



European Association for the Study of Obesity

Guidelines for Industry Participation in and Sponsorship of EASO Activities

The aim of these guidelines is to outline and ensure a long-term consistent definition of standards for industry participation and the regulation of commercial interests related to EASO activities (including but not restricted to EASO congresses).

About EASO

Established in 1986, EASO is the leading European scientific- and practice-based professional membership association in this field, with networks in over 30 countries. It is in formal relations with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and is an active member of EU Commission initiatives including the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and the Joint Programming Initiative on Healthy Diet Healthy Lives. EASO facilitates and engages in actions that prevent and combat the epidemic of obesity. It contributes to high level European and National scientific consultations, hosts the annual European Congress on Obesity (ECO), has dynamic and active topic specific Task Forces and Working Groups, and coordinates obesity education across Europe.

Mission

EASO considers obesity to be a health, research, and societal priority. It promotes the study of obesity as well as facilitating and engaging in actions that reduce the burden of unhealthy excess weight in Europe through prevention and management.

The formal objects of EASO as a charity are to:

- Maximise the public benefit of European scientific research and clinical practice in the field of obesity and its related disorders
- Promote a multidisciplinary approach to tackling overweight and obesity by engaging all relevant stakeholders within the European obesity community, and by facilitating contact between those stakeholders
- Understand and communicate that unhealthy excess weight and obesity represent a chronic and serious disease
- Analyse and communicate the complexity of how to achieve and maintain a healthy bodyweight
- Understand and communicate that obesity is a gateway to a host of other diseases, including but by no means limited to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancers, respiratory and joint problems and that if we prevent and manage obesity, we will block a major supply route to these chronic diseases
- Facilitate and engage in actions that prevent and combat the epidemic of overweight and obesity in Europe

The objectives of EASO are to:

- i) Raise awareness of Obesity as a major public health priority in Europe
- ii) Inform and influence European and National policy
- iii) Develop, Promote and Deliver education for the prevention and management of overweight and obesity in Europe
- iv) Promote, Inform and Engage in European Obesity Research
- v) Disseminate key obesity-related Messages/Evidence-based Guidelines/Developments
- vi) Communicate with relevant Internal and External Stakeholders and promote multidisciplinary collaboration
- vii) Contribute to the economic growth of Europe by preventing and tackling overweight and obesity

EASO now has 32 member associations representing more than 5000 individuals in Europe. Through EASO, obesity is addressed in 28 languages!

Northern Region: Belgium; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Iceland; Ireland; Netherlands; Norway; Russia; Sweden; United Kingdom.

Middle Region: Austria; Croatia; Czech Republic; France; Georgia; Hungary; Poland; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Switzerland.

Southern Region: Bulgaria; Greece; Israel; Italy; Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia; Portugal; Serbia; Spain; Turkey.

For further information, please visit www.easo.org



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The Trustees of the association are conscious that delivering EASO's congress and other projects would not be possible without a certain level of industry funding. Whilst acknowledging this fact, the EASO Trustees firmly believe that it is important that EASO's reputation and brand proposition are upheld at all times and therefore accept that funding from industry is something that needs to be approached with caution.

EASO will generally accept funding from the following organisations:

Pharmaceutical Companies	Diagnostic/Body Composition Technology Providers
Food and Nutrition Companies	Sports Product Companies
Weight Management Programmes	Publishers
Government Health Departments/Organisations	Groups involved in the Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles
Medical Instrument Companies	Education Providers
Financial Institutes, Banks	Life/Health Insurance Companies

However, EASO will not accept funding from Organisations or industries directly engaged in:

Production, distribution, advertising, marketing or sponsorship of:

