

ECHOUTCOME April 2010

A new project funded by the EU will compare the health system organisations of the 27 Member States, and will examine the robustness of health outcomes that are currently being used by health technology assessment officials. With around EUR 1 million in support from the EU, the ECHOUTCOME ('European consortium in health care outcomes and cost-benefit research') project kicks off in March under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

'Most European decision-makers require health technology assessment (HTA) studies to evaluate costs and performance of health interventions,' explained Dr Béresniak, chief executive of Data Mining International in Switzerland, a partner in the ECHOUTCOME project and leader of one of the Work Packages. 'Some health authorities suggest using synthetic indicators such as QALY.'

The ECHOUTCOME team anticipates that their evaluation will find parallels in the health system organisations across the EU-27 bloc. 'The ECHOUTCOME project expects to find potential similarities of some European health systems, and it will propose health system categories and assess key properties by categories,' Dr Béresniak told RTD Headlines.

'Some similarities are expected between European health systems, and main differences concern social insurances and health services organisations,' added Dr Béresniak, who is project manager of ECHOUTCOME.