Integrating Environmental Sustainability into Health Technology **Assessment:**

the state of the art and possible trajectories



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INTRODUCTION

- Environmental factors have a significant impact on health outcomes, including the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, disrupted food systems, increased disease transmission, and mental health issues.
- Incorporating environmental considerations into clinical guidelines and Health Technology Assessments (HTAs) is challenging but increasingly demanded by the **public** and healthcare stakeholders, with efforts being made to explore and integrate environmental impacts into these processes.
- It is, however, yet unclear how many researchers and HTA organizations are already working on this sustainability dimension, in what way, with which (international) partners, and what they have achieved as of now.

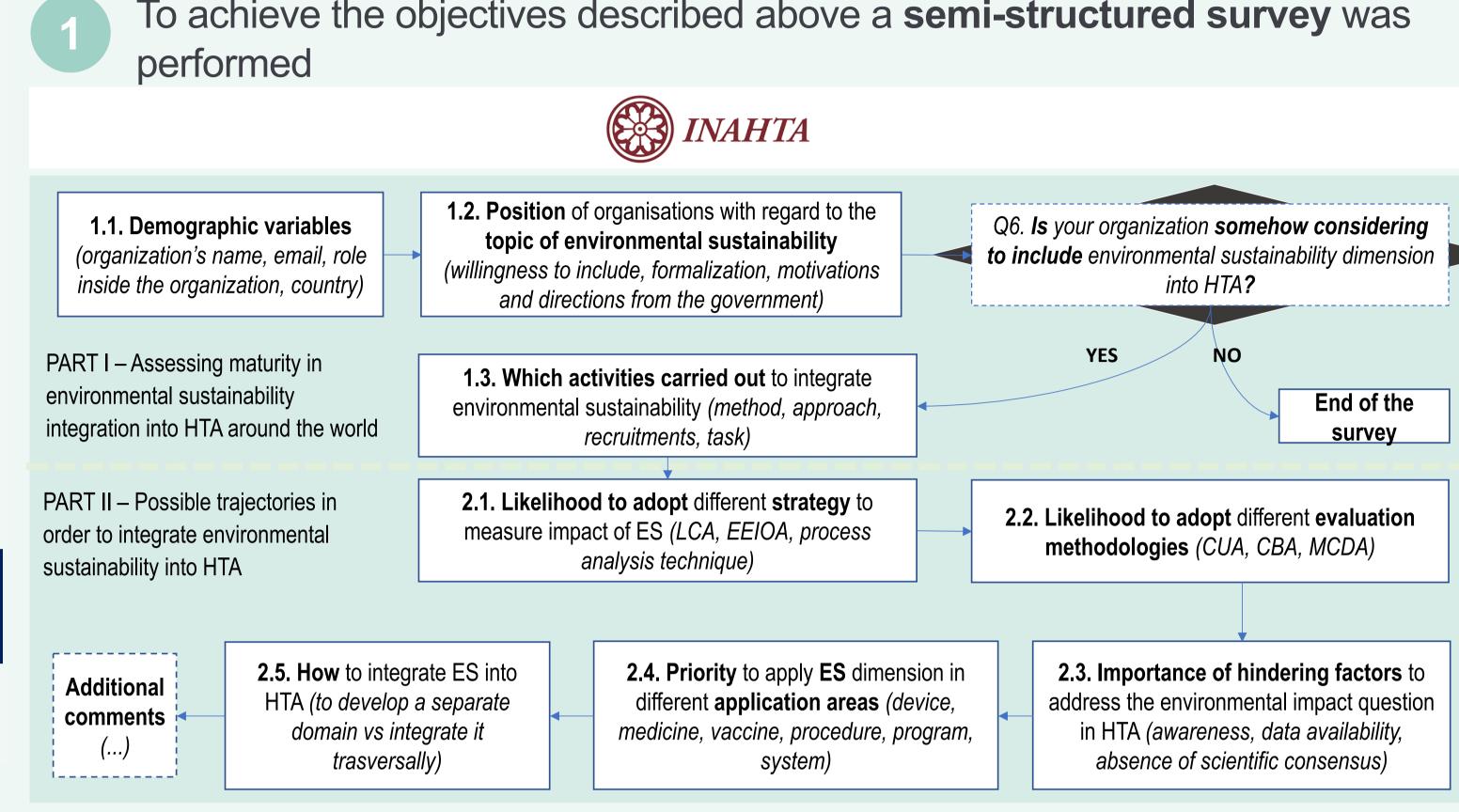
OBJECTIVE

- In this context, the **purpose** of this research is twofold:
- > to provide an overview of the progress achieved by different organizations, involved in HTA, around the world with respect to the integration of an environmental sustainability dimension;
- > to explore possible trajectories in order to integrate environmental sustainability into HTA from those identified as emerging approaches from the literature review.

