

## THE LAUNCH OF SUSTAIN-HTA

*An EU-funded project aiming to Support Utilisation of Sustainable and Tailored Innovative methods for HTA*

The Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 on health technology assessment (HTAR), gradually implemented starting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025, sets out a framework for joint work on HTA among national and regional HTA bodies in the European Union. The Joint HTA Work, focusing on joint clinical assessments of innovative health technologies, creates a momentum to take stock of the HTA methodological developments produced by dedicated research projects within and outside the EU, and support the joint work of HTA agencies by making those easily and systematically available.

The European collaborative project SUSTAIN-HTA (Support Utilisation of Sustainable and Tailored Innovative methods for HTA)<sup>1</sup>, which hosted its kick-off meeting in Utrecht (The Netherlands) on 12-13 February 2024, aims to assist in the alignment of HTA methodologies across the European Union. This initiative, involving a consortium of leading universities, HTA bodies, SMEs, and one NGO led by Utrecht University, aims to focus on high-priority challenges in the assessment of innovative health technologies, working in close collaboration with the research community and building on recent advancements in HTA research (e.g., HTx, EHDEN, COMED and GetReal). Key objectives of SUSTAIN-HTA include the creation of a continuous horizon-scanning tool (SUSTAIN-HS) identifying HTA needs, an HTA methods observatory (SUSTAIN-OBS) to track developments in HTA methodologies, and a sandbox environment (SUSTAIN-SB) for testing and implementing these methods. Additionally, the project will offer an integrated training program (SUSTAIN-EDU) and a fellowship program (SUSTAIN-FP) to build expertise in new HTA methods and tools.

Professor Wim Goettsch (Utrecht University) said the following about the prospects of the project:

*“SUSTAIN HTA will work with HTA bodies to determine their needs for advancement in HTA methodologies, and with leading HTA academics, for instance through large European Horizon HTA Research projects, to bring new methodologies into practical use in HTA. We aim to be an expert, neutral platform that provides balanced information about these new HTA methods while also being a safe harbour to test the new methods in practice and provide training to support widespread implementation.”*

SUSTAIN-HTA aims to have a substantial impact on healthcare in Europe by facilitating the adoption of innovative HTA methods, improving evidence generation, optimizing patient outcomes, supporting healthcare system sustainability, and reducing the use of inefficient health technologies.

For further information on the project, please contact the SUSTAIN-HTA team at [info@sustain-hta.org](mailto:info@sustain-hta.org) or visit <https://www.linkedin.com/company/101651941/admin/feed/posts/>

---

<sup>1</sup> Horizon Europe no. 101136318

