

# The Beneluxa Initiative

*Facing the challenges: Equity,  
Sustainability and Access*

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# 1

## Introduction



# Members

- **2014** Rome, IT Presidency: NCAPR debate on collaboration and open invitation to form a 'coalition' on pharmaceutical pricing
- **2015** Be-NL sign letter of intent
- **2015** Lux joins as partner
- **2016** AT joins as partner
- **2018** IE joins as partner
- **Representing 43 million citizens**

# The Initiative

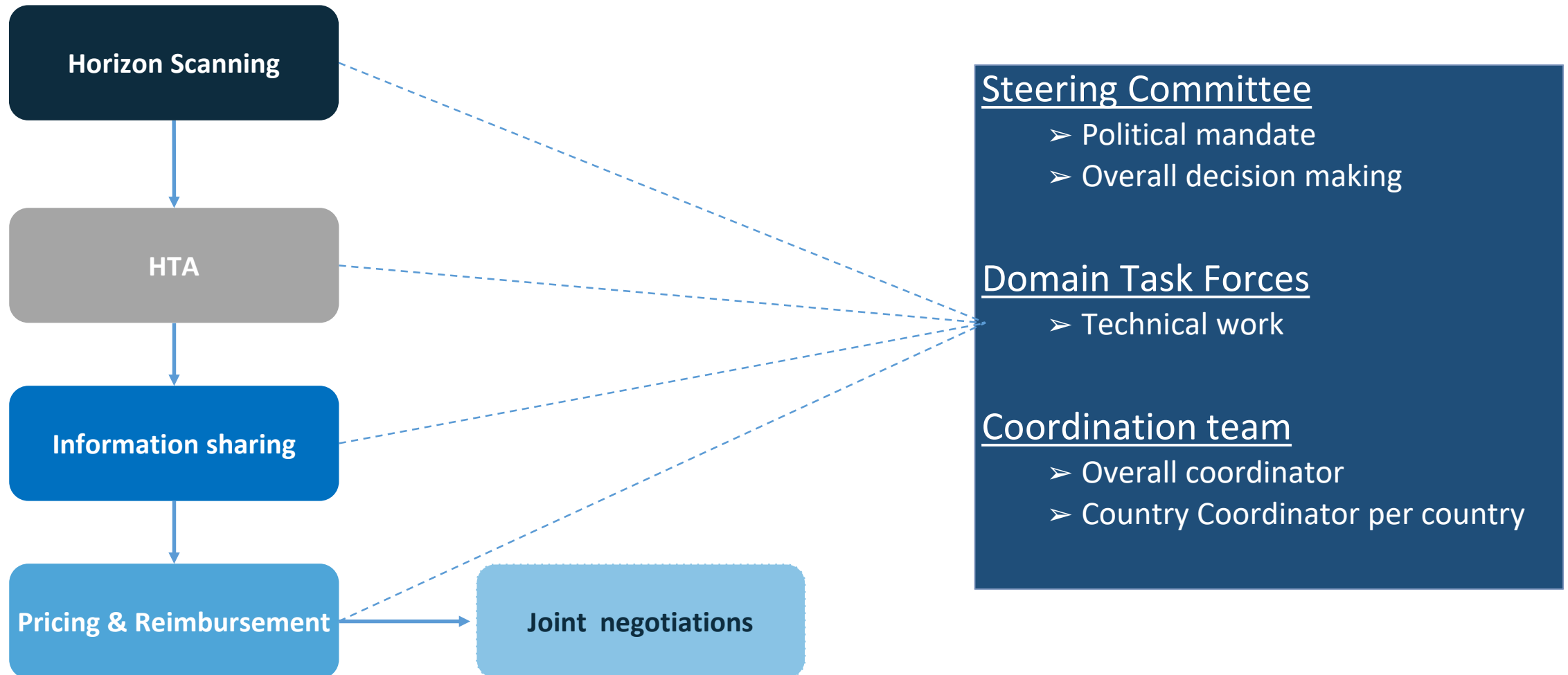
## Main goal

- To ensure access to innovative drugs at affordable cost by leveling the playing field.
- To face the challenges that drive pharmaceutical prices and spending

## Focus

- Political mandate for collaboration
- Case driven; lean organisational structure
- Voluntary
- Transparency is key
- Consensus based cooperation; 'Can Do' approach
- Price/Reimbursement decisions are national competence

# Thematic approach and organization





# 2

## Latest developments



# Achievements

- Ireland as new partner!
- Foundations of the collaboration:
  - Procedures in place
  - Play book for joint HTA and negotiation process
  - International Horizon Scanning Initiative (IHSI) as spin-off
- Information sharing: meetings; webinars on policy issues
- Joint HTA: joint work on 6 assessments so far
- Pricing & Reimbursement: Several pilots ongoing, 2 full processes finalized

# International Horizon Scanning Initiative (IHSI)

- Broad support for Horizon Scanning at Informal Council in Vienna, Sept. 10, 2018
- Aim:
  - To inform decision-makers on emerging and new pharmaceuticals
  - Input for national policies and P&R decisions
  - ***Identifying relevant issues for collaboration***



# Pricing and reimbursement

## Recent developments

- Positive joint negotiation outcome on Spinraza (*Biogen*) by *Be+NE*
- Regular strategic information exchange
- New products
  
- Procedures finalized and published on website
- Intention to increase transparency within Initiative

# 3

## Critical Issues



- Political mandate (even for a 'No')
- Legal frameworks (e.g. language issues)
- Synchronization of national P&R procedures
  - Time lines
  - HTA outcomes must be identical
  - Decision makers
  - Mandate
- Ensuring timeliness
- Business case for Industry
- Resource planning
- *Are joint negotiations always the most effective solutions?*

# 4

## Long-term goals & challenges

## Goals

- International Horizon Scanning Initiative
- Improve & expand HTA collaboration + P&R collaboration
- Open dialogue with other collaboration initiatives

## Challenges

- European developments affect our pharmaceutical markets
  - SPC debate, EC HTA Initiative
  - Alternative approaches to development of pharmaceuticals
- New therapies and market behaviour require a fundamental debate
  - Gene therapies (i.a. Car-T)
  - Price-Hiking at the bottom end of the market



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