




# Health Technology Assessment

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## Introduction

- Health Technology Assessment & Health Services Research
- Objectives
- Methods
- Overview
- .... and future research agenda




## Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

- “...a multidisciplinary field of policy analysis. It studies the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of development, diffusion, and use of health technology” (INAHTA)
- ”...a multidisciplinary process that summarises 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” (EUnetHTA)




## Health services Research (HSR)

- ”... the multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financial systems, organisational structures and processes, health technologies and personal behaviours affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately the health and wellbeing of citizens” (Lohr and Steinwachs, 2002; AcademyHealth, 2007)




## HTA and Health Services Research

- HTA is building on both clinical research and HSR
- HTA is building on existing research
- HTA is related to analysis of health technologies
- Strong links to the broader field of HSR



## Objectives

- To provide an overview over HSR of relevance for HTA in Europe
  - HSR as part of HTA methods to analyse consequences of use of technologies
  - HSR as analyses and improvement of HTA as a tool to provide input to policy-making
- Provide input to a future research agenda




## Methods

- **Literature review**

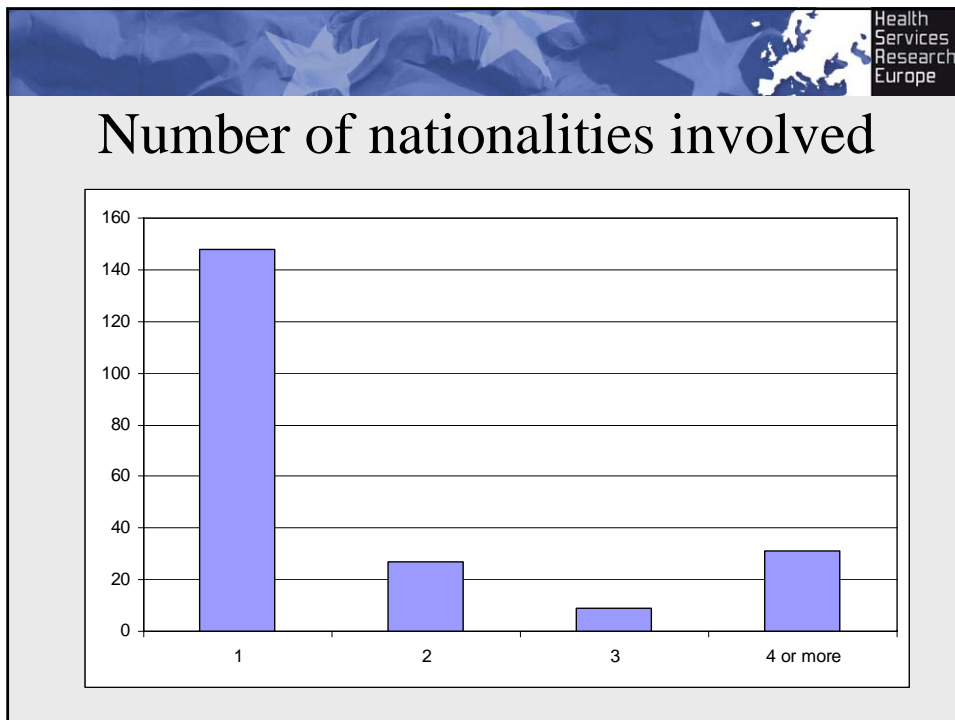
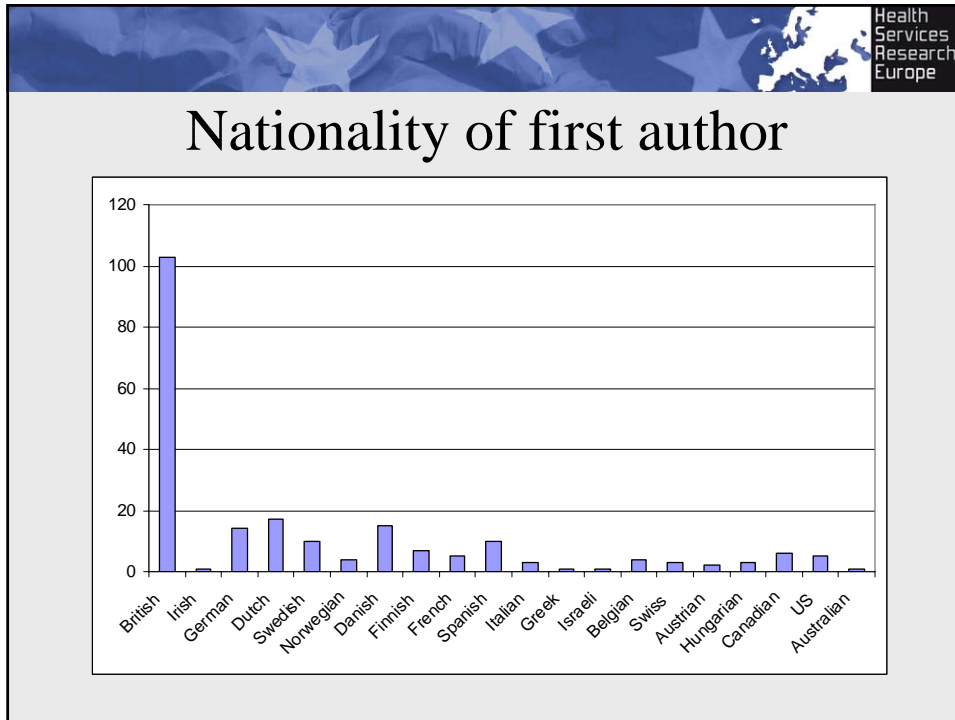
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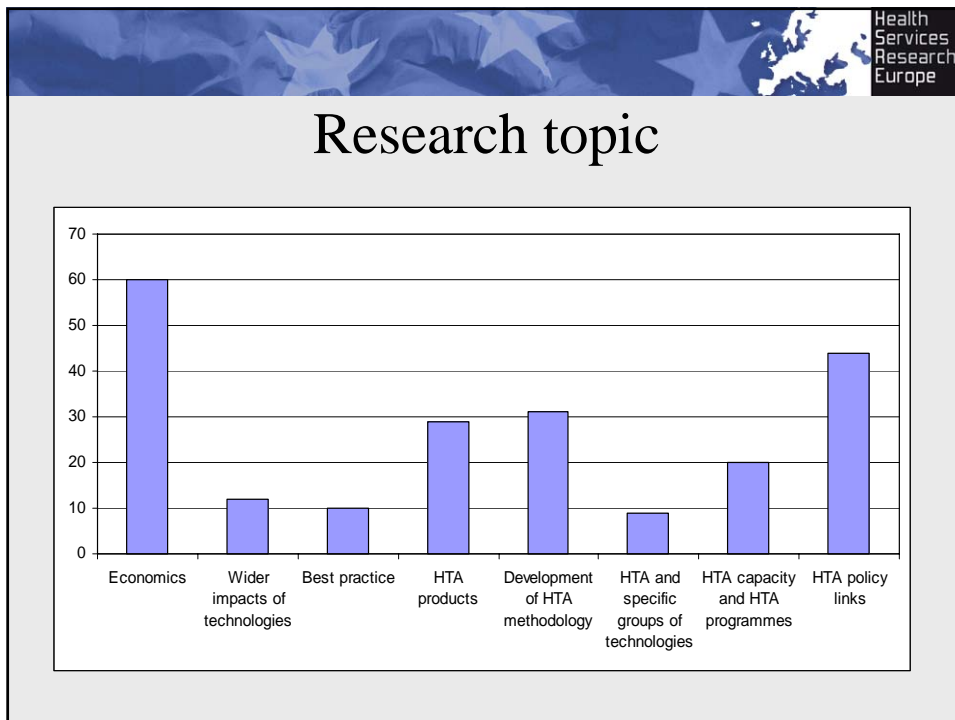
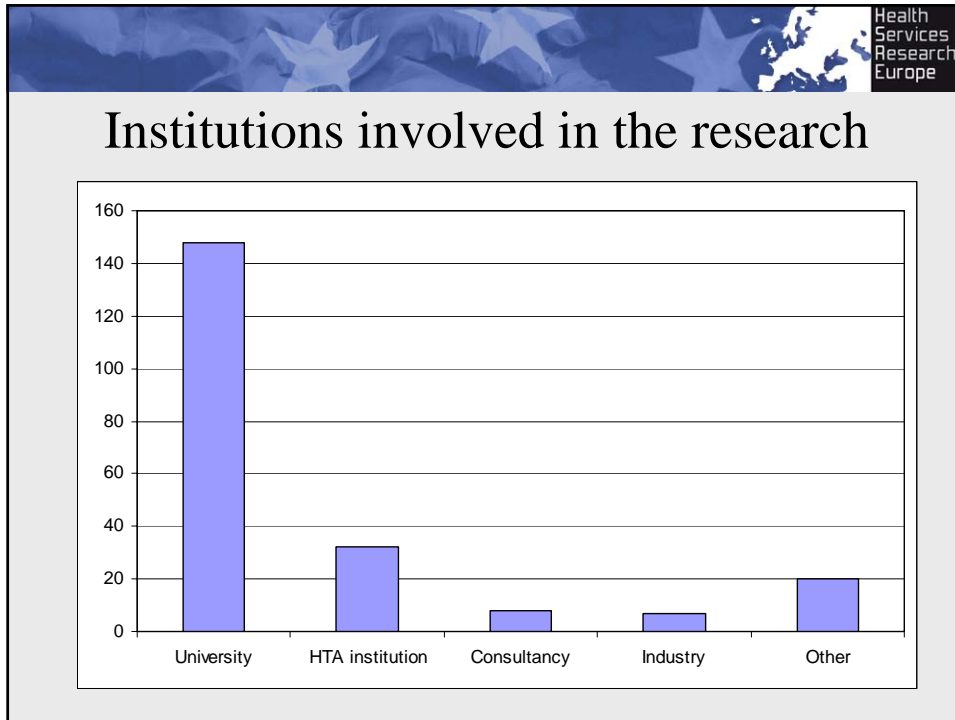
- Stakeholder survey
- Input from the EUnetHTA Collaboration
- Input from conference
  - carousel rounds... and the rest of the conference
  - abstracts/poster

