

EAA Fall Convention

EU HTA – Procedural Insights & First Learnings

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Sustain HTA – Sharing Status & Insights

Abstract

SUSTAIN-HTA aims to support national and European advancement of HTA by mapping existing tools, identifying new methodological developments that match HTA needs, and making them easily findable and accessible for European HTA bodies. It is a Horizon Europe Coordination Support Action that started in 2024 and will continue until 2028. It consists of 15 organisations, of which seven are national and regional HTA bodies.

SUSTAIN-HTA supports national HTA bodies in mobilising new HTA methods among their workforce, building excellence in knowledge and skills, and supporting the development of HTA internationally. Aligned with the methodological developments as part of the new EU HTA regulation, the project will establish a mechanism for a fair and balanced exchange between HTA bodies and academia to regularly assess the needs of HTA bodies, in parallel with a methods observatory that maintains up-to-date knowledge of new HTA methods. Currently, beta versions of the Horizon Scanning Tool and the Methods Observatory are being tested and will be available in a first version by the end of 2025. Additionally, a training programme for prioritised methods will be piloted within HTA bodies. After endorsement, the implementation of these methods will be supported by a harmonised training and education framework that will be established to upskill HTA expertise. Within the project, an HTA competency framework has already been developed to characterise the different levels of HTA expertise. Additionally, a learning information management system (LIMS) has been initiated, which will serve as the framework for the new courses that SUSTAIN-HTA will develop, as well as for existing courses from other organisations and projects.

Simultaneously, SUSTAIN-HTA will launch a fellowship programme at the beginning of 2026, providing opportunities for mid-level HTA employees from less experienced HTA bodies to become familiar with more advanced HTA methods. SUSTAIN-HTA has established a long-term dissemination and communication structure among all stakeholders to ensure a feedback loop between the methodological needs of HTA bodies and their associated training needs. The project has initiated the HTA Network, which includes representatives from more than 15 HTA bodies across Europe, as well as the Stakeholder Forum, comprising representatives from all relevant stakeholders. Moreover, the SUSTAIN-HTA Expert Forum has been established, which includes representatives from EU HTA-focused research groups, as well as from societies such as HTAi, ISPOR, and Cochrane.

Finally, SUSTAIN-HTA is currently developing a business model that will ensure the continued effectiveness of its products beyond the project's conclusion in 2028. It is anticipated that in this effort, the project will seek collaboration with external partners to ensure that the products become a more significant part of the EU HTA ecosystem, maintaining a close link to the EU HTA Coordination Group and its subgroups.