

# META EXTERNAL MEETING IN BRATISLAVA – A BRIEF SUMMARY

Bratislava, Slovakia on May 6th – 7th 2016



The ISPOR Slovakia Chapter and the ISPOR Hungary Chapter (META) held their joint scientific conference with the purpose of discussing the implementation of HTA (Health Technology Assessment) and the quality of its results in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region, in particular for Hungary and Slovakia.

Nowadays many problems make achievement of certain objectives of health care systems difficult. Due to the scarcity of public resources and the effectiveness of expensive pharmaceutical innovation, such as the expansion of the field of biological products, the need for procedures that aim for more efficient resource allocation is elevated. As a result, health technology assessment plays an increasingly important role worldwide.



META president Csaba Dózsa emphasized in his opening speech that while Western-European countries may set good examples for our countries, health technology assessment systems are particularly difficult for decision makers to implement in lower income countries with worse general health status, such as Slovakia and Hungary.

During the conference, representatives of the ISPOR Slovakia Chapter (Dominik Tomek – current president, Martin Višňanský – presidential candidate, Mária Pšenková – former president and Marek Psota – member of the board) stated that the methodology of HTA analyses is still in its infancy in many aspects. Although cost-effectiveness analyses are used by many, applying old and incorrect data may call the validity of the results into question. The fact that the cost-effectiveness threshold is set by the law the inclusion of new drugs difficult in practice. The field of oncology was highlighted because these analyses are carried out without an adequate directive and their results are often questionable in terms of cost-

effectiveness and the measurement of costs and health benefits. In their opinion, an important step would be to have the correct methodology of health economic analyses (including cost-effectiveness analyses) summarized in a recommendation, which then would be used by drug manufacturers to properly conduct HTA submissions.

In contrast, in Hungary the inclusion of new health technologies into the reimbursement system is regulated by the 180/2010. (V. 13.) Governmental Decree. In Hungary, challenges are related to the impact and the implementation of HTA, and the shortening the decision-making process, as pointed out by the presenters (Csaba Dózsa, Zoltán Kaló, Balázs Sinkovics, László Nagyjánosi, Bertalan Németh). Questions were often raised about the transparency of the Hungarian system. While in Slovakia, the education of HTA is still in development, Hungary maintains a prominent place in the regional rankings.



One of the fundamental objectives of ISPOR and the related activities is to promote communication and the exchange of experiences. Several speakers underlined the need for appropriately qualified healthcare professionals, programs and trainings to enhance the understanding of HTA analyses and raise awareness of problems, thereby avoiding waste resources and promoting long-term sustainability of health care financing.

Both during and after the conference, it was repeatedly mentioned that this jointly organized conference is hopefully the first of many to come. This initiative could be expanded in the future to other countries in the region, such as the V4 countries.

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**ISPOR Slovakia Chapter** – <http://www.ispor.org/regionalchapters/chapter/slovakia>

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**Hungarian Health Economics Association** – <http://metaweb.hu/english/>

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