



Improved methods and actionable tools for enhancing HTA

Do we need special processes to appraisal rare disease treatments?

Elena Nicod, PhD, Centre for Research on Health and Social Care Management, Bocconi University, Milan, Italy (presenter)

Karen Facey, PhD, Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh, UK

HTA conference

The role of HTA in the era of radical changes & disruptive innovation

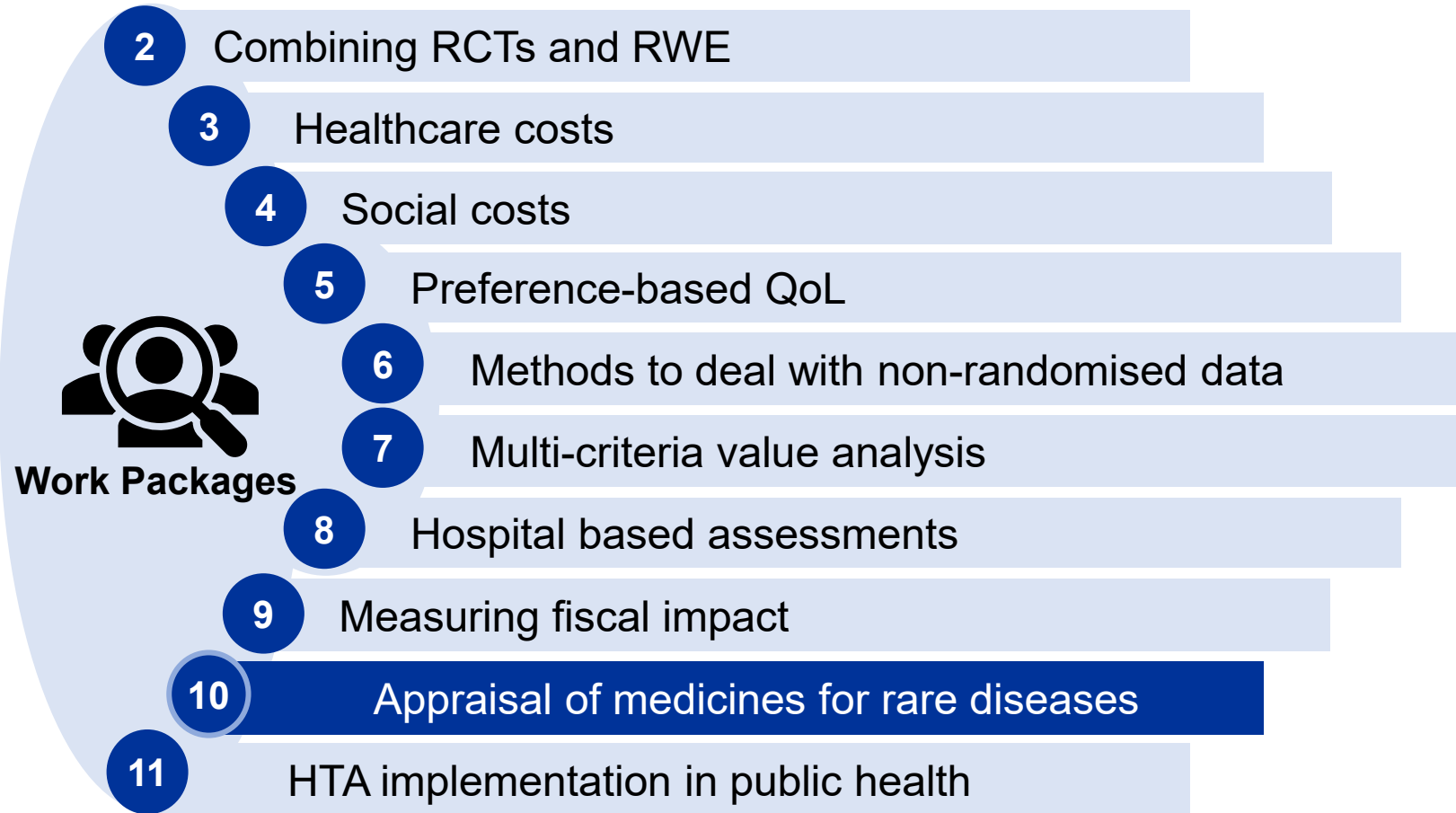
Session 2: Spotlight session on the future of HTA

