**Why this series of guidances?**
With changing disease patterns, complex health technologies have gained massive importance. To avoid misleading conclusions, health technology assessment (HTA) should take the complexity of a technology, its means of implementation, its environment, and its varying effects on different individuals into account and offer an assessment that integrates these dimensions.

**For whom is this series of guidances useful?**
The main audiences for the guidances are producers and users of health technology assessments (e.g. agencies, organizations, institutions, and the interested public as well).

**How were the guidances developed?**
Six guidances were developed in the course of the project *Integrated Health Technology Assessment for Evaluating Complex Technologies* (INTEGRATE-HTA). Taken together they aim to support an integrated assessment of complex health technologies. The guidances have been tested in a case study on palliative care.

**Purpose of this introduction**
In this introduction
- we give a brief overview on the rationale, the goals and the products of the INTEGRATE-HTA project
- we highlight the importance of complexity in assessing complex technologies and
- we present a brief summary of each guidance.