

European network for Health Technology Assessment Joint Action (EUnetHTA JA): a process evaluation performed by questionnaires and documentary analysis

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Plain English summary

EUnetHTA JA: a process evaluation

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Plain English summary

The National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment programme produces research about health interventions for those who make health-care decisions. The European network for Health Technology Assessment Joint Action project aimed to help collaboration in HTA around Europe. We performed two activities in the project.

We evaluated the project to see whether or not it successfully completed its aims and examined the internal workings of the project. We did this by sending questionnaires each year to people working on the project and those with a relevant interest in it. We also reviewed reports that the individual work activities submitted at the end of the project. The project's main objective did not appear to have been met because there needs to be a follow-up project. Most of the deliverables were produced according to the project plans. One of the main benefits of the project was networking – bringing together European colleagues to discuss HTA.

Those who fund research about health interventions from public money have a duty to ensure this money is used wisely. It is important to know if similar trials are being planned in different countries. This prevents duplication and ensures that trials are designed so their results can be compared. We asked people from different countries which items of data would be useful to know about. We then tested to check that we had identified all the relevant data. It is planned that a database will be developed to store these data about planned trials funded by public money.

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HTA programme

The HTA programme, part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), was set up in 1993. It produces high-quality research information on the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of health technologies for those who use, manage and provide care in the NHS. 'Health technologies' are broadly defined as all interventions used to promote health, prevent and treat disease, and improve rehabilitation and long-term care.

The journal is indexed in NHS Evidence via its abstracts included in MEDLINE and its Technology Assessment Reports inform National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance. HTA research is also an important source of evidence for National Screening Committee (NSC) policy decisions.

For more information about the HTA programme please visit the website: www.hta.ac.uk/

This report

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