

# **HTA in Eurasia**

**The current situation and priorities in the region**



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Ankara Numune  
Health Technology  
Assessment Unit

# Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital

- Biggest Public Hospital of Turkish MoH
- Built in 1881
- Reference Center
- 827 Doctors, over 3000 staff
- 42 different departments, 980 beds capacity



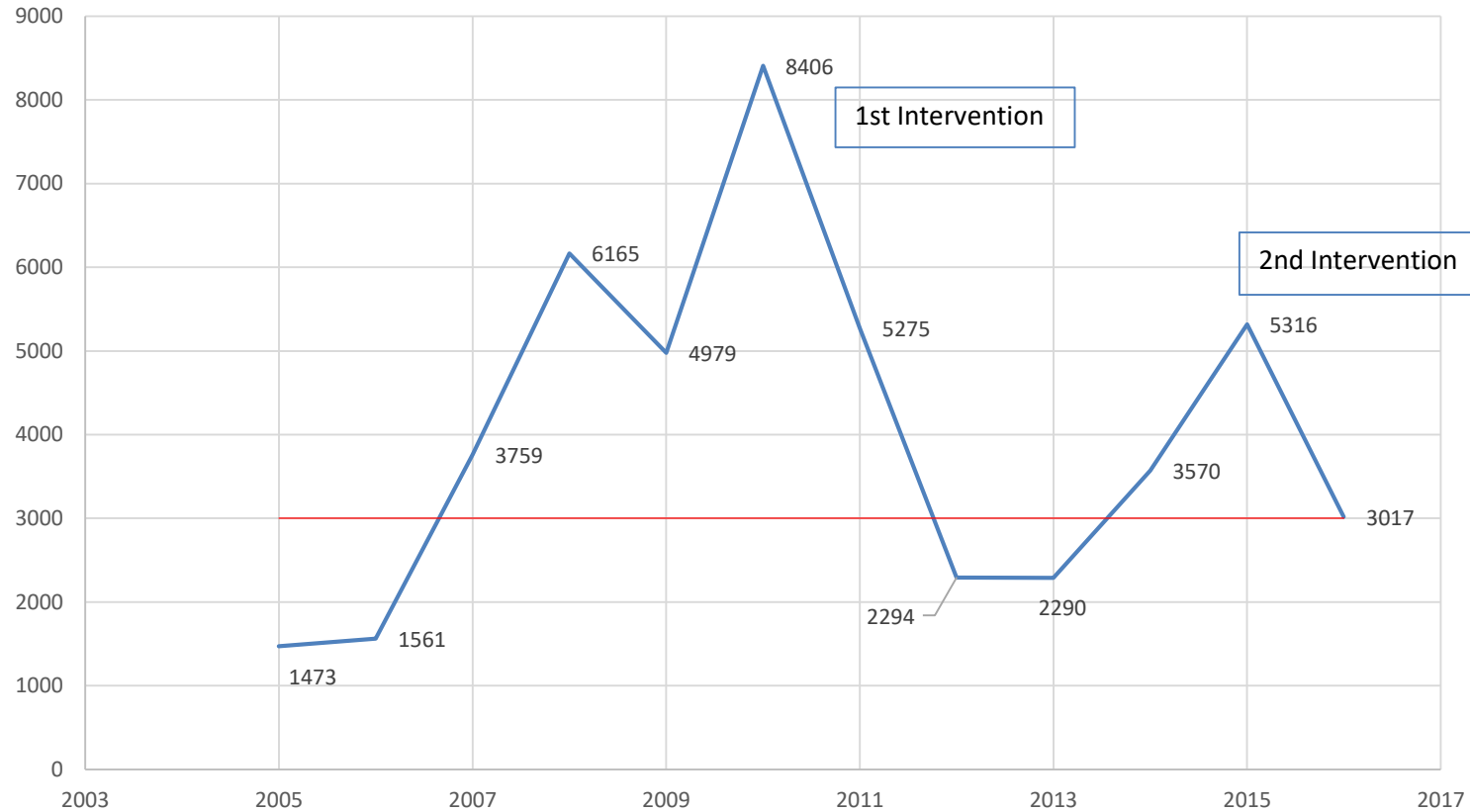


- Assessment of investment decisions
- Evaluation of disinvestment decisions
- Rationalizing the use of existing technologies
- Development and analysis of real-life data
- Being a bridge between health technology users, innovative ideas and those who turn these ideas into products



