

Kiersztyn Ewa, Durczak Marta, Lipska Iga*, Orłowski Krzysztof, Pajor Aleksandra, Stasiak Marta, Szewczyk Karolina
Agency for Health Technology Assessment in Poland (AHTAPol)

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the study was to investigate the current experience, stage of development, needs, scopes and outcomes of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) organizations all over the Europe. Emphasis was put on factors limiting establishment of organizations and their performance.

METHODS

Cross-sectional study by means of a semi-structured questionnaire of HTA organizations was carried out. Standard descriptive analyses were conducted to characterize the responders' organizations and response rate. The content of open-ended questions was analyzed for each question separately. For other kinds of questions, distribution of responses as numerical and percentage rates was calculated. The barriers against the process of HTA organization establishment and performing the ordinary HTA activities were identified and rated using 0-5 Likert scale (0 - no barrier, 5 - strong barrier). The MS Office Excel was used to perform analysis of data.

Figure 1. Countries included in the survey.



RESULTS

Answered surveys from 21 European countries were received. Overall response rate was 36.3%. Response rate among EUnetHTA members was 70,6%. Most common barriers against establishment of HTA organization were: *Gathering trained staff*; *Funding* and *Reaching political interest*. Percentage results for organizations experienced in HTA (HTA Doers) relating to above mentioned barriers were 55%; 48%; and 48% respectively. The same main barriers were identified against performing ordinary HTA activities with results for HTA Doers: 52%; 42% and 42% respectively. Similar results with respect to organization establishment were observed among organizations that are not performing HTA activities yet (HTA non-doers). HTA non-doers indicated: *Gathering staff*, *Funding* and *Reaching political interest* as most common barriers with results 80% for each barrier.

Chart 1. Which are/were the main barriers against performing the ordinary HTA activities? (HTA Doers)

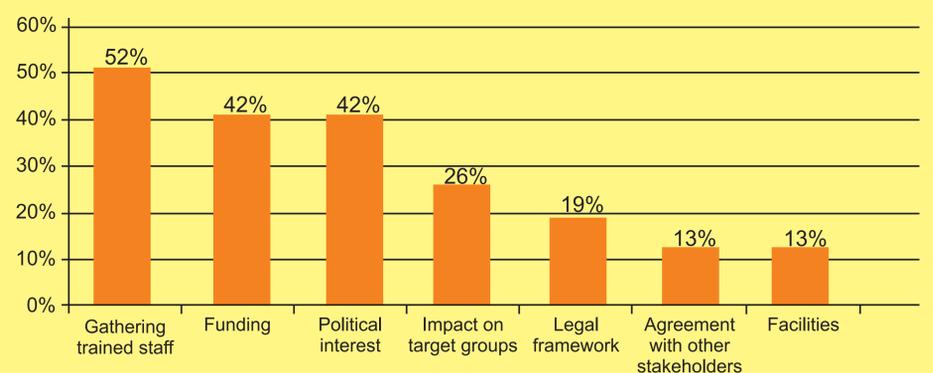
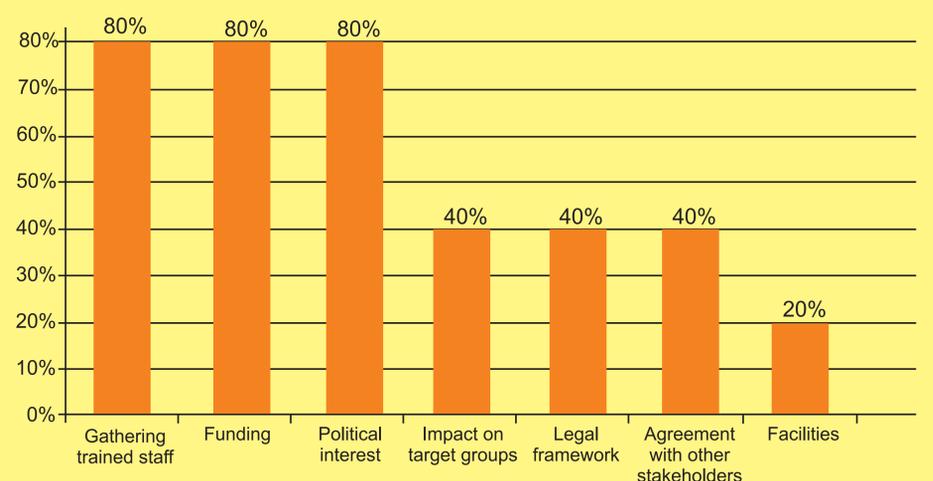
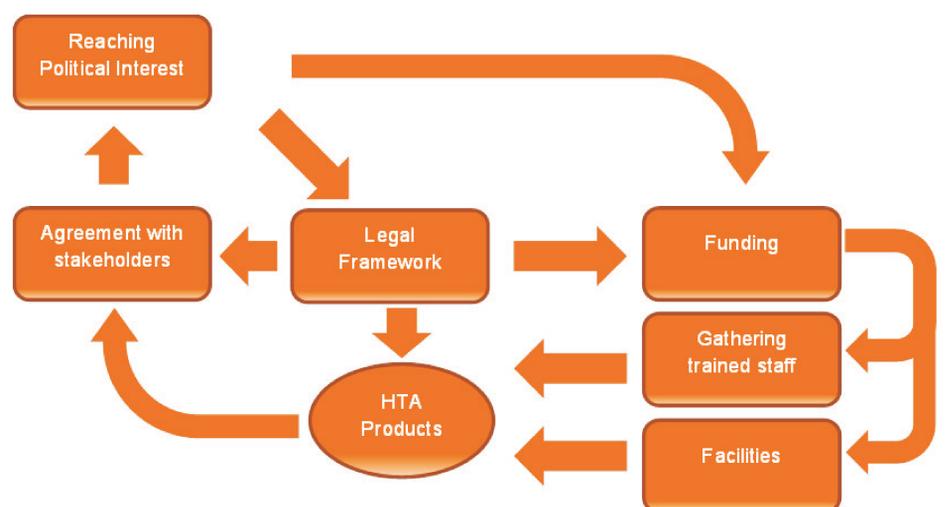


Chart 2. Which are/were the main barriers against the process of HTA organisation establishment? (NOT HTA Doers)



Graph 1. Universal relations between barriers concerning HTA process.



CONCLUSION

The study has identified main difficulties against establishment of HTA organizations and performing ordinary HTA activities in European settings. It revealed that identified barriers were similar among all responders. EUnetHTA WP8 is currently working on document describing methods of overcoming abovementioned barriers and the results will be presented as a part of business model in the near future.