



# A theory-based framework to assess socio-cultural aspects in HTA

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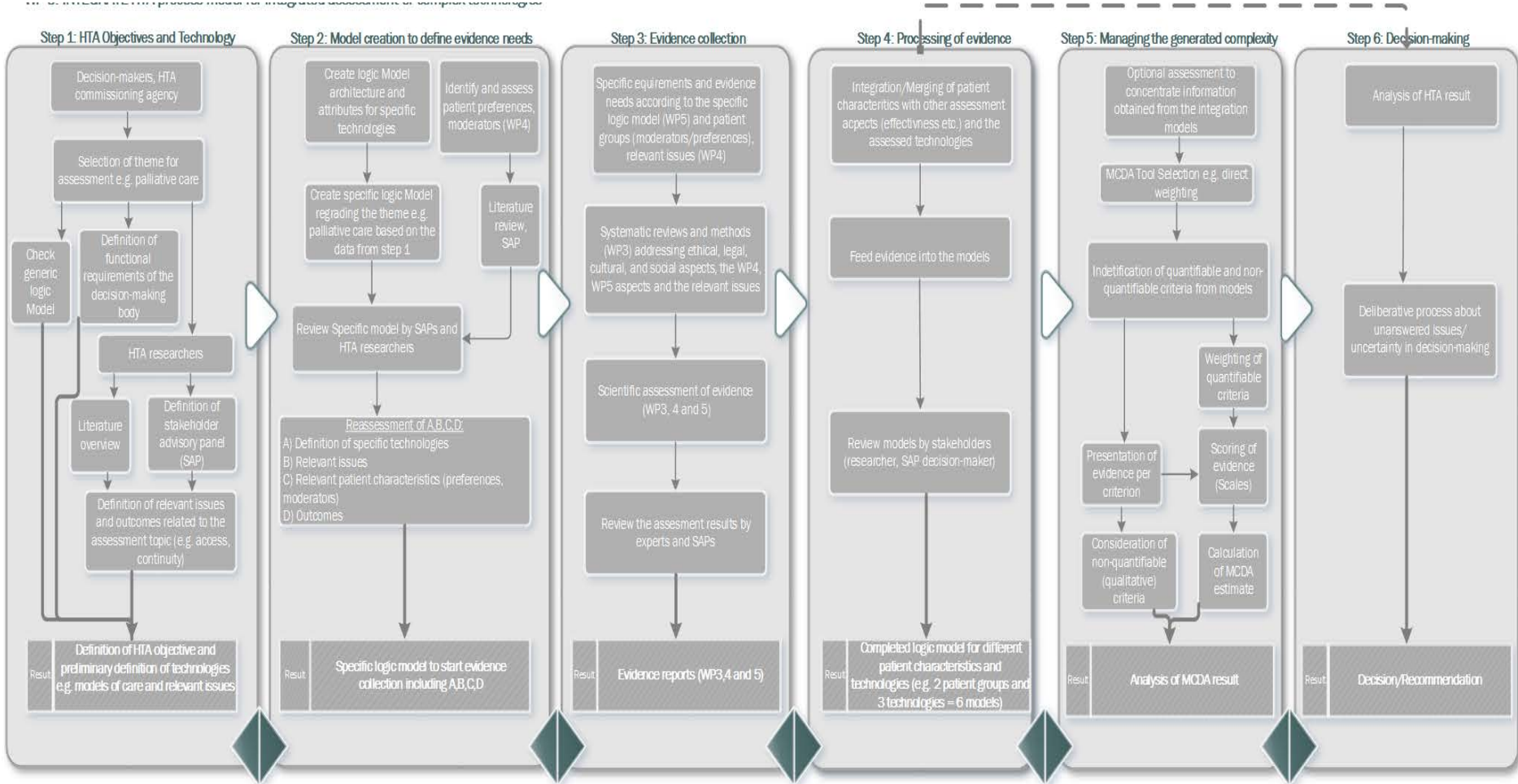
