Advance-HTA is a 3-year research project granted by the European Commission under DG Research's 7th Framework Programme to a consortium of 13 institutional partners, namely:

- The London School of Economics and Political Science – LSE Health (LSE), UK
- The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), UK
- Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italy
- University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM), Spain
- The Institute for Economic Research (IER), Slovenia
- Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin), Germany
- The Andalusian School of Public Health (EASP), Spain
- Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), USA
- The European Brain Council (EBC), Belgium
- University Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC), France
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) - International, UK
- Agency for Health Technology Assessment (AOTM), Poland
- The Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency (TLV), Sweden

Led and coordinated by LSE Health, the consortium combines geographical and disciplinary diversity with academic rigor and policy relevance, emphasized by the members' experience in linking research to policy. It brings together a team of high-level experts with extensive experience in the area of health policy, health economics, health and research methodologies, access to medicines, pharmaceutical policies, medical devices, and Health Technology Assessment (HTA).

Advance-HTA aims to advance the methods and practices for HTA by involving the wider stakeholder community in areas actively and heavily debated, given their implications for decision-making and resource allocation. For this purpose, ADVANCE-HTA will focus on six distinct areas:

- *Value for money* and the different approaches surrounding current thresholds for resource allocation. Advance-HTA will systematically explore alternative means of assessing value for money and trace the implications for the conduct of HTA and the use of cost-effectiveness data to inform decision-making.

- *Value assessment* and the factors that need to be considered and incorporated beyond cost effectiveness, such as burden of disease, disease severity, quality of the data and evidence produced, and the implications these are having on the continuous assessment of new health technologies and relative effectiveness. Advance-HTA will aim to explore new tools and methodologies in this domain, for example Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis, and investigate their adoption and implementation.

- *Assessment of rare diseases* and the quality of the evidence required for and the methods associated with these assessments, relying on new data providing a more realistic understanding of the socio-economic benefits of orphan drugs. Advance-HTA will develop and validate a framework to support decision-making relating to orphan drugs for rare diseases, by means of a Discrete Choice Experiment.

- *Elicitation of preferences* and the robustness of the evidence derived from more realistic settings, by drawing on the wider EU citizenship and from within the patient community. Advance-HTA will create new data that will incorporate patient-relevant values into widely used tools of quality of life measurement, such as the EQ-5D.

- *Medical devices* and the suitability of current HTA tools across different categories, including diagnostics. Advance-HTA will consolidate the current methods for assessing HTA in medical devices in different settings, address their suitability and propose how current tools can be modified or adapted in order to arrive at more robust methods of assessment.

- *HTA implementation and capacity building* in settings outside Europe, where HTA is beginning to be considered explicitly in decision-making. Advance-HTA will create a framework for HTAs at different levels by benchmarking with evidence from countries that have developed such frameworks.

Advance-HTA will impact a range of stakeholders and activities through extensive dissemination of results, such as the creation of a dissemination platform with the European Observatory, linking policy makers, stakeholders and patient networks. The methodological advances in HTA are likely to influence developments in other areas such as value-based pricing or medical technologies, or other types of HTA (e.g. mini-HTAs). Capacity building activities in Latin America and Eastern Europe will transfer the accumulated expertise to countries that are new to HTA, while involving experts from other settings on the debate surrounding HTA, and the health care resource allocation debate.

Overall, Advance-HTA aims to broaden the spectrum, complement and address areas of intense methodological debate in the application, use and implementation of HTA. It also aims to improve HTA methods, which can be taken further by competent authorities nationally whilst supplementing the work of supra-national bodies (e.g. EUnetHTA) towards a common understanding of choices in health care decision-making.

For further information, please contact:

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