

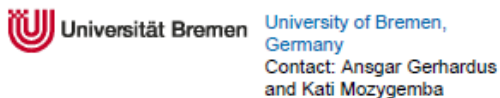


# **Integrating Patients' Perspectives, Context, and Implementation in the Assessment of Complex Health Technologies**

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# INTEGRATE-HTA

Integrated health technology  
assessment for the evaluation of  
complex technologies

This project is co-funded  
by the European Union



# The issue: Meaningful assessments of complex technologies

- The rise of chronic diseases induces a need for more complex technologies and interventional strategies  
(e.g. palliative care, disease management programmes, pay for performance)
- Concepts for assessing those technologies need to reflect this complexity
- “Traditional” HTA might not sufficiently comply with this

# 1) HTA for “simple” technologies

**Example: A pharmaceutical for treating high BP**

Parameter	
Patient characteristics & preferences	Increased BP (other conditions ideally excluded or narrowly defined)
Implementation	E.g. oral “to swallow after food”
Relevant topics and outcomes	Lower blood pressure, stroke
Context	Of marginal relevance

# 1) HTA for “simple” technologies

Example: A pharmaceutical for treating hypertension

Parameter	Relevance
Patient characteristics & preferences	Increased relevance (e.g., elderly)
Implementation	Increased relevance (“take with food”)
Relevant outcomes	Increased relevance (e.g., blood pressure, stroke)
	Decreased or marginal relevance

Unspoken assumption: All parameters except the intervention are stable and/or are not relevant

## 2) HTA for “complex” technologies

### Example: Specialist palliative care

Parameter	
Patient characteristics & preferences	Cancer or other disease? Early or late stage? In pain? In despair?
Implementation	At home? In a hospice? A specialised ward?
Relevant topics and outcomes	QoL? Life-expectancy? Spiritual improvement?
Context	Legal, ethical, socio-cultural aspects



# The project: Tackling the issues related to assessing complex technologies

## Specialist palliative care as a case study

Parameter	
Relevant topics and outcomes	Stakeholder advisory panels
Patient characteristics & preferences	Identifying moderators of treatment effects
Context & Implementation	Methods for assessing context factors Developing logic models
Integrated assessment	Models and processes for integrating patient perspectives, context and implementation Stakeholder advisory panels

