**Select the theme that your submission is most relevant to:**

**Theme 4:** Priority setting and economic evaluation

**Title**

Institutional arrangements for priority-setting: what are the key factors countries must consider when institutionalising HTA?

**Abstract (Presentation 1)**

*Ms. Laura Morris; NICE International (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)*

Title: What can a strong institution for priority-setting look like? Key considerations and approaches from the International Decision Support Initiative.

Irrespective of how a country’s healthcare system is organised or financed, sustainable and fair locally driven decisions are needed on which interventions to cover and under what circumstances. NICE International was developed in 2008 to respond to the growing demand from countries to learn about NICE, and how its experiences might be relevant to their own decision making processes and institution building initiatives. NICE International is leading the International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI), a global network of institutions including HITAP in Thailand, PRICELESS SA in South Africa and academic centres and think-tanks.

Research and practical work by core partners in iDSI has looked at organizational placement of focal bodies for priority setting, which are usually spread out to multiple categories of stakeholders; and drawn on experiences in the HTAsiaLink network to synthesise conducive factors for HTA development. This synthesis by HITAP introduces criteria to categorise countries’ systems for priority-setting as *early* or *moderate*, and makes general recommendations on the core components – manpower, money, materials and management - which must be taken into account in order to establish a functioning HTA system. However, practical work by NICE International, HITAP, and other iDSI partners, including supporting the development of national ‘roadmaps’ for HTA, applies these insights in a flexible manner. Locally relevant technical support emphasizes the need for nascent priority-setting bodies to be aware of the benefits and risks of different institutional arrangements, rather than making prescriptive recommendations.