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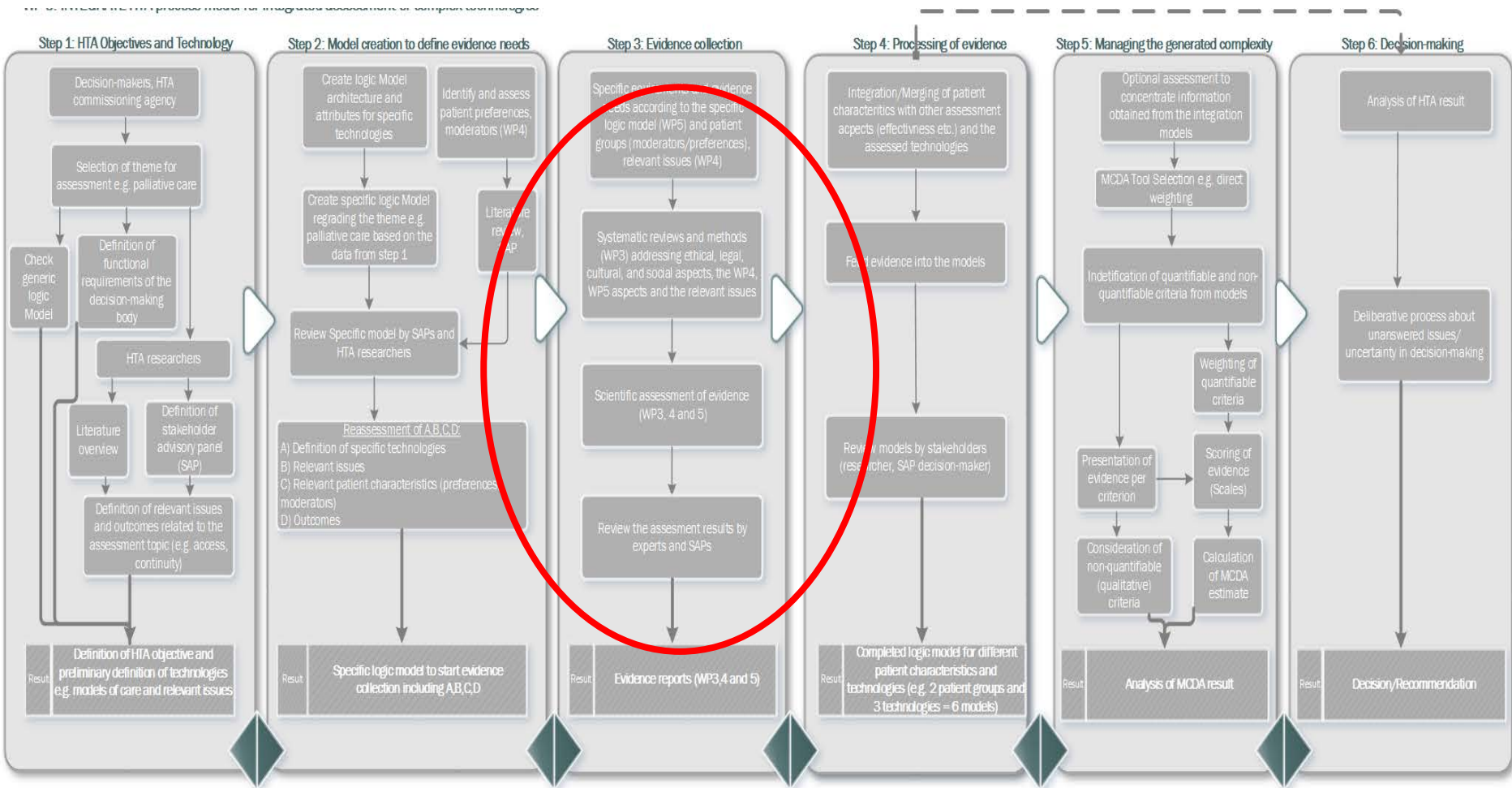
# Some words on INTEGRATE-HTA

