R Consortium HTA Working Group

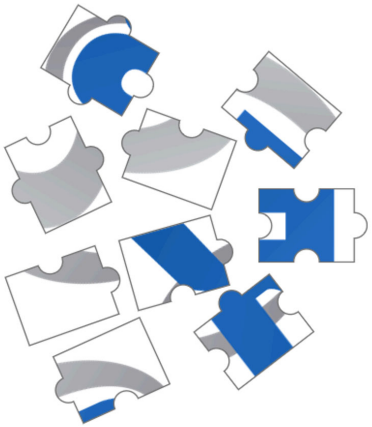
2nd meeting, 27 November 2024

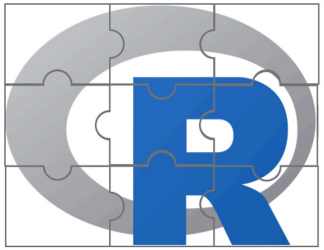
Agenda

- Brief recap ~5 mins
- Workstream 1 (Anders, Dominic) ~40 mins
- Workstream 2 (Gregory, Joe) ~10 mins
- Closing ~5 mins

Brief Recap: Vision for the working group

Evolving policy landscape as a catalyst for a more unified approach to HTA analytics through R





- Improved efficiency and transparency
- Reduced duplication
- Harmonized methodologies

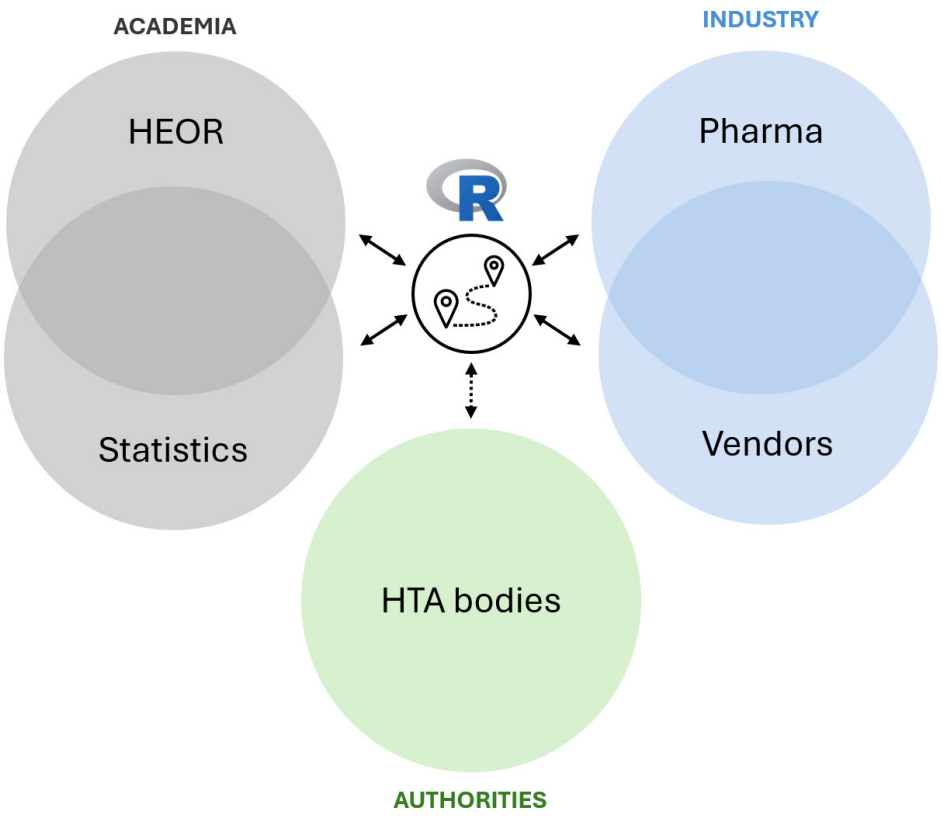
From a heterogenous landscape…

…to R as a platform to connect diverse perspectives on HTA analytics…

..accelerating the delivery of innovative treatments to patients

Workstream 1: Recap

Stakeholder and landscape mapping and opportunity assessment



What is the workstream solving for?

