



Press Release

European Union research grant to advance Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in and for hospitals

Hospitals are the main entry level for innovative health technologies. At times good-value innovative health technologies never reach clinical practice, though, while other health technologies with no significant added value actually do. This highlights the importance of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) for decision support in hospitals. A collaboration of 10 institutions has recently been awarded a 3-year research grant by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Program for their project “AdHopHTA: Adopting Hospital Based Health Technology Assessment”.

AdHopHTA’s aim is to strengthen the use and impact of Health Technology Assessment in local hospital settings, an important area of decision making and resource allocation. Today high-quality hospital-based HTA – pragmatic and contextualized for the individual hospital – is often not available. AdHopHTA will analyze the innovation uptake processes in hospitals and the technology assessment products used and will also analyze organizational models of existing hospital-based HTA units. Furthermore AdHopHTA will map current European trends of coordination between national/regional HTA and local hospital-based HTA and describe patterns of collaboration. After a survey of the special information needs of decision makers at the hospital level and incorporating lessons learned in successful hospital-based HTA units, AdHopHTA will derive criteria for qualifying hospital-based HTA initiatives as best practice that will include coordination with national and regional HTA institutions. These best practice models will be benchmarked against corresponding non health care sector business excellence frameworks and the role of current European Union HTA policies in this context will be reflected.

Overall AdHopHTA will contribute to building a European ecosystem for HTA in and for hospitals, in which existing hospital-based HTA initiatives can improve, the start of new hospital-based HTA programs is facilitated, collaboration between initiatives is made easier and the liaison with national/regional HTA benefits.

In order to facilitate the start of new hospital-based HTA programs and to improve the quality and efficiency of current initiatives AdHopHTA will deliver the following results:

- Portfolio of current patterns and types of hospital-based HTA, highlighting strengths and potential for validity for other hospitals.
- Handbook of best practices in high-quality hospital-based HTA decision support.
- Hands-on toolkit for the development of hospital-based HTA initiatives.
- Models of good practice collaboration between national/regional HTA and local hospital-based HTA.
- Database of hospital-based HTA initiatives and products complementing the EUnetHTA “Planned and Ongoing Projects Database POP”.

The AdHopHTA consortium, bringing together know-how from the fields of governance, tertiary hospital service provision and research, comprises the following institutions: 1.) Hospital Clinic Barcelona/ FCRB, Spain; 2.) Business School, University Navarra (IESE), Spain; 3.) Odense University Hospital (OUH), Denmark; 4.) University Hospital Center Canton Vaud (CHUV), Switzerland; 5.) Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS), Finland; 6.) Tartu University Hospital (TUH), Estonia; 7.) Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (UCSC), Italy; 8.) Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Health Technology Assessment (LBI-HTA), Austria; 9.) Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital (ANH), Turkey; 10.) Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (NOKC), Norway.

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or visit the project on the web at www.adhophta.eu



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