

ASPHER Working Group on Healthcare Economic Evaluation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

Suggested acronym: HEESEE WG

Proposal, 14-June-2018

Background: European countries are challenged to assure the sustainability of their health sectors and to safeguard the healthcare service funding and provision. There are no unique solutions given the diversity of the European health systems, country regulations, fiscal capacities, as well as differences in social values. Even so, health economics tools are largely accepted across the countries as indispensable instruments in the evaluation of healthcare goods, services and system reforms implemented or considered for implementation. These tools are of critical importance in decision-making for developing evidence-informed policies pertaining to all aspects of resource allocation. Such tools provide insights on how to improve efficiency and how to protect equity of both healthcare financing and provision. No doubt that human capacity in the area of healthcare economic evaluation is highly needed in Europe. Stuningly however, such capacity is essentially lacking in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries where healthcare resources are particularly limited and inefficiently allocated. There is a strong unmet need of coordinated educational and training efforts in the health economics area in this region.

Aim: The ultimate goal of the HEESEE WG is to establish the current status, future needs and good practices in teaching healthcare economic evaluation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The focus will be on both course content and educational approaches, also, encompassing exchange of best practices and know-how.

Scope: The group will focus on Eastern and South-Eastern European countries, where teaching and training programs related to healthcare economic evaluation are now being developed. However, the group will be open to partners from other countries, which could contribute to the aim of HEESEE WG. Thus, the group will help to diffuse knowledge to less experienced partners and will provide insights on barriers and facilitators of implementing teaching and training programs on healthcare economic evaluation or public health programmes including economic evaluation as a core element.

Outcome: It is expected that the participation in this working group will enable institutional ASPHER members in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to review, renovate and expand their teaching and training material in the area of healthcare economic evaluation.

Group members: Below the list of partners who already agreed to participate in HEESEE WG. Other partners will be attracted when the group starts its activities.

- Department of Health Services Research, CAPHRI, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- CSFM, Department of Social Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Crete, Greece
- Department of Health Economics, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary
- Institute of Public Health, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland
- Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria
- Department of HTA, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University – Sofia, Bulgaria
- Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Vilnius University, Lithuania
- School of Public Health, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine

- Division of Health Research, Lancaster University, the UK
- JE Cairnes School of Business and Economics, National University of Ireland Galway

Each partner will be represented by 2 group members, who can replace each other when necessary.

Coordination: The group will be jointly chaired by one of the group members and will be co-chaired by one of the Executive Board members. After the first year the chair has to be re-elected for the remaining period of 2 years, or otherwise a new chair should be elected by the group members. Voting will be organized online (e.g. by email). Votes will be either YES or NO or Abstain. Non-response (e.g. on email voting) is counted as YES in order to guaranty the quorum. The co-chair will be delegated by the Executive Board from its current members. The role of the chair is to coordinate the activities, monitor tasks and complete the annual reports based on material provided by the group members. The group members will be responsible for the accomplishment of tasks agreed during the on-line group meetings, and for reporting on these tasks. The co-chair will advise and monitor the functioning of the work group.

Activities: The activities of the group will include bi-monthly on-line discussion meetings with group members representing the partners (teleconferencing through Skype or similar tools). Between the on-line discussion meetings, the members of the group will communicate mainly via email. After the Executive Board gives a formal approval, the kick-off on-line discussion meeting will take place. The main purpose of this meeting will be to approve the work plan proposed by the chair. The work plan will contain concrete tasks per partner with a deadline and deliverables per partner. The rest of the on-line discussion meetings will follow the work plan. Based on the aim of the group, the key topics of the on-line group discussions will be related to the current status, future needs and good practices in teaching healthcare economic evaluation in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries. The final on-line discussion meeting will have an evaluative nature and will also define the follow-up activities of the group. In addition to these core activities, group members will be involved in reporting and dissemination (see below).

Funding: With regard to fund raising, the group must follow the sponsorship guidelines of ASPHER and report a complete financial account (as under 3.2) to the ASPHER General Assembly. The costs for meetings in person have to be covered by the institutional members of ASPHER to whom members of the group belong (unless funds are provided by external grant). Therefore, this initial proposal only includes on-line meetings to reduce the costs to group members.

Duration: 3 years; expected starting date: Sept-Oct 2018

Assessment: The work of the group will be assessed internally once per year during an on-line focus group discussion with group members. External experts will be asked to assess the work of the group once per year through an on-line survey using Qualtrics. The internal and external evaluation of the group will be recorded and will be used to improve the group activities. The work of the group will be also discussed annually with the General Assembly, e.g. during ASPHER meetings.

Reporting: The work of HESEEE WG will be reported at the end of each year in the form of a brief annual report. The report will focus on the achievements of the group in relation to the three key topics defined in the groups' aim: current status, future needs and good practices in teaching healthcare economic evaluation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. A part of the report will have a form that will allow dissemination among interested parties, specifically the part containing guidelines and

recommendations. If an opportunity arises, the work will be also presented during conferences and other relevant events, e.g. in the form of workshops or presentations and posters. This will facilitate a broader dissemination of the groups' achievements. The group will use the ASPHER logo and tagline for their work and materials.