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

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Some words on INTEGRATE-HTA

• EU-project funded under the 7th 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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Assessment of socio-cultural aspects in INTEGRATE-HTA
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Consists of:

a) 4-steps *assessment process*

b) A *framework* to analyse socio-cultural aspects
Assessment of socio-cultural aspects in INTEGRATE-HTA

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a) 4-steps assessment process

b) A framework to analyse socio-cultural aspects
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
Framework for the assessment of socio-cultural aspects

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Framework for socio-cultural aspects in HTA

Identified topics

Understanding of health issue
- Perceived usefulness and the idea of benefit

Understanding of technology & use
- Knowledge about and understanding of technology
- Attitudes and acceptance of technology and use
- Risk perception and handling

Social aspects of implementation & organization
- Socio-cultural aspects of target groups
- Social inequality and technology use
- User-professional relation and decision making
- Relations between professionals providing the technology

INTEGRATE-HTA

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Framework for the assessment of socio-cultural aspects

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### Excursus: Cultural Theory

An option to address heterogeneity in the framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Culture Type</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
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| **Hierarchy** | Strong group boundaries  
High social control and socially imposed roles  
Binding prescriptions |
| **Individualist** | Market culture  
Autonomy of individuals, personal rewards  
Negotiating social relationships on the base of contracts |
| **Egalitarian** | Cooperation  
Low levels of prescription  
Communitarian setting |
| **Fatalist** | Isolated in social structures  
Belief in fade |

(Douglas 1982, Thompson 1990)
Application of the framework
Socio-cultural aspects identified

Understanding of health issue
- Perceived usefulness and the idea of benefit
- Knowledge about and understanding of technology

Understanding of technology & use
- Attitudes and acceptance of technology and use
- Risk perception and handling

Social aspects of implementation & organization

Socio-cultural aspects of target groups

Social inequality and technology use

User-professional relation and decision making

Relations between professionals providing the technology
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 death community.
Framework on socio-cultural aspects

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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 characterize 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 implemention 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