23 March 2021

Overview of IMPACT-HTA and its Work Packages

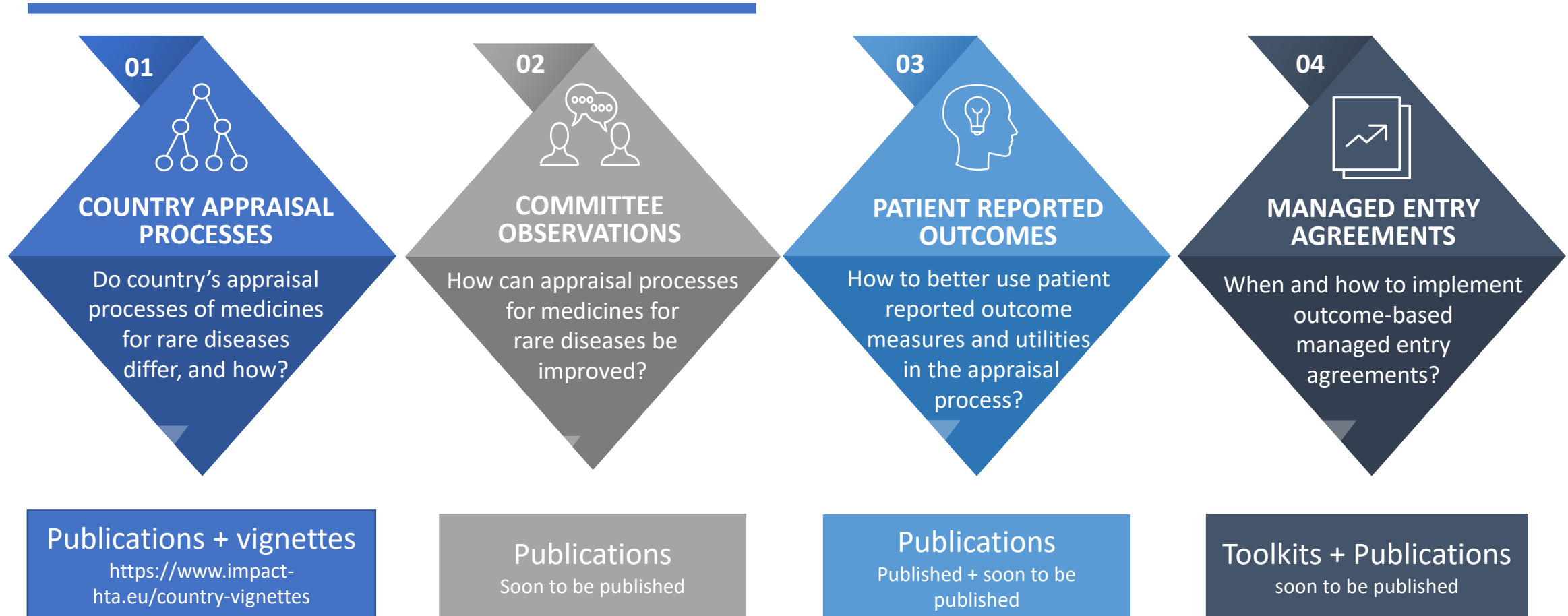


- EC funded H2020 project under the call for improved methods for economic evaluation
- Developing **methods, tools and guidance** for decision-makers in the context of HTA and health system performance