METHOD



To achieve the objectives described above a semi-structured survey was performed

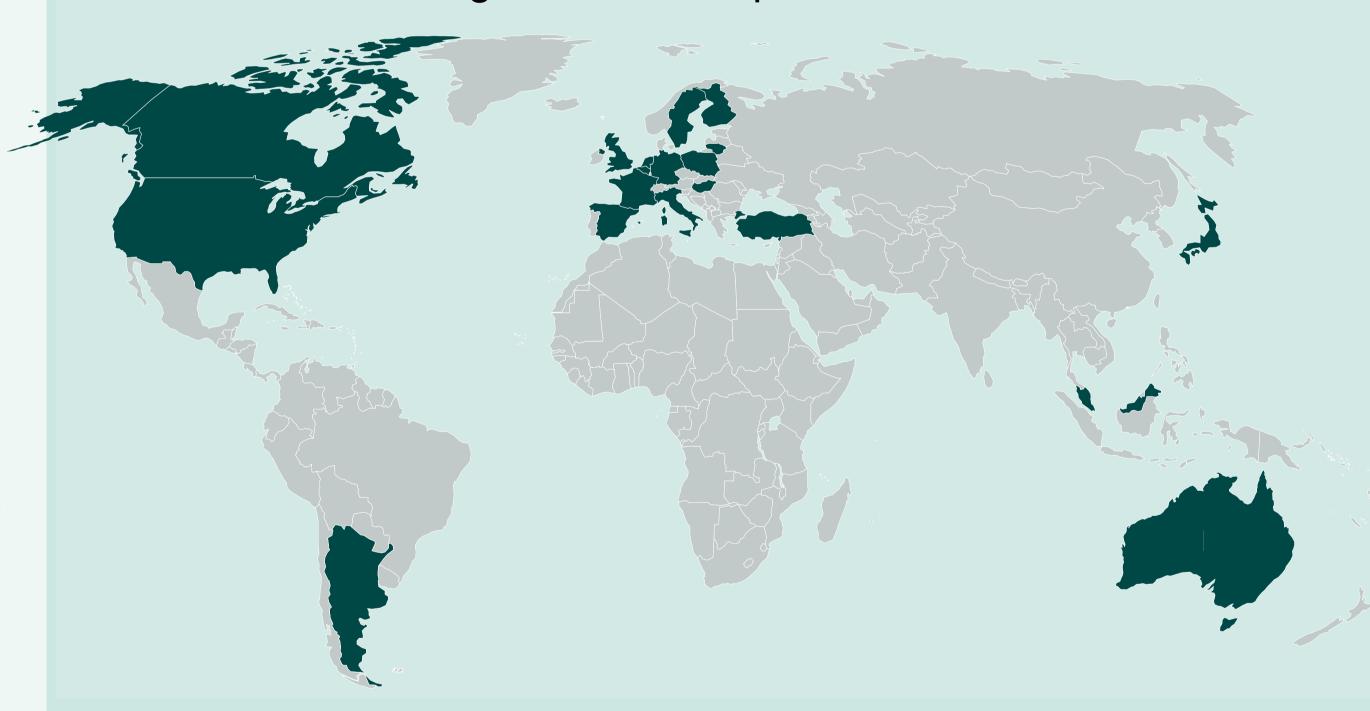


- Focus Group exercise with leading HTA experts to discuss, integrate and validate the results (January 2023)
- Results have been integrated with a desk analysis of the strategic plans of 3 HTA organizations

RESULTS

Survey respondents

- 26 responsens
- from 20 different countries
- Different type of HTA's organizations: agencies, research centers, institutes, government departments



In order to integrate the environmental sustainability dimension into the HTA, what actions have been taken at organisational level?

- 1 creation of a dedicated team by new recruitments
- creation of a dedicated team by reorganization of existing units
- assignment of the task to an existing team and strengthening the team through new hires
- 6 assignment of the task to an existing team

Hindering factors for the developing the methods and processes to address	Average value
Lack of awareness about the relevance of including environmental sustainability into HTA	7,3
Scarce availability of data or difficulty in tracing data back to a specific technology	9,0
Environmental data collection can be labor intensive and time-consuming	8,3
Absence of scientific consensus on the most appropriate integrative approach	8,0
Unfamiliarity with the approaches available	8,1

Stage of implementation

the organization is about the integration of ES dimension into HTA

Questions	Yes	Maybe	No
Knowledge - Are you in favor about incorporating environmental sustainability into HTA?	71% (17)	29% (7)	0% (0)
Persuasion - Is your organization somehow considering to include environmental sustainability dimension into HTA?	42% (10)	25% (6)	33% (8)
Decision - Has the integration of an environmental sustainability dimension into HTA been formally included in your organization's strategic objectives?	25% (6)		75% (18)
Adoption -Has your organization worked (or it is currently working) on integrating environmental sustainability/impacts dimension into HTA?	38% (9)	-	63% (15)

Alternative strategies to measure El and evaluation methods

Environmentally extended input-output analysis (EEIOA)

Cost-utility analysis (CUA)

Cost- benefit analysis (CBA)

Life cycle assessment (LCA)

Process analysis technique

Multicriteria decision analysis (MCDA)

Priority of different application areas