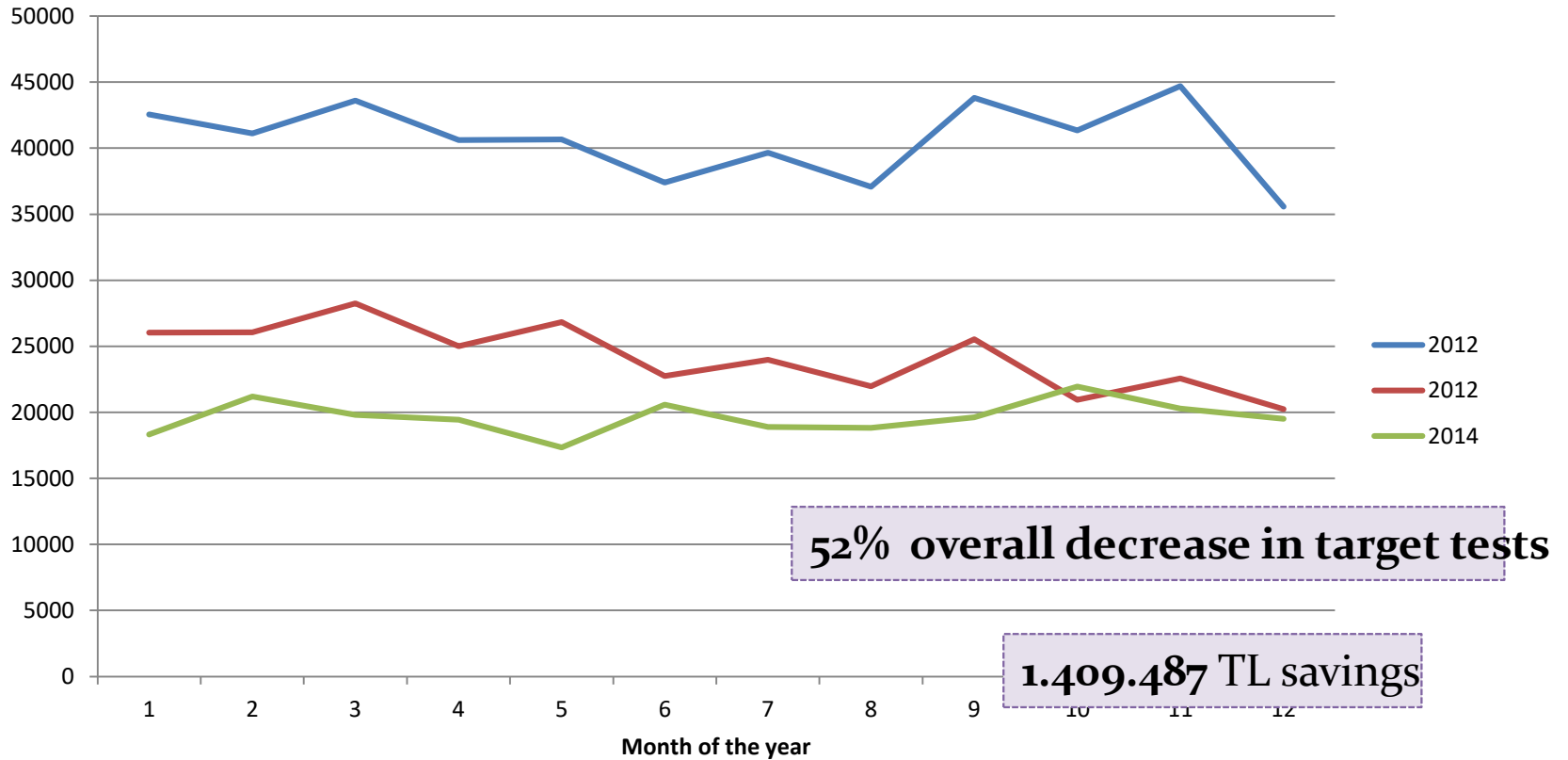
## Human Albumin consumption and interventions from 2005 onwards

HA Consumption by Years



# Efficient Use of Laboratory service

## Total number of target tests per month





**AN**  
Ankara Numune  
Sağlık Teknolojileri  
Değerlendirme Birimi

**H**

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**TA**

## IMPACT OF ANHTA

- Initial two projects helped rationalizing drug use and laboratory use in the hospital and ended up with a saving of **6.709.455 TL (2.242.474 euros)**
- These two projects also helped hospital to focus on "right use of existing technologies".
- The other project for investment of a new technology was rejected. In case it were recommended it would have generated a loss of **312,663 TL (104.221 euros)** over the next ten years.
- The Projects facilitated understanding and acceptance of HTA in the hospital, improved communication between clinicians, managers and HTA unit.
- Impact of the projects extended beyond the hospital and were uptaken by the MoH to be disseminated to other hospitals in Turkey



Eurasian  
Health Technology  
Assessment  
Initiative

10/3/2018

Joining Forces to Enhance Evidence –  
Informed Decision-Making in Eurasian  
Countries

Dr Rabia Kahveci

- Eurasian Health Technology Assessment Initiative was established in 2015, Ankara, Turkey.
  - Chair: Rabia Kahveci (Turkey)
  - Secretary: Esra Meltem Koc (Turkey)
  - Members : Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kazakhstan, Krygyzstan and Turkey
  - Observer Country: Tunisia