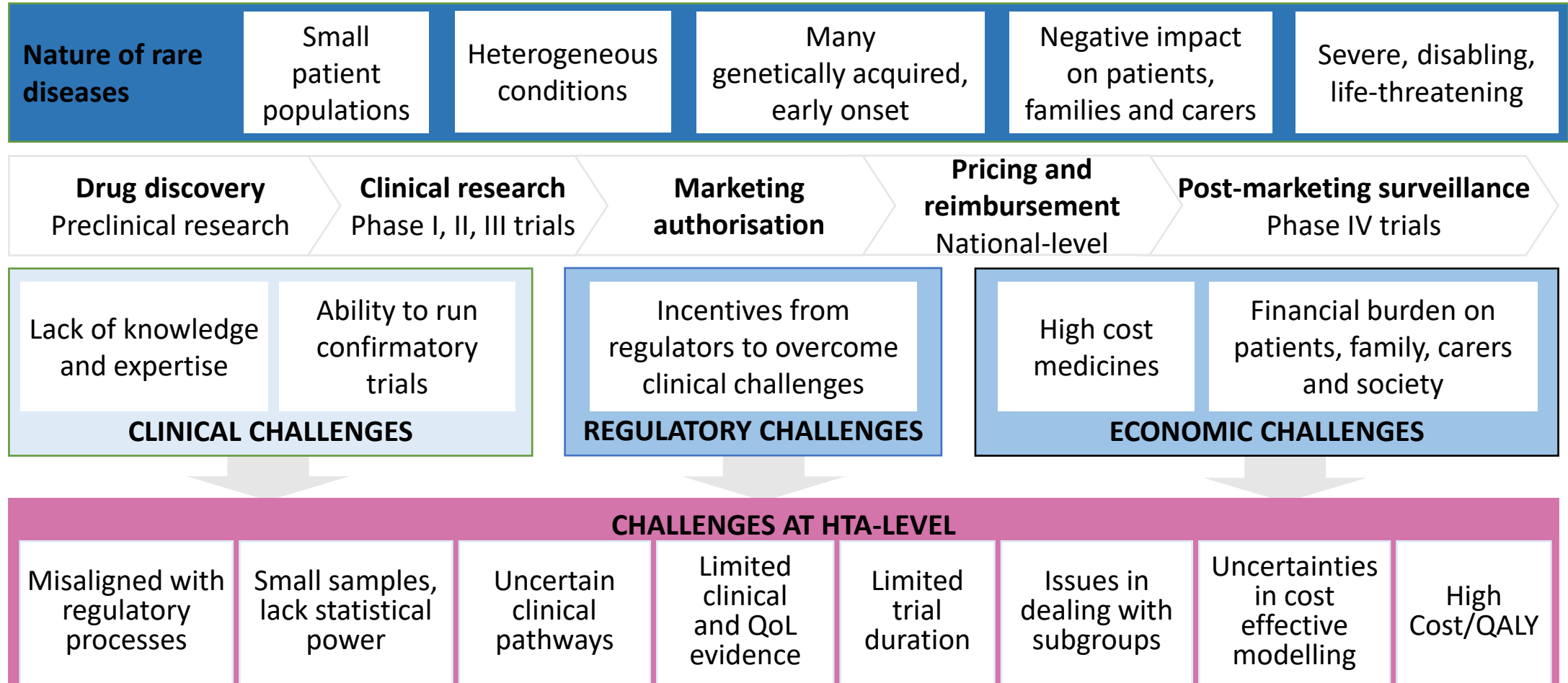


WP 10 on appraisal of rare disease treatments is developing an **Appraisal Framework** with associated toolkits from four different workstreams