- EU-project funded under the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme
- Aim: To develop concepts and methods for a comprehensive, patient-centered, integrated assessment of complex technologies that include
  - effectiveness and economic, sociocultural, ethical, and legal issues,
  - patient preferences and patient-specific moderators of treatment,
  - context and implementation issues.

# The outcome structured by the INTEGRATE-process model



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## *Consists of:*

- a) 4-steps *assessment process*
  
- b) A *framework* to analyse socio-cultural aspects

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# Framework for the assessment of socio-cultural aspects

## *Framework development:*

1. Structured literature search
2. Categorization of socio-cultural aspects
3. Reflection of identified categories against the background of Cultural Theory



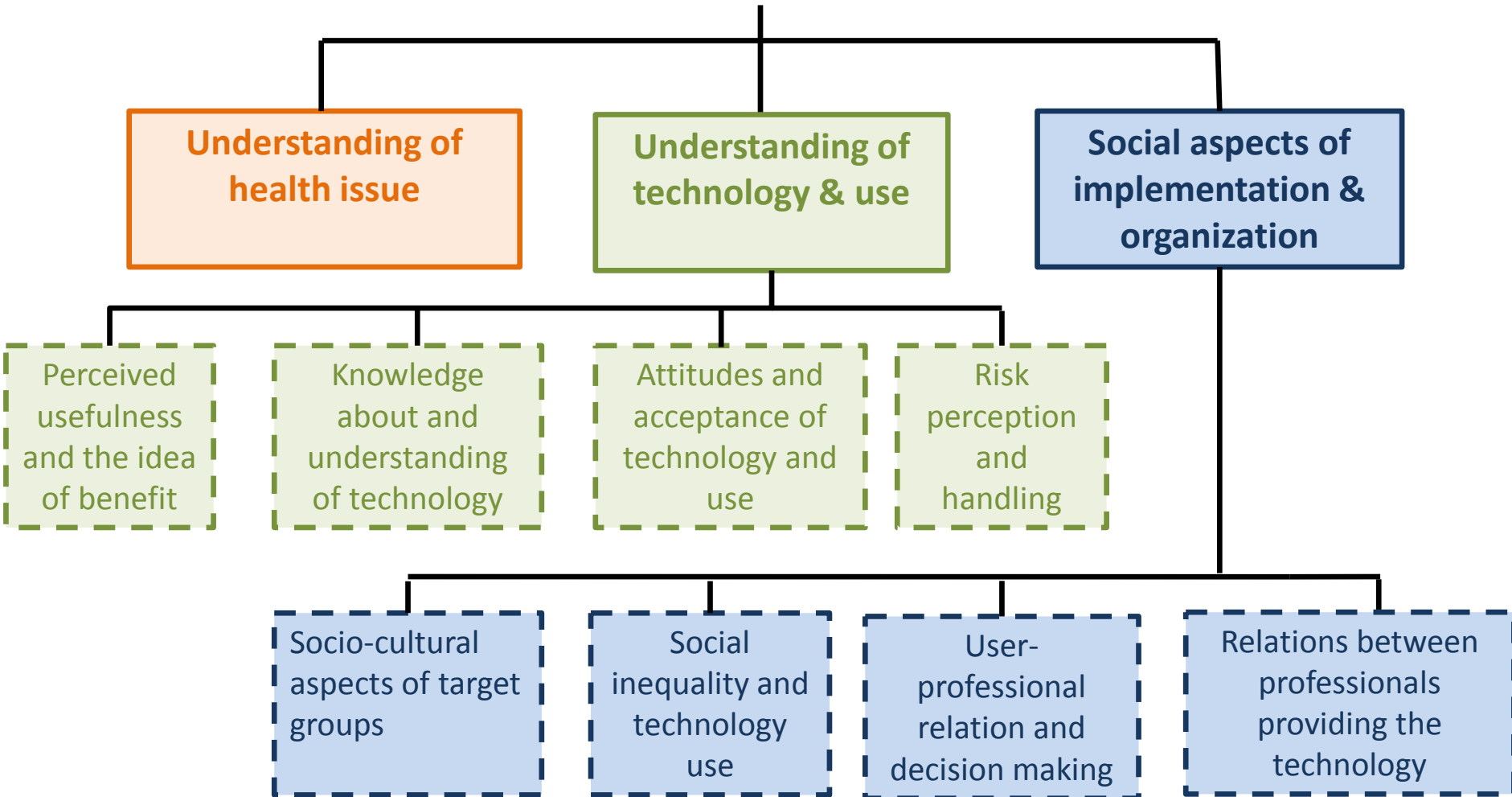
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# Framework for socio-cultural aspects in HTA