# Strengths

- Possibility to initiate and sustain cross country activities in the Region
- National/Regional interest in multinational collaboration of advancing EBM practices
- Genuine interest to capacity building in EBM practices
- Availability of web-based resources
- Available courses on critical appraisal, quality assessment and/or pharmacoinformatics-based courses for physicians, pharmacists, dentists, nurses in different countries in the Region
- WHA resolution on promoting HTA in the countries

# Weaknesses

- Low number of trained health personnel with adequate knowledge on EBM, in general (eg: critical appraisal, literature search, systematic reviewing...)
- Lack of adequate number of certified/licensed EBM/HTA courses across the countries
- Absence/scarcity of EBM-related courses/lectures in curricula of undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate schools
- Lack of regional expertise and some reliance on out of region expertise and/or professionals in EBM
- Language barrier- the need for translations to local languages of common regional documents and vice versa.
- Lack of legal framework for advancing EBM
- Lack of willingness and use of HTA in decisionmaking by relevant stakeholders
- Lack of patients' awareness of EBM practices and reluctance to take self-responsibility to participate in their treatment decisions

# Opportunities

- Interest in capacity building
- Possibility of preparing a joint (common) statement on advices for local governments for improving EBM practices, with particular emphasis on HTAs
- Growing interest on EBM among health professionals
- Growing health expenditures, with a need to optimize use of available resources
- Availability of trained personnel and some international educational activities on EBM in the region
- Potential for relevant information/experience exchange among the partners in the region
- Possibility to organize webinars, open to all countries to selected EBM topics
- Global support from countries with well-established systems is available
- Existence of EBM associations in some countries in the region, as a triggering factor for the others
- All partners are members of World Health Organization-Euro and the World Bank, both with vested interest in evidence-based and cost-effective health care practices
- WHO supporting HTA to be involved in universal health coverage
- Increasing demand of evidence on health technologies by patient organizations

# Threats

- Limited funding to be used for EBM development in the Region
- Low level of understanding of EBM among policy/decision makers, academia and general public- even possible resistance
- Industry influence on medical decision making
- Need for in-service training of large number of health professionals in the region
- Mismatch between demands and available resources to fulfill EBM requirements
- No incentives for EBM practices, beyond physicians' self-consciousness
- Hard-core cultural beliefs of some senior physicians for a cultural change favoring EBM practices
- Scarcity/low capacity of professional health speciality associations and/or societies in some countries in the region
- Discontinuation of people and efforts, tendency to give up

# RESEARCH REPORT

## Analysis of strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats of a health technology assessment in Turkey

Kahveci and Meads

**Rabia Kahveci**

*Ministry of Health*

**Catherine Meads**

*University of Birmingham*

**Table 1.** SWOT Analysis for HTA in Turkey

Strengths	Weaknesses
Individuals skilled and trained in HTA related fields International contact: World Bank and European Union relations Recent reforms in health care; investments for information network and databank Good examples of evidence-based decision making	Poor multidisciplinary approach, poor communication between stakeholders Traditional “expert-based” decision making Poor availability of data Poor quality of data Poor priority setting process Lack of general awareness of HTA Lack of interest by universities Lack of trained human resources Poor information technology
Opportunities	Threats
Demand for transparency in decision making Demand for evidence and demand for credibility by decision makers Interest of mass media in healthcare reforms Overwhelming demand for new technologies requires evaluation Current healthcare reforms: restructuring of health care, general health insurance Opportunity to engage politicians interest	Funding Political instability “New and expensive” is good belief Not a priority in current reforms Recent big national investments could challenge resources Possible resistance for use by decision makers

SWOT, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; HTA, health technology assessment.





**HTAi** HEALTH TECHNOLOGY  
ASSESSMENT **i**NTERNATIONAL

# HTAi Developing Countries Interest Group



- The HTAi Interest Group on Developing Countries (HTAi DC IG) was established in 2008
- Aim is to provide a platform within HTAi for discussion of the HTA needs, challenges and solutions pertaining to developing countries.
- Members over 30 countries, with strong interest
- [www.htai.org](http://www.htai.org)



- ...HTA is needed especially when scarce resources demand smarter decisions to ensure efficient and effective outcomes.....

*Mueller, D., D. Tivey, and D. Croce. "Health-technology assessment: Its role in strengthening health systems in developing countries." Strengthening Health Systems 2.1 (2017): 6-11.*





# Highlights from experiences

Variability in  
•Health care  
priorities  
•Resources

Variability in  
approaches

Be aware and be  
ready to negotiate  
on your needs

Limited local  
experience  
International  
experience is not in  
the form you need  
Not available and  
the available ones  
are not needed by  
you

Consider local facts  
Use local resources  
Inspire international  
experiences

# Highlights from experiences

What is the impact you are expecting to see?



Focus on efficiency of conducting the assessment

Be 'indeed' on the same boat with all stakeholders



Try to keep young, skilled, honest and dedicated people on board  
Don't offend them  
Don't give up



# Highlights from experiences

Strength of the people  
Strength of the organization which draws the capacity

Challenge/conflicts between politics and policies

Political will

timeliness

Alignment with national technology strategies





THANK YOU  
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