

## **HTA horizons expanding within Eurasian Economic Union**

*Know more about HTA and EAEU prospects*

International Scientific and Practical Conference "Development of Health Technology Assessment in the Eurasian Economic Union", held in April 27-28, 2017 in Astana city, has triggered a new vector of HTA development in Kazakhstan within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

175 people from 10 countries took part in the work of this conference. The representatives of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Heads of core-business departments and divisions of the Ministries of Healthcare of the EAEU countries, representatives of the Health Insurance Funds of the EAEU countries, members of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) as well as representatives of the scientific and expert community, foreign and international organizations, and mass media have expressed their visions and proposals on the prospects of HTA system implementation and harmonization, financing of innovative and costly health technologies taking into account the requirements of the contemporary market.

As far as the development of Common Market of health technologies (medicines, medical products etc.) on the territory of the EAEU is one of the priorities in the healthcare development of the Eurasian Economic Area countries, the participants of the conference have discussed the most sensitive issues of the modern decision-making system in the healthcare systems of the CIS countries.

A one-day training "Assessment of Health Technologies in the EAEU countries, Trends and Opportunities" and a round table "Issues on long-term clinical and cost-effectiveness of vaccinal prevention", held on the second day under the auspices of the conference, have allowed all the participants to share ideas and knowledge in the sphere of HTA and drugs commerce.

Alexander Kostyuk, the President of the Kazakhstan Association "KAZSPOR" and ISPOR Kazakhstan Branch observes a significant value of the conference held for the Eurasian Economic Area countries: "Our mutual cooperation in the sphere of medicines circulation will give impetus for further HTA development in the CIS countries. This will allow solving the problems with the distribution of expenses for healthcare and reducing the expenses for innovative and costly medicines. For instance, the development of a single concept including the application of fundamental principles and tools for HTA implementation will give an opportunity not only to make adequate decisions for policymakers but also comprehensively evaluate the entire process by both interested parties and, primarily, patients themselves".

According to the participants of the event, HTA is becoming even more relevant with regard to the integration processes both within the EAEU and outside. Therefore, foreign experts from Great Britain, Hungary, Holland and Denmark have shared their experience in the conference.

Presently professional communities and initiative groups of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and the Republic of Belarus have united to create a Working Group on the development and harmonization of HTA system in the EAEU countries. The plans of the Working Group include the development of Roadmap for the implementation of HTA system and guidelines for HTA in the EAEU countries as well as recommendations on its implementation for the local Ministries of the EAEU member states.

This Conference has strengthened Kazakhstan and Russia cooperation and interaction with other Eastern European countries on issues of drugs' commerce and HTA. Actually, it gave a new round of integration between these countries within the framework of the EAEU.