R is an established tool in HTA work but the degree and type of adoption varies significantly across stakeholders. There is a need for strengthening the shared understanding of challenges and solutions to accelerate the use of R in HTA production work

Objectives

Map of stakeholders, landscape, and opportunities to guide future R-related initiatives and workstreams

Proposed activities

1. Stakeholder identification
2. Landscape and opportunity assessment (focusing on R usage, overlaps, and perceived gaps)
3. Roadmap (outlining key connections and potential collaborative projects)

Proposed outcome(s)

Conference presentations and/or whitepaper(s)

EU HTA Stakeholder Network Meeting 29th November 2024

- Anders representing European Federation of Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry (EFSPI) in the *European Commission EU HTA Stakeholder Network*
  - A construct within the EU HTA regulation
  - Supporting the work of the Coordination Group (CG) and its' subgroups
  - Currently meeting twice annually
- Meeting 29th November 2024 in Brussels
  - EFSPI presentation: *Open-source statistical code and its potential for EU HTA JCA*

Relevance for R Consortium HTA WG?

- In the EFSPI presentation, RC-HTAWG is framed as a hub to connect across stakeholders and perspectives
- Call to action: dialogue with CG and national bodies to catalyze development and impact direction

Discussion

A first look at drivers and obstacles of broader adoption of R for HTA

- To better target workstream 1 efforts before starting “for real”, we want a high-level idea of different stakeholder perspectives
- On the next slide, we have outlined some crude hypotheses - *we want you to challenge them*!
- (we will take this to RC-HTAWG Github Discussions page afterwards, to continue offline)

Hypotheses for discussion

Anticipated value driver/obstacles by stakeholder to broader adoption of R for HTA analytics

- Do you agree with the below?
- What are other relevant hypotheses?
- Commonalities among drivers or obstacles?

Stakeholder	Anticipated driver	Anticipated obstacle
Pharma	Shape more efficient and robust analysis pipelines	Needs substantial investments with questionable return
CROs	Improve efficiency and consistency between clients	Increased challenges with differentiation; gained efficiencies may benefit pharma more
Academia	Push novel methodology into 'production' more easily	More contraints (new packages having to interact with standard packages)
HTA bodies	Increase quality & consistency, reduce assessor burden	Creating unwarranted or difficult-to-control precedents

Workstream 2: Recap

Mapping of HTA Analytics Related R Packages

In open-source, usually the problem is not lack of choices - "What to choose" is the issue!

Objectives

To develop a comprehensive inventory of R packages related to HTA analytics with useful information and application examples, facilitating their use and integration into daily practice

Proposed Activities

- Identify and categorize relevant HTA analytics R packages available in the open-source domain, with useful annotation
- Establish and apply criteria to evaluate and monitor the production readiness of identified HTA R packages
- Work with other initiatives (e.g. openstatsware, R for HTA consortium) to fill gaps of high-quality tools in key areas of HTA analytics
- Fill in gaps of document and application examples for highly production-ready HTA R packages
- Develop an online directory to host these work and facilitate ongoing engagement with the HTA R community

Proposed Outcomes

- A publicly accessible and user-friendly directory offering a categorized inventory of HTA analytic-related R packages with annotation, practical examples, assessment report of production readiness evaluated based on transparent criteria

Workstream 2: Update

Share your ideas about this workstream in our Github discussion here

For example:

- Where to crawl HTA-related open-source R packages? (CRAN, R Universe, Github Organizations nominated by this WG in discussion, etc)
- What could be a good initial bag of labels to search for HTA related? These labels can be used as key words to search for relevant R packages from Open Source R Repository, and later annotation of the packages
- What aspects of an R package are important to quantify risk and readiness for production usage? see some initial thoughts in https://github.com/RConsortium/HTA-wg/discussions/5

Share Application Examples in Blog and Webinar Formats:

- Beyond Mapping Packages: Simply listing R packages relevant to Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and evaluating their production readiness is insufficient for enhancing R's adoption as an analytical solution.
- Community Engagement: Actively engage the R community in developing and sharing materials that showcase state-of-the-art HTA analyses using R. This collaborative effort can help demonstrate the practical applicability and robustness of R in the HTA field.
- Create and Share Content: Consider writing detailed blog posts or signing up for webinars hosted by the R Consortium to discuss how specific tasks or problems in the HTA space, such as meta-analysis or economic modeling, are addressed using R. Highlighting real-world applications can serve as valuable tutorials and enhance the documentation of the R packages involved.

Closing

- Reminder: Introduce yourself briefly, by updating the comment on the github issue that you used to sign up
- Reminder: Raise new github issues and use the comment functionality to drive discussion between meetings
- Proposed meeting time in 2025: **Thursday in the 3rd week of the month, 17:00-18:00 CET**