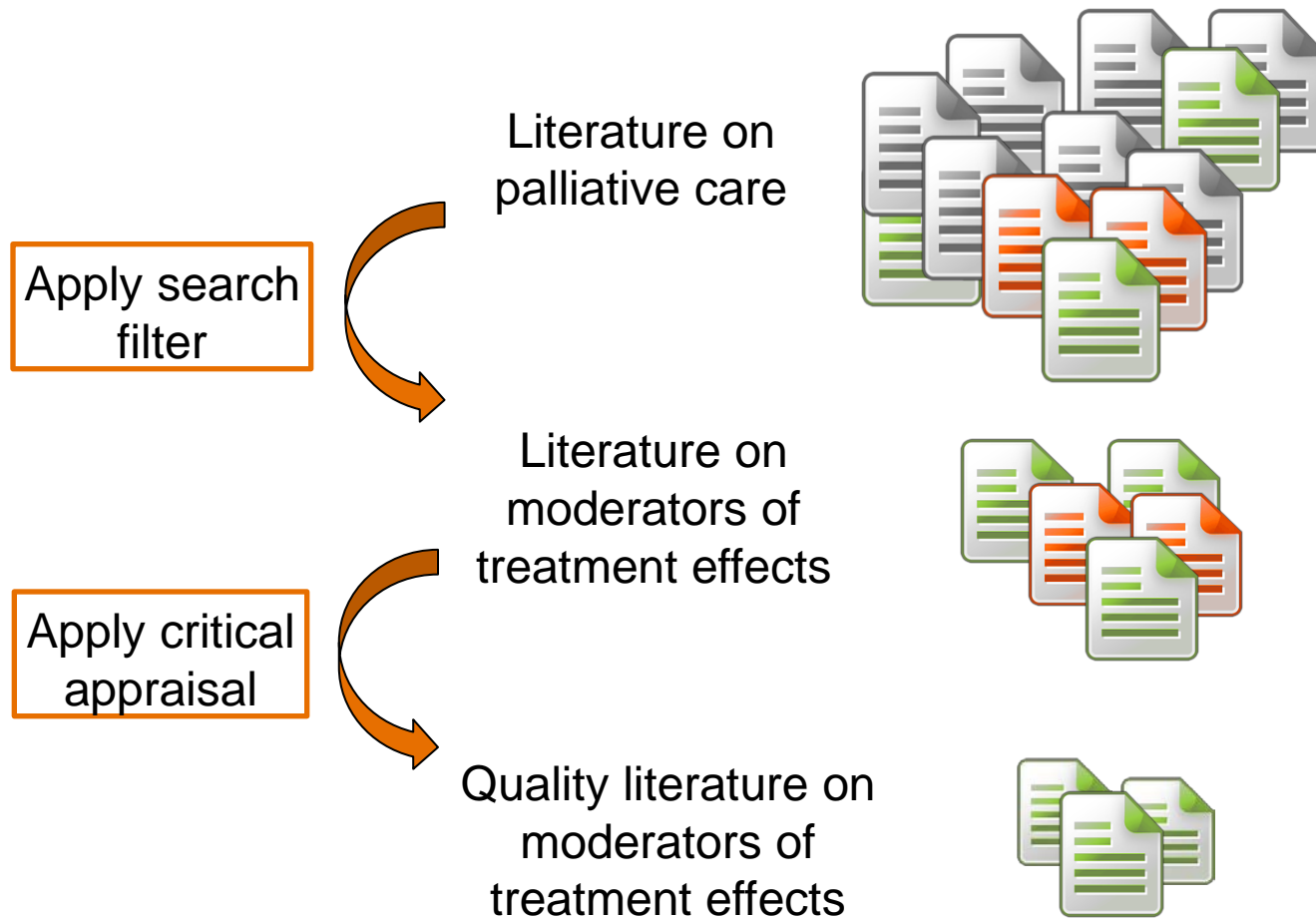
# Relevant topics and outcomes:

## Stakeholder advisory panels (Lead: Sheffield)

- 135 professionals, voluntary workers, patients, and relatives participated in 7 European countries, different methods for participation  
(England, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland)
- Common issues (selection):
  - Holistic nature & aims of palliative care
  - Availability & accessibility of palliative care
  - Effectiveness of palliative care
  - Funding
  - Ethical & legal concerns



