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Analysis of the influence of implicit factors on the HTA deliberative process: results from a survey in 5 European countries

C.Monleón, HM. Späth, C. Crespo, C. Dussart, M. Toumi

BACKGROUND

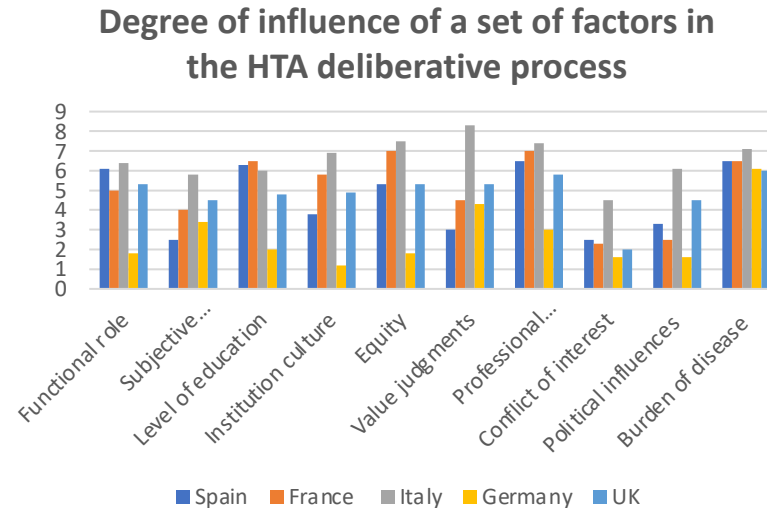
Implicit factors can be defined as any criteria playing a role in the HTA deliberative process that are not part of an HTA framework. Only few studies have explored the influence of implicit factors on this process. This survey of HTA experts in 5 European countries aimed to analyse the influence of implicit factors on the HTA deliberative process.

METHODS

Semi-structured interviews with HTA experts (n = 20) from 5 European countries (Spain, France, Italy, Germany and United Kingdom) were conducted in February-May 2021. The main topics of the interviews were the HTA deliberative process, the degree of influence on HTA deliberative process of a set of factors that were previously identified in a systematic literature review performed by the authors and recommendations to improve the deliberation.

RESULTS

18/20 HTA experts concurred that implicit factors play a role in the process. The implicit factors scored with the highest influence in the process were burden of disease and unmet need and professional experience of the members participating in the HTA deliberative process.



Recommendations from the experts to improve the HTA deliberative process

- Increase transparency
- Increase participation from broader set of stakeholders
- Increase scrutiny
- Systematic approaches

CONCLUSIONS

Most of the HTA experts acknowledged the presence of implicit factors in the deliberative process and proposed a number of recommendations to mitigate them. The results of this survey are a call to action for HTAs to formally address implicit factors in future deliberative processes.