Evers - Professor of Public Health Technology Assessment, Chair Creating Value-Based Health Care, CAPHRI Care and Public Health Research Institute, FHML, Maastricht University
- Panos Kanavos - Associate Professor of International Health, Department of Health Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Sarah Garner - Acting Program Manager, Health Products and Pharmaceuticals, WHO EURO; Co-ordinator 'Innovation, Access and Use' - Essential Medicines and Health Products, WHO
- Dimitra Panteli - Editor, European Observatory Health Systems and Policies
- Iñaki Gutiérrez-Ibarluzea - Director of Organisational and Managerial Innovation of the Basque Foundation for Health Innovation and Research; President HTAi
- Sophie Söderholm Werkö - Project Director at The Swedish Council on Health Technology Assessment (SBU); INAHTA Board Chair

4. Participation at the upcoming EPH conference 2021

The EUPHA-HTA section, along with the Economic Evaluation Group of ASPHER, is organizing the pre-conference "*Developments in Economic Evaluation in Healthcare*".

Furthermore, the EUPHA-HTA section has submitted two workshop proposals that have been both accepted: one on the use of real-world data in HTA and the other on HTA of COVID-19 vaccines.

Eventually, the EUPHA-HTA section has been involved in other two activities proposed by other EUPHA sections: one on risk communication and another on digital COVID certificates.

5. Other activities

The EUPHA-HTA section has provided its inputs on key messages released on the two topics "Communicating science and health" and "Leaving no one behind" of the 2021 European Public Health Week and has been requested to contribute to a EJPH supplement on COVID-19 that is currently being prepared with a focus on accountability and the private sector.

As a result of one of the workshops held during the EPH conference 2020, the EUPHA-HTA section, together with the EUPHA-IDC section, has published an article titled "*Health technology assessment applied to emergency preparedness: a new perspective*" on the International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care. This collaborative effort also incorporated inputs from the EFMI, HL7 and HTAi.

The EUPHA-HTA section and the French Public Health Association also initiated a series of seminars, in the context of discussing the Pandemic Treaty, and access to new technologies and accountability, including the TRIPS discussions. We were delighted to have a Professor Joseph Stiglitz (Nobel in Economic Science) with us for the first seminar on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response, as well as to collaborate with colleagues from all over the world. The second webinar took place in the context of the International Festival of Public Health, with the support of the University of Manchester and the University of Crete. We worked with colleagues from LSE and Liverpool, as well as EUPHA-LAW to demonstrate the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. The recordings have been uploaded in the newly established EUPHA HTA YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL08MW_IHtQI8Bm20_QnXAg. The EUPHA-HTA section is currently preparing the third webinar on TRIPS.

Last, but not least, EUPHA-HTA, along with the newly formed EUPHA-LAW, EUPHA-IDC and EFMI, last year, examined the proposed new technologies of immunization passes, what form this new technology could take in terms of implementation, and how we could assess it in the workshop entitled "COVID19 immunisation passports – A golden solution or the golden apple of discord?" for which work is continuing given the EU proposal on Digital COVID Certificates. On this last topic, EUPHA-HTA section was asked to provide input for the webinar organized by the European Liberal Forum, with participation of Eurochambres too. The webinar was recorded, and the recording can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBBIPKnOgSs>

6. Partnerships and collaborations

The EUPHA-HTA section is part of the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC) Stakeholders board.

The EUPHA-HTA section is also representing EUPHA within the EUnetHTA HTA Stakeholder Pool. In this regard the EUPHA-HTA section has participated to several meetings and has given its inputs on the White Paper of the Future-Model of Cooperation on HTA prepared by EUnetHTA.

The EUPHA-HTA section also drafted EUPHA's stakeholder input for Vaccines along with EUPHA-IDC for three EMA Stakeholder meetings.

7. General communications with section members

The EUPHA-HTA section has used the EUPHA mailman system for sharing information among members. Communication activities were as follows:

- September 2020 (HTA Section News#30): announcement of the activities being held at the EPH conference 2020 and of the two candidates for the presidency
- October 2020: reminder of EUPHA-HTA section ongoing activities at the EPH conference 2020
- April 2021 (HTA Section News#31): circulation of communications on deadline for the submission of abstract to the next EPH conference 2021; European Public Health Week; new section webpage and steering committee
- June 2021 (HTA Section News#32): announcement of the HTAi 2021 Annual Meeting
- July 2021 (HTA Section News#33): announcement of the pre-conference on "Developments in Economic Evaluation in Healthcare" and of the other activities that will be held at the next EPH conference and call for interest in chairing sessions on topics related to HTA.

We are also happy to see we have exceeded 500 followers (currently we have 575 followers) on our Twitter channel (<https://twitter.com/EUPHA-HTA>).