10.P. Workshop: The cutting edge of Health Technology Assessment: Information and Communication Technologies

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Health Technology Assessment provides decision-makers with support when deciding on health investment and spending. Among health technologies, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has grown steeply because of its role in educating health professionals and patients; assuring the governance of health care systems; allowing patient-centered healthcare. ICT more than other technologies involves the participation of several stakeholders, namely patients, health professionals and healthcare organizations. Therefore, an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach is necessary in order to adequately evaluate its impact. Even though HTA may give a sound methodological framework and basis for ICT evaluation, some challenges should be overcome. In fact evidence surrounding ICT is often poor in quality and there is a lack of common outcome indicators. Furthermore, because of the involvement of several stakeholders, participatory methods should be implemented. The Model for Assessment of Telemedicine Applications (MAST) is an HTA inspired framework developed to assess the effectiveness and contribution to quality of Health ICT. Its application in the field has already demonstrated that several improvements would be worthwhile in order to adequately address aspects like technological usability, health literacy, and behavioral change. Furthermore, methods for innovative collection and analysis of data and for including patients’ reported outcomes and safety should be developed. This means that modifying and adapting HTA is required for addressing ICT.

This workshop is aimed at giving an overview of the current state of HTA applied to ICT. In particular, the workshop will go through: a) the role and the potentials of ICT in (Public) Health; b) similarities and divergences of ICT and HTA; c) the required development of HTA for the evaluation of ICT according to recent ongoing projects; d) the lessons learnt from ICT targeting people with disabilities.

Key messages:
- ICT helps health education and management and actively involves several stakeholders but still relies on poor evidence
- HTA needs to be further adapted and developed in order to be suitable for ICT evaluation