PAYER AND INDUSTRY VIEWS ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR JOINT WORK ON EUROPEAN HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT APPROACH

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BACKGROUND

Based on an agreement in March 2021 the European commission entered into negotiations with the European Parliament which foresees the cooperation of member states at EU level on joint clinical assessments on health technologies. It is planned this will provide valuable scientific information to national health authorities when they take decisions about pricing and reimbursement of a health technology.

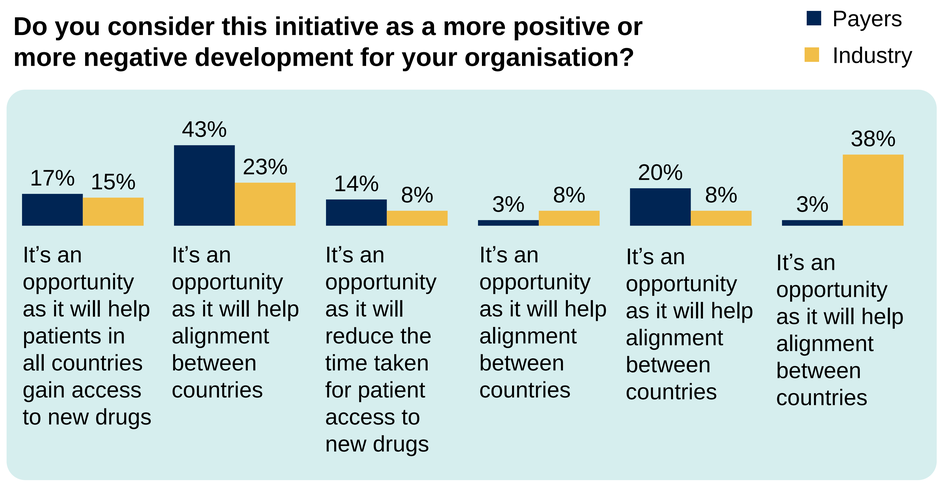
OBJECTIVES

This research explores the reactions to an European level HTA process from both representatives from industry and health authorities (payers).

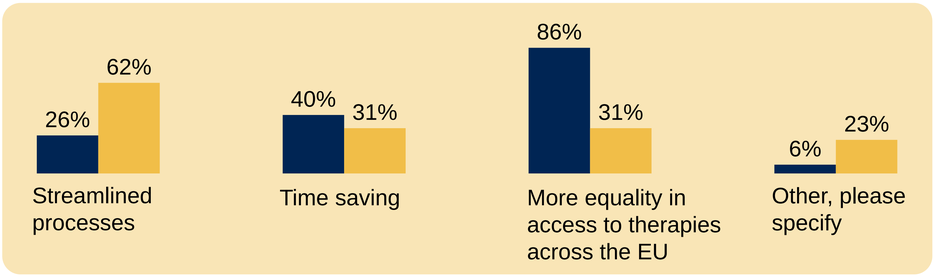
METHOD

Ipsos fielded an online survey, in June 2021, with 35 payers from the Ipsos payer panel (France, Germany, Italy, and Spain) and 13 respondents with global/European remit for market access at multinational pharmaceutical companies.

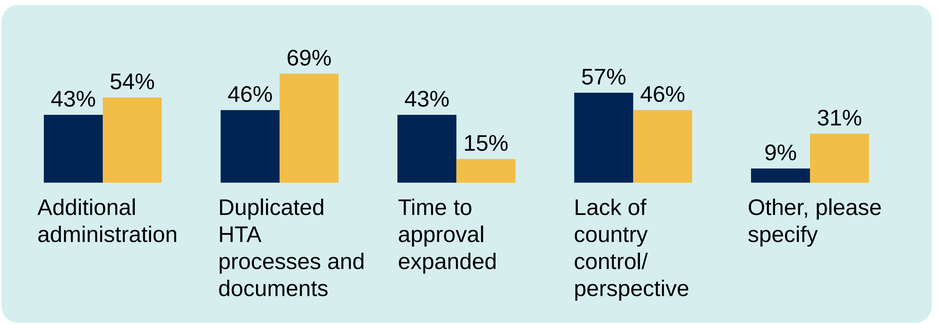
Do you consider this initiative as a more positive or more negative development for your organisation?



Benefits of a common HTA process



Disadvantages of a common HTA process



RESULT

Payers see this proposal mostly positive, with expectations to help alignment between countries (43%).

As can be seen in the in data respondents note the key advantage of the proposed legislation as the increased equality in access to therapies across EU. Industry respondents also expected streamlined processes; however, it should be noted that they appeared much less informed about the changes. The greatest disadvantage noted was lack of country control/ perspective. Industry respondents were most concerned about the duplication of HTA processes and the additional administrative burden in addition to lack of country control.

Despite concerns the majority of payer (86%) felt this provided an opportunity to ensure more equality of access across Europe.

DISCUSSION

Since conducting this research the EUnetHTA 21 consortium have won a call for tenders launched by the Commission to continue this initiative. 13 national HTA agencies from Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden have come together as part of this consortium [1]. It will be interesting to see how this top down approach to aligning HTA assessments evolves alongside other initiatives which have a more bottom up approach with countries coming together to pool resources such as the BeNeLuxA group, particularly given some of these agencies are represented in the EUnetHTA 21 consortium.

CONCLUSION

The new legislation aims to bring more equality of access across European Markets, a goal that is positively viewed by our respondents. However, concerns over a potential lack of country control remain along with concerns over the potential to duplicate effort. From the industry perspective there seemed less knowledge which may be explains the greater apprehension on what this will mean in practice.

It was clear that further understanding of how the process will work and the remit of the European level versus country controls is needed by key stakeholders to improve the understanding and hence acceptance.

[1] https://www.has-sante.fr/jcms/p_3291681/fr/hta-la-has-actrice-de-la-cooperation-europeenne-pour-l-evaluation-des-technologies-de-sante