

## EFNA Endorsement Policy

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) is occasionally asked to endorse policy statements, documents, events, activities or project proposals [referred to hereafter as: 'initiatives'] created by other organisations e.g. scientific societies, fellow patient organisations, industry partners or academic institutions. EFNA has, therefore, developed a policy to ensure that its Board Members and Executive have a framework in which to decide if such endorsement is relevant.

### Principles of Endorsement

- EFNA will consider all approaches made by others for endorsement of an initiative and will reach a decision based on the individual merits of each case.
- Endorsement implies a level of responsibility by EFNA. Although the final responsibility for the initiative rests with the external party, EFNA will ensure that this meets its standards, values and ethical principles.
- EFNA will endorse only those initiatives that align with its vision, mission and strategy.
- EFNA will not endorse any initiative with a potential risk of reputational damage.
- EFNA will permit the use of its logo with any endorsed initiative and the term 'endorsed by EFNA'. The logo should not be changed in any way and be preferably displayed in colour.
- All endorsements will be made by EFNA within a mutually agreed timeframe and lifespan.
- The use of EFNA's name, logo and/or information for promotional or advertising purposes is forbidden.

### Support for Project Proposals

- EFNA will not support applications for funding unless EFNA, or an EFNA Member, is a partner in the proposal [with a clear, meaningful role and budget].
- EFNA will not support disease-specific projects unless there is a clear benefit for/possibility for application in the wider neurological space. For disease-specific projects of interest, EFNA should first seek approval from its relevant member.
- EFNA may also consider requests for third party involvement via partners such as The European Brain Council (EBC) and the European Academy of Neurology (EAN).

### Other Endorsement Requests

- In principle, EFNA will endorse the initiatives of our Members – unless there is a clear conflict with our mission and objectives, or the greater good of the neurology community is compromised by a disease-specific request/initiative.
- In principle, EFNA will endorse initiatives of organisations where we are members or recognised partners e.g. EAN, EBC, European Patients Forum (EPF) – unless:
  - There is a clear conflict with our mission and objectives
  - There has been a non-transparent or non-existent consultation process

- The patient voice/EFNA perspective are not reflected, despite our requests.
- EFNA is open to endorsing industry initiatives which show a clear understanding and integration of the patient perspective and are transparent re. their origins and objectives.
- EFNA will not support disease-specific initiatives from outside our membership without first seeking approval from our members.
- Should endorsement be rejected, EFNA may decide to support the initiative in other ways e.g. by dissemination.

## Process

Once a request is received:

- It shall be included as an item on the agenda of the following EFNA Board Meeting.
- Further details will be sought to check that the proposal is/could be in line with the endorsement policy.
- A decision to provide endorsement shall be made by a majority vote of Board Members.
- If the request for endorsement includes a deadline incompatible with Board Meeting dates, the proposal shall be emailed to the Board. Replies to the Executive Director in favour or against the endorsement shall be sent within two weeks. The Executive Director must then communicate the final vote and decision to the entire Board and to the organisation requesting EFNA endorsement.

**Note:** The Board is requested to actively seek potential opportunities for EFNA in terms of involvement in EU (or other) funded projects. However, a Board Member should not accept any request for participation, on behalf of EFNA, without following the process outlined above. As stated in the *EFNA Board Member Code of Conduct*, a Board Member should: *'Not accept invitations/assignments/external representational roles, nor agree to project proposals/involvement, in the name of EFNA, without prior agreement with the President and/or Executive Director.'*