

## **News from the ISPOR Czech Chapter**

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The year 2018 represented a number of challenges for the Czech ISPOR Chapter.

The Chapter was invited to participate in round table discussions organized by the Ministry of Health, to improve access of costly pharmaceuticals, mainly orphan drugs, exceeding the willingness-to-pay threshold. Strictly economic driven decisions, not sufficiently considering unmet needs and social aspects were main hurdles for these products in the past decade. Although legislative changes are not yet approved by Parliament, a robust document is being prepared, which should implement a commission (of healthcare specialists, insurance funds, Ministry of Health representative and patient's organisations) to decide about funding. This approach would implement a "true" HTA process where funding decisions take various aspects (including unmet need) into account.

Another important activity for the ISPOR Czech Chapter was the introduction of educational activities focused on patient's organisations. During November a first 5-day course took place. Patients got more insight into the healthcare organisation and financing, principles of pricing, reimbursement setting including health-economic principles. A valuable part of this course was a workshop held by Karen Facey from the University of Edinburgh, who is a recognised expert in Patient's involvement in the UK HTA process. First feedback received on the course was highly positive and the Czech Chapter would like to continue these activities in the coming years to prepare patient organisations for their active participation in the HTA process.