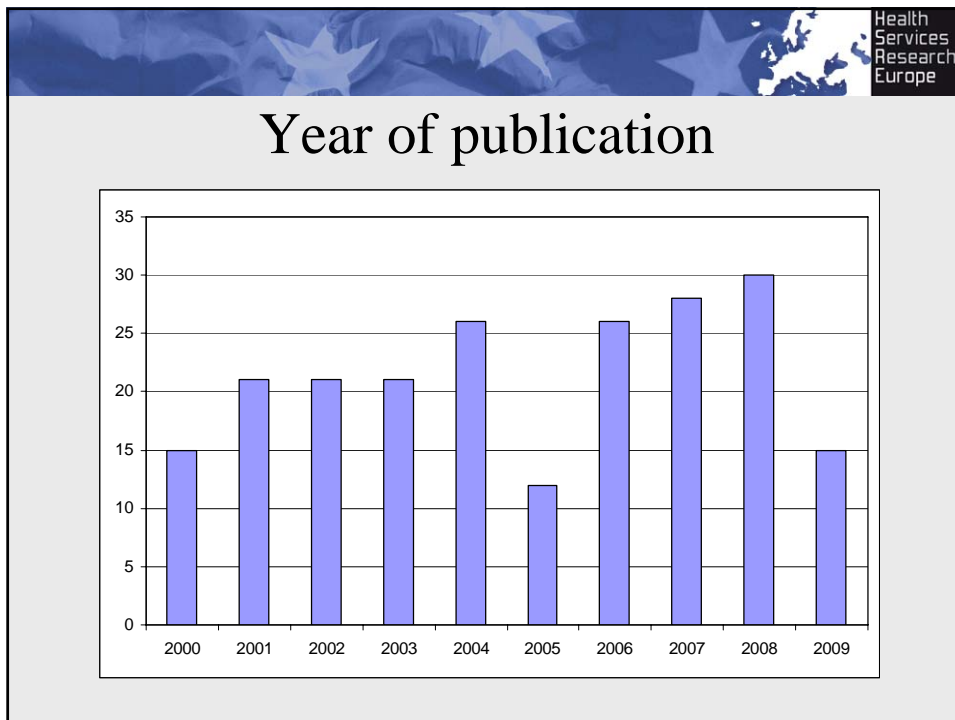
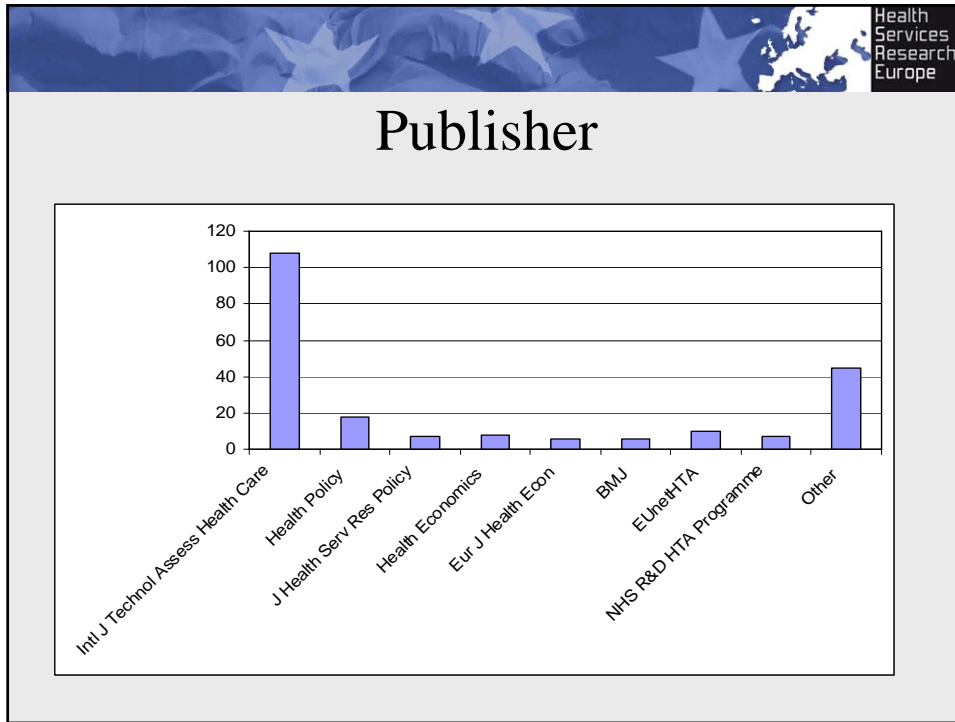