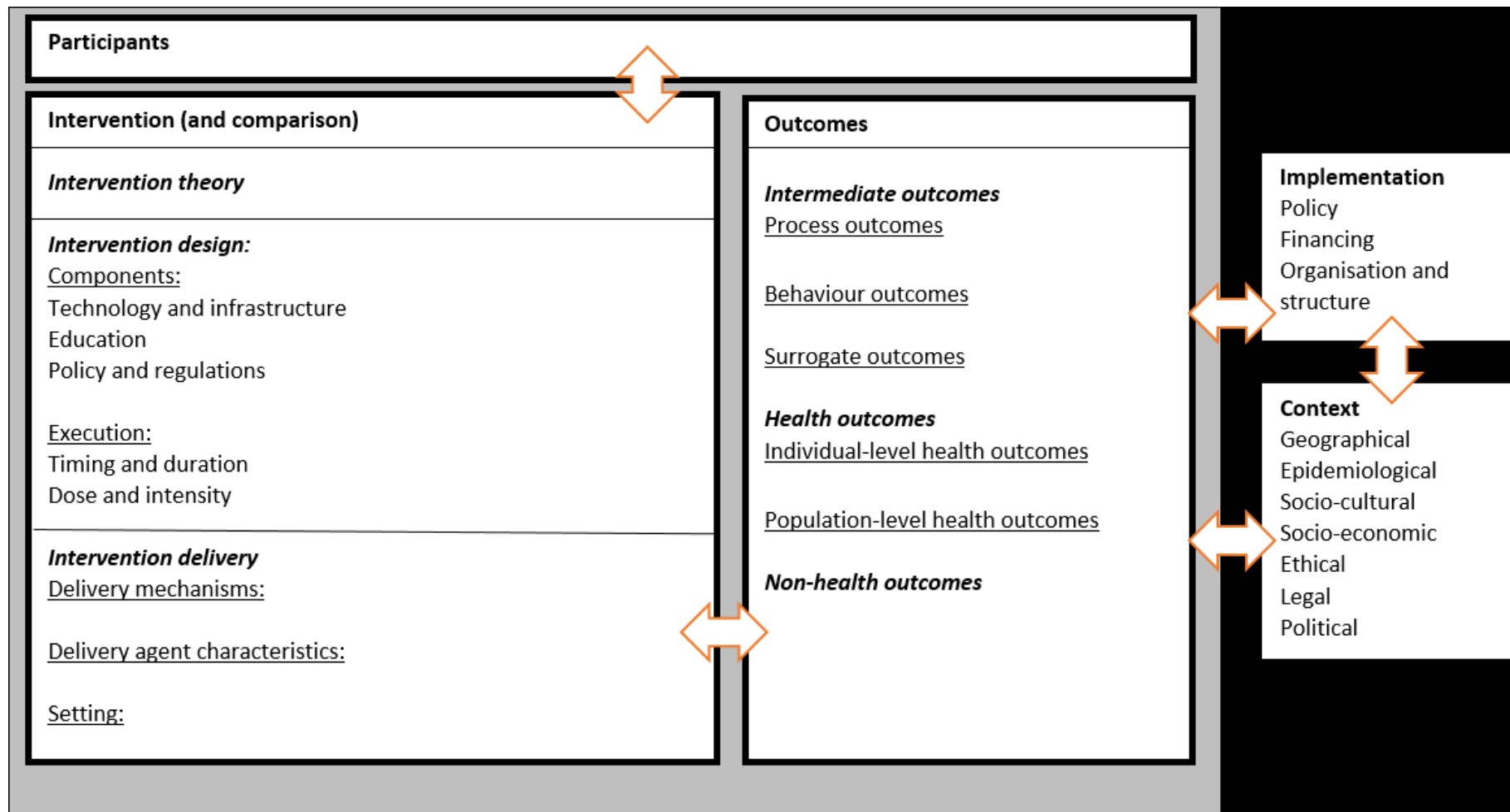
# Acknowledging patients' heterogeneity: Patient-related modifiers of treatment (Lead: Nijmegen)