## Identified topics



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# Excuse: Cultural Theory

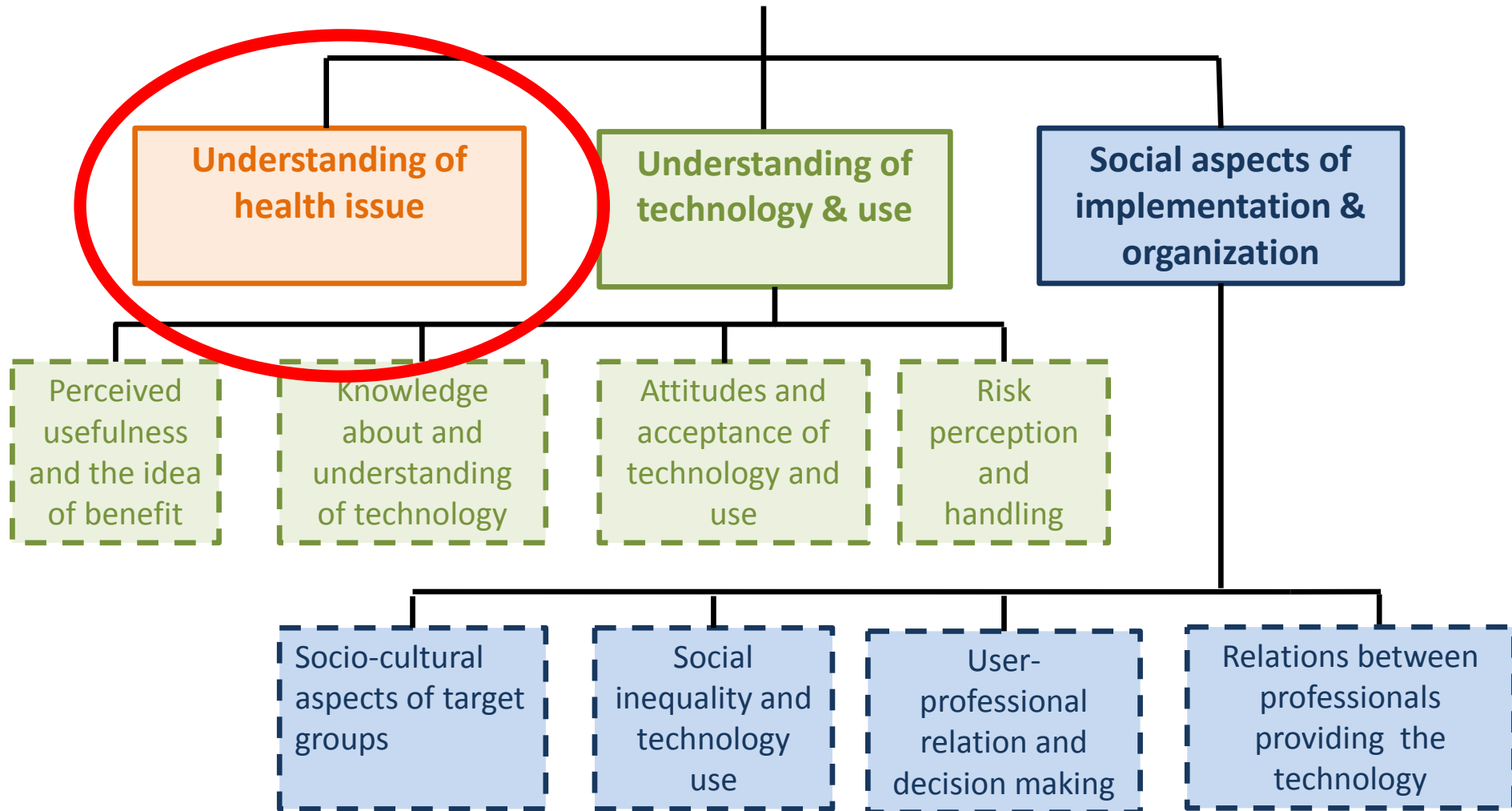
## An option to address heterogeneity in the framework