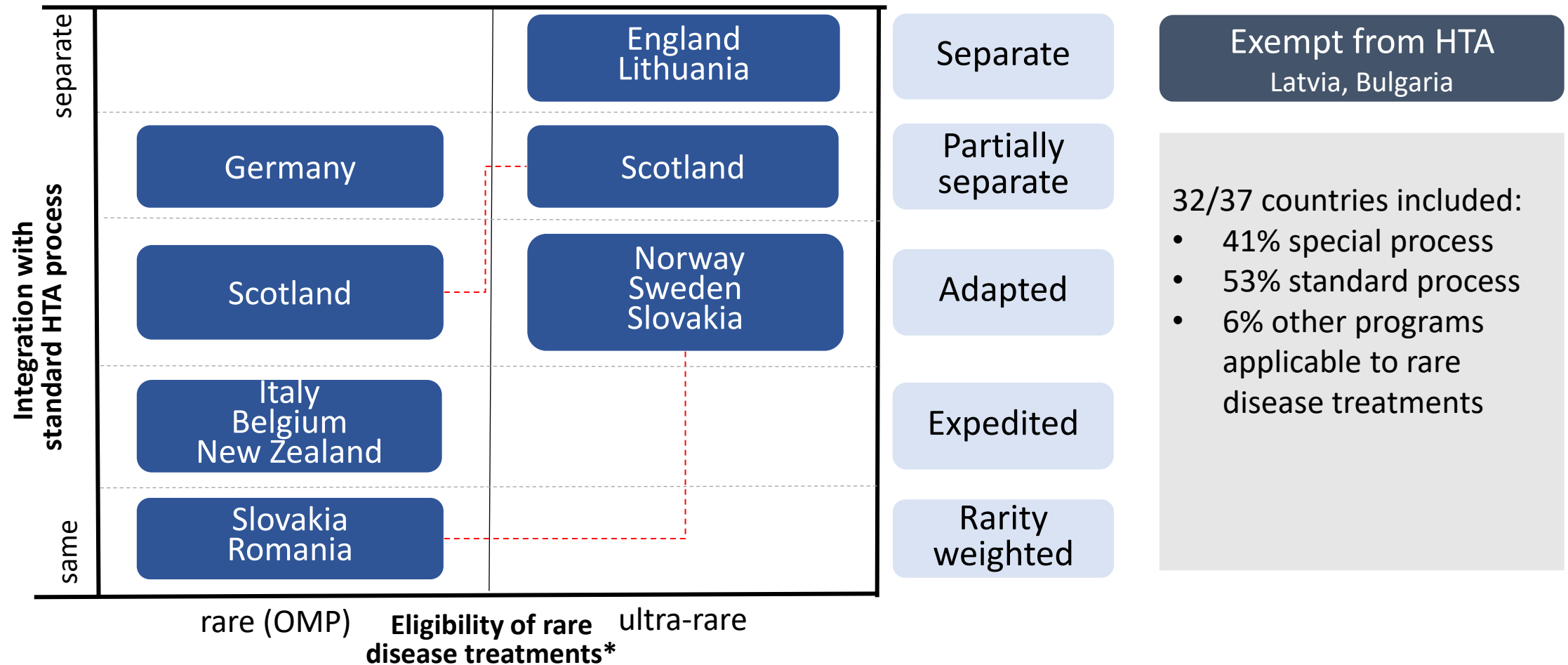
Focus of this presentation



The difficulties to develop medicines for rare diseases lead to HTA challenges

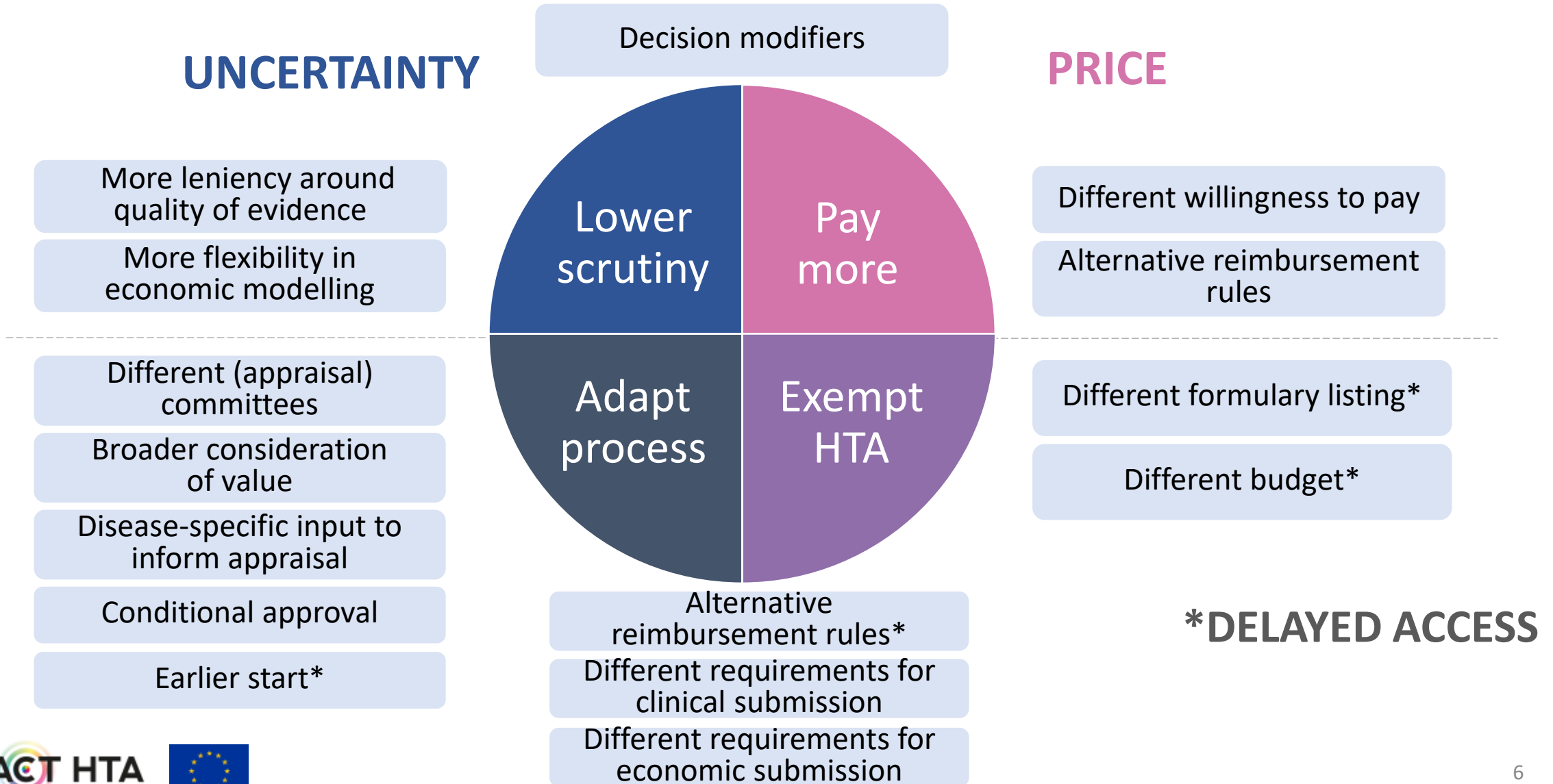


13 (41%) of the 32 participating countries have some form of special HTA appraisal process informing routine use of medicines for rare diseases



* Rare disease treatment with orphan designation from European Medicines Agency (“Orphan Medicinal Product”, OMP); ultra-rare disease treatments defined by individual country definitions

These special processes include features allowing to better deal with the common challenges in rare diseases around uncertainty, price and delayed access



Vignettes and results are published and publicly available

Nicod et al. *Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases* (2020) 15:189
https://doi.org/10.1186/s13023-020-01462-0

Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases

RESEARCH Open Access

Are supplemental appraisal/reimbursement processes needed for rare disease treatments? An international comparison of country approaches

Elena Nicod^{1*}, Amanda Whittal¹, Michael Drummond² and Karen Facey³

Abstract

Background: There is increasing recognition that conventional appraisal approaches may be value rare disease treatments (RDTs). This research examines what supplemental appraisal/reimbursement processes are used internationally and how they can be characterised. A qualitative research design documentation of country appraisal/reimbursement processes for RDTs via questionnaires, de-identified interviews with country experts to produce country vignettes, and (2) a cross-country analysis to identify and characterise features in supplemental processes for RDTs, and compare supplemental processes.