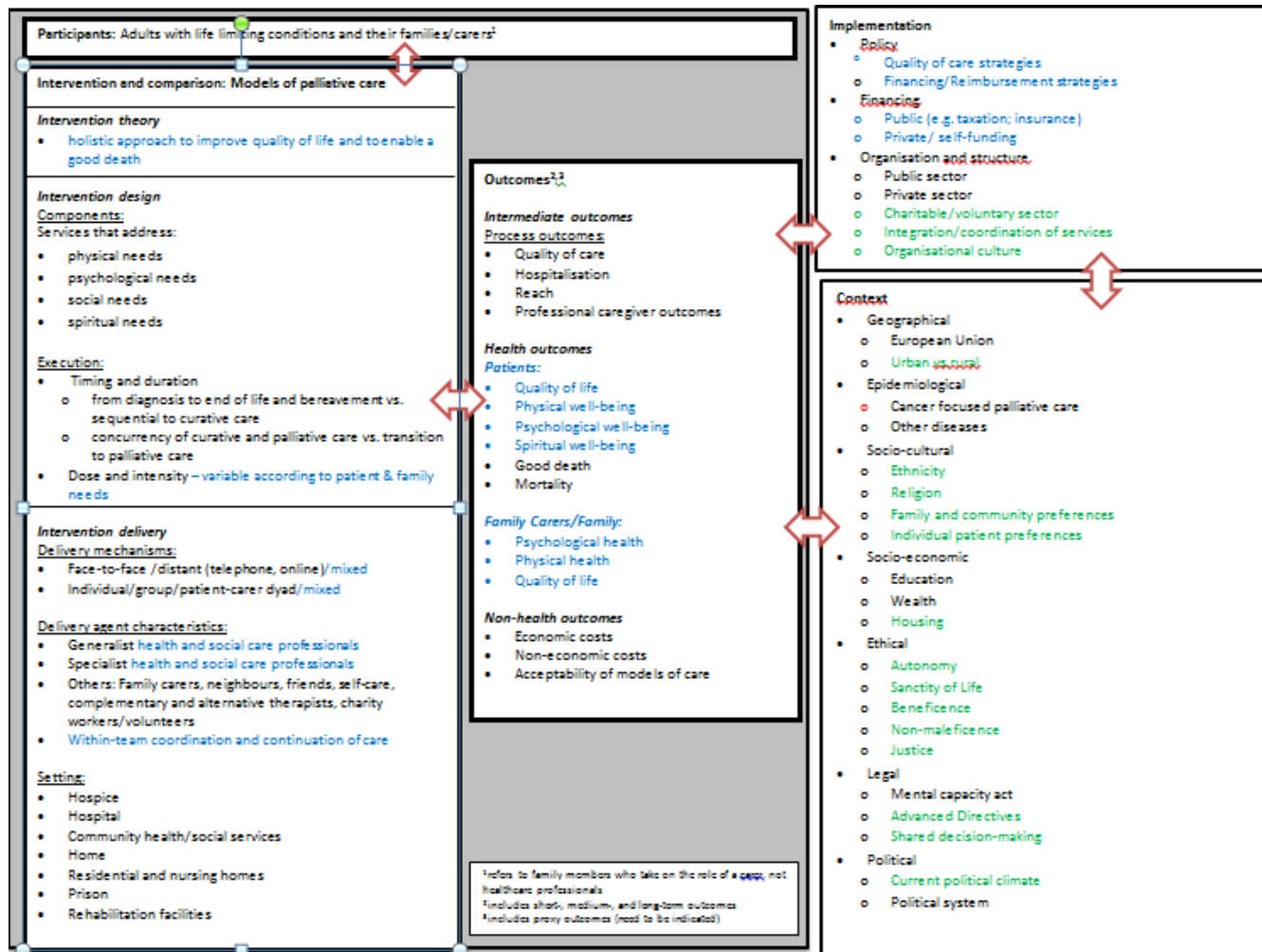
# Context: Ethics as an example (Lead: Oslo)

- Methods for assessing ethical aspects
  - Stakeholder advisory panels
  - Literature
- Issues encountered
  - Equity, Justice in access of care
  - Dignity and Autonomy
  - Concern for overtreatment

# Context and implementation: Systems based logic model (Lead: Munich)



# Systems based logic model: Case study Palliative Care



# Concepts and methods for integration: First insights

- Relationships between intervention, implementation, and context need to be modelled
- Different characteristics of patients must be considered in the assessment of complex interventions
- For the assessment of complex technologies integration needs to go beyond a mere aggregation
- Therefore integration has to start from the beginning of the assessment, not at the end

# Conclusions

- A clear perspective is necessary for a meaningful assessment of complex interventions
- Stakeholder advisory panels are a powerful tool to bring the perspectives from patients and other relevant stakeholder into an assessment
- Context, implementation, and different patient characteristics need to be part of an integrated assessment that is based on a model
- The assessment of “simple” technologies might not be different

# More on INTEGRATE-HTA at HTAi

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- More on the use of stakeholder advisory panels in HTA:  
Panel 20: Scoping as a Means to Systematically Involve Patients and Public in HTA  
(Tuesday from 10.45-12.15 in room Farragut Square)
- More on dealing with moderators of treatment outcome in HTA:  
PO.143: Optimal Search Strategies for Identifying Moderators of Treatment Outcomes in Pubmed (Today, station 12)