<b>Hierarchy</b>	Strong group boundaries High social control and socially imposed roles Binding prescriptions
<b>Individualist</b>	Market culture Autonomy of individuals, personal rewards Negotiating social relationships on the base of contracts
<b>Egalitarian</b>	Cooperation Low levels of prescription Communitarian setting
<b>Fatalist</b>	Isolated in social structures Belief in fate

(Douglas 1982, Thompson 1990)

# Application of the framework

# Socio-cultural aspects identified



# Understanding of the health issue

- Different cultural groups have different ideas.
- Related to ideas about treatment options.

***Example: Deafness and the implantation of Cochlear implants***

# The understanding of the health issue:

## Example of Deafness:

### *Hierarchical context*

Deafness is seen as disease of the ear.

Cochlear implants improve hearing ability of deaf people.

### *Egalitarian context:*

Alternative understandings can exist next to another, e.g. the understanding of deafness as a central characteristic of a cultural minority. Cochlear implants would threaten the communities' existence.

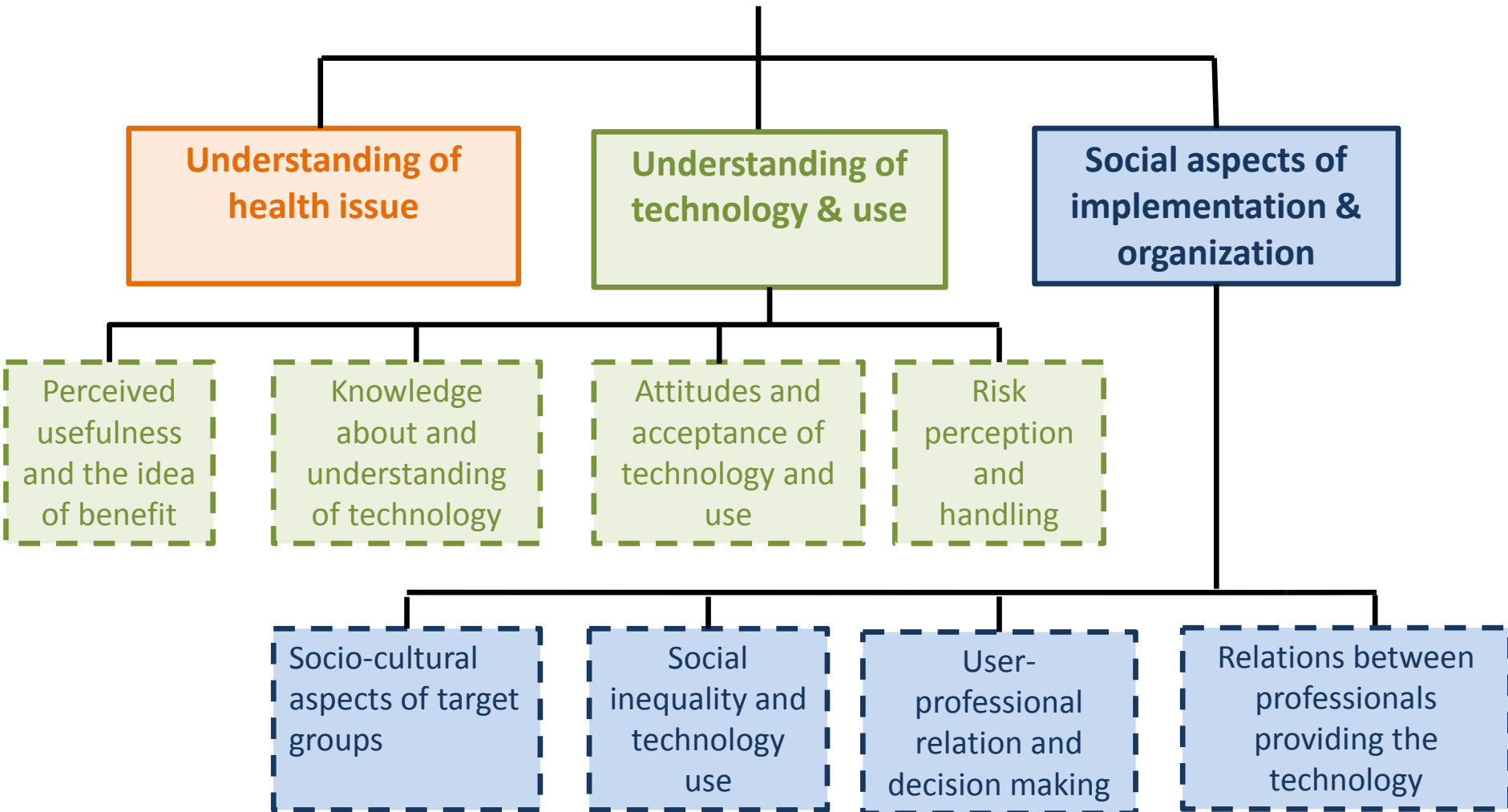


# Importance for HTA

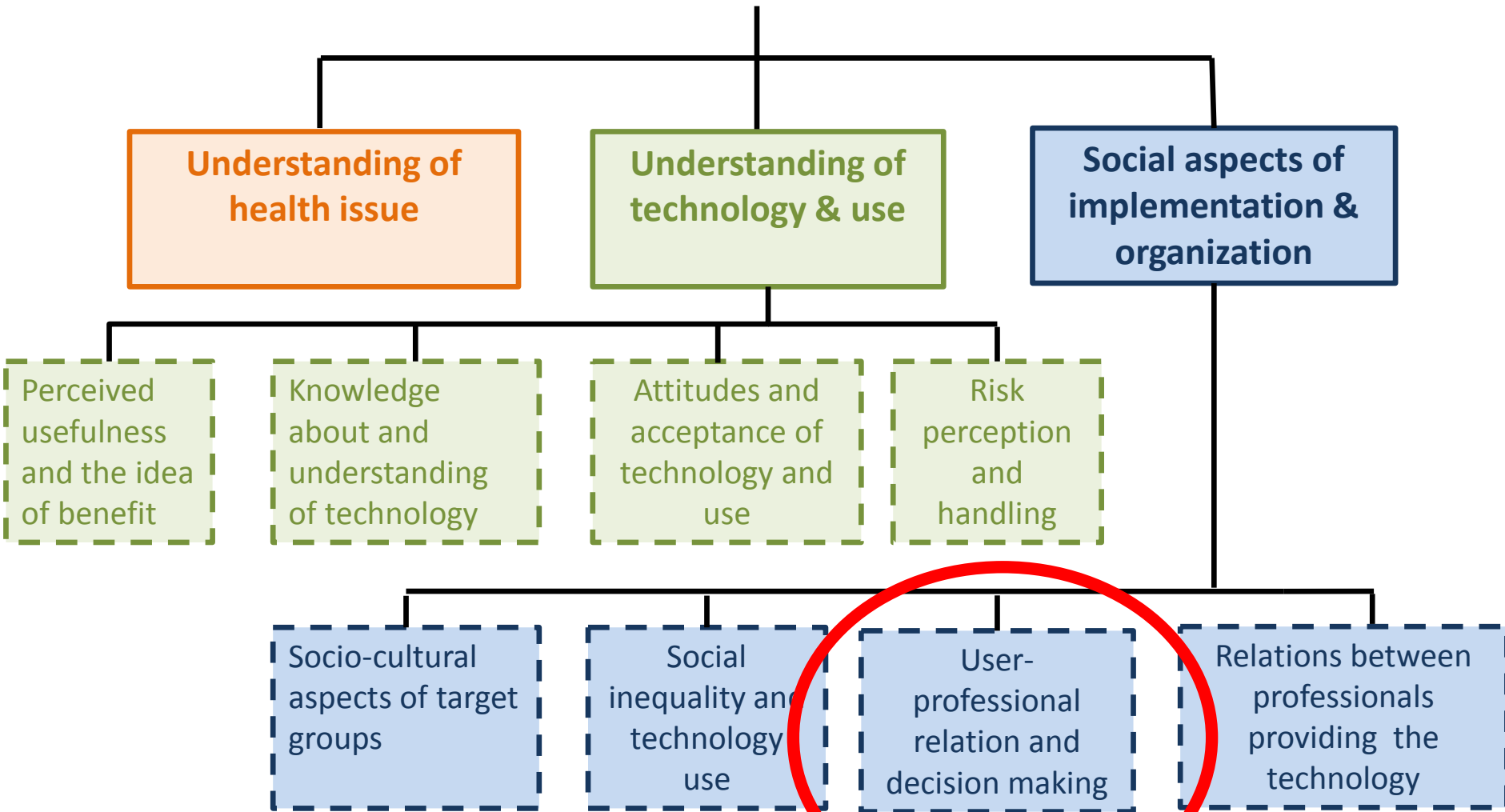
## Example of Deafness:

- Taking the different perspectives on the health issue into account HTA could explain a potential failure of Cochlear implants in parts of the deaf community.

# Framework on socio-cultural aspects



# Socio-cultural aspects identified



# User-professional-relationship:

- The socio-cultural context shapes relationships between users and professionals.
- Related are expectations and responsibilities.
- User and provider socially negotiate if ideas are compatible or if the treatment context needs to be changed.

***Example:***

***The user-professional relationship in home based palliative care***

# User-professional-relationship:

## Example of home based palliative care:

### *Individualistic context*

Patient-centered relationships characterizes that professionals serving the patients' needs. Individual treatment advantages are paramount (user as customer). Professional authority is denied.

### *Hierarchic context*

Patient-centered relationships characterize that professionals define patients' needs indirectly as experts. They know the treatment options. Patients request professional authority.

# User-professional-relationship:

## Example of Home based palliative care (HBPC):

### *Egalitarian context*

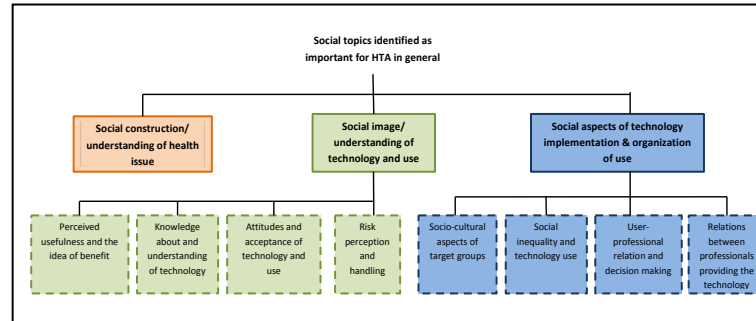
A patient-centered relationship is characterized by individual but equal treatment for all patients. Treatment decisions are shared decisions.

# Importance for HTA

## Example of Home based palliative care (HBPC):

- Difficulties which can cause a failure of the technology or force to adapt it to a specific context can be identified.
- E.g. problems linked with the implementation of an egalitarian service idea into a hierarchical nursing home

# Conclusion



- The socio-cultural framework enables to identify relevant topics and heterogeneous perspectives.
- Need to improve the acceptance of socio-cultural aspects and their relevance in HTA.



Please join us at the final conference of the INTEGRATE-  
HTA-Project  
at 12/13 November in Amsterdam

[www.integrate-hta.eu](http://www.integrate-hta.eu)