## Overview of the literature

- Nationality of first author
- Number of nationalities involved in the research
- Type of institutions involved in the research
- Research topics
- Publishers
- Year of publication










## The content of analysis in HTA


- Economic evaluation
- Wider impacts
  - Ethics
  - Legal aspects
  - Organisational aspects
  - Social aspects
- Best practice in undertaking HTA



## Economic evaluation


- Well established research discipline
- Lack of clarity about recommendations and best practice
- Current research activity
  - Economic modelling
  - Guidelines
  - Cost-effectiveness analysis
  - Effects of learning curves
  - Estimates of effect and utility
  - Use of economic evaluation
- Transferability of economic evaluations






## Wider impacts I

- Ethics
  - methods of how to include ethics in HTA
  - criteria for evaluation of research
  - reasons for lack of inclusion
  - EUnetHTA include ethics in the Core model
- Legal aspects
  - EUnetHTA include legal aspects in the Core model




## Wider impacts II

- Organisational aspects
  - debate about the need for more focus on organisational consequences of use of health technologies
  - EUnetHTA include organisational aspects in the Core model and the Adaption Toolkit
- Social Aspects
  - criteria for evaluation of research
  - reasons for lack of inclusion
  - EUnetHTA include social aspects in the Core model




## Best practice in undertaking HTA

- Current practice in undertaking and reporting HTA
- Comparison of definition and application
- Time-trends - content of HTA reports
- Cross-national HTA processes
- Transparency
- Advantages and disadvantages of standardisation
- EUnetHTA core model - a more standardised form for reporting of HTA




## HTA products

- Horizon scanning/ Early warning
- Rapid Assessment
- Mini HTA
- Core HTA
- Adaption Toolkit




## Horizon scanning/early warning

- Technologies not yet adopted or in the phase of adoption
- Euroscan
  - common terminology and classification
- Selection criteria in horizon scanning
- Sources to search in the process of identifying technologies
- The effectiveness and accuracy of horizon scanning
- Scientific base of horizon scanning




## Rapid Assessment

- Carried out within a time frame of +/- 6 months
- Vary in scope and methods
- No common definition and methodology
- Comparison of different rapid assessment programmes
- Description of methods for practice



## Mini HTA

- Mainly used in hospital settings
- Assessment within a few weeks
- Consists of a form containing questions relating to the domains of HTA
  
- Evaluation of the use
- Decision makers attitudes towards the use of the tool




## Core model

- Developed by the EUnetHTA project - building on results from previous European HTA projects
- Specific structure for undertaking and reporting HTA
- Avoid duplication of HTA reports
  
- Model for medical and surgical procedures
- Model for diagnostic technologies
- Handbook




## Adaption Toolkit

- Developed by the EUnetHTA project – building on existing activities of European HTA institutions
- ‘Translation’ of foreign HTA reports to relevant settings
- Avoid duplication of effort by reusing relevant parts of existing HTA reports
  
- Adaptation toolkit
- Glossary of HTA adaption terms




## Lifecycle perspectives of health technologies

- Debate about how to handle the assessment of new/existing technologies through the life cycle of the technology
  - horizon scanning
  - coverage with evidence development (CED)
  - obsolete technologies - disinvestment




## HTA and specific groups of technologies

- Pharmaceuticals
- Screening
- Technologies which challenge the common HTA methodology



## Development of HTA capacity and HTA programmes

- HTA capacity
- HTA programmes
- Priority setting
- Policy-HTA links



## HTA capacity, programmes & priority setting

- Building capacity in countries with no or limited institutionalisation of HTA
- Development of training programmes
- Performance of HTA programmes
- Guidance on how to develop vigorous HTA institutions
- Priority setting – which topics should be assessed?



## Policy-HTA links

- Large number of articles focusing on links to policy
- Need for more (theory based) research
- Stakeholder involvement – at national and European level
- Mainly industry and patients/consumers



## Future research agenda I


- Lifecycle perspectives of health technologies
- Transferability between countries
- Evaluating organisational models of HTA
- Best practice
  - reporting
  - transparency
  - standardisation



## Future research agenda


- Themes to be discussed during the carousel round discussions
  - Assessing the wider impacts of health technologies
  - Improving links between HTA and policy
  - Assessing technologies which challenge the common HTA methodology






## Assessing the wider impacts of technologies

- How can we move forward with assessing the wider impacts of technologies?
  - Ethics
  - Legal aspects
  - Organisational aspects
  - Social aspects



## Improving the links between HTA and policy

- How can we promote high-quality research in this area and how do we move forward with improving the links to policy?




## Assessing technologies which challenge the common HTA methodology

- Fast developing technologies
- Information and communication technologies
- Health promotion and disease prevention (public health)

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- Medical devices
- Interventional procedures



## Abstracts/posters

- Economic evaluation
- Policy-HTA links
- Technologies which challenge HTA-methodology
- Capacity-building – HTA programmes
- Screening