Results: Thirty-two of the 37 invited countries participated in this research. Forty-one supplemental processes for RDTs. Their level of integration within standard processes was high, characterised by whether they are separate or partially separate from the standard accelerated standard processes, or standard processes that may be applied to RDTs, features implemented throughout the appraisal process. These features are mechanisms of different standards to assess the value of the medicine, support to the appraisal/decision-making to overcome the issues of lack of cost-effectiveness, or exempt from part of the full appraisal process. They increase the likelihood of reimbursement by adjusting and/or foregoing standard processes, or accepting to pay more for the same added benefit as for common conditions. Countries with standard processes include one or more of these features (formally discussing potential changes in their systems).

Conclusions: Results suggest revealed preferences to treat RDTs differently than common conditions. Some of the challenges around uncertainty and high price remain, but supplemental appraisal/reimbursement processes support decision-making that is more flexible and consistent. Many of these processes continue to adjust as they gain experience.

Keywords: Rare disease treatment, Orphan medicine, Ultra-orphan medicine, Appraisal/reimbursement processes, Supplemental processes, Health technology assessment

Results published in the **Orphanet Journal of Rare diseases**

IMPACT HTA Improved methods and actionable tools for enhancing HTA

HOME ABOUT WHO WE ARE WORK PACKAGES

WORK PACKAGE 10




Country Vignettes

As part of WP10 – Appraisal of orphan medicinal products, HTA appraisal/reimbursement processes for rare disease treatments in most EU and EEA Member States, Canada and New Zealand are documented.

These country vignettes are now publicly available and can be found in the list below. The methodology on how this was done can also be found in the background document below.

[BACKGROUND \[PDF\]](#)

Click on a flag to download the country vignette [PDF]

	Australia
	Austria
	Belgium









Publicly available country vignettes hosted on the **IMPACT-HTA** and **Orphanet** websites

orphanet

The portal for rare diseases and orphan drugs

"Rare diseases are rare, but rare disease patients are numerous"

Access our Services

 Inventory, classification and encyclopaedia of rare diseases, with genes involved	 Inventory of orphan drugs	 Directory of patient organisations	 Directory of professional institutes
 Directory of expert centres	 Directory of medical laboratories providing diagnostic tests	 Directory of ongoing research projects, clinical trials, registries and biobanks	 Collection of the Orphanet Register

Medicines to treat rare diseases benefit from adaptations to the appraisal process in order to better deal with rare diseases specificities

- **Revealed preference** to treat medicines for rare diseases differently (41% of 32)
- **Process features*** to better deal with challenges common in rare diseases in a **structured and consistent way**
- All issues not being dealt with via special processes, many are new and continue to be adjusted as **experience is gained**

*The next phase examined the key considerations to account for within the appraisal process to allow **decision-makers to make the best possible decision** – alongside possible implementation of these features identified*

WP10 published work

- Nicod E, Whittal A, Drummond M, Facey K. **Are supplemental appraisal/reimbursement processes needed for rare disease treatments? An international comparison of country approaches.** Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases. 2021; 15:189
- Whittal A, Nicod E, Drummond M, Facey K. **Examining the impact of different country processes for appraising rare disease treatments: a case study analysis.** Int J Technol Assess Health Care. 2021 (under review)
- Country vignettes available at: <https://www.impact-hta.eu/country-vignettes>
- Meregaglia M, Whittal A, Nicod E, Drummond M. **'Mapping' Health State Utility Values from Non-preference-Based Measures: A Systematic Literature Review in Rare Diseases.** Pharmacoeconomics. 2020 Jun;38(6):557-574.
- Meregaglia M, Nicod E, Drummond M. **The estimation of health state utility values in rare diseases: overview of existing techniques.** Int J Technol Assess Health Care. 2020 Oct;36(5):469-473
- Whittal A, Meregaglia M, Nicod E. **The Use of patient-reported outcome measures in rare diseases and implications for health technology assessment.** The Patient. 2021 Jan (open access, in press)
- Facey K et al. **Implementing Outcomes-Based Managed Entry Agreements for Rare Disease Treatments: Nusinersen and Tisagenlecleucel.** Pharmacoeconomics. 2021 (under review)
- Xoxi E, Facey K, Cicchetti M. **The evolution of AIFA registries to support Managed Entry Agreements for orphan medicinal products in Italy.** Pharmacoeconomics. 2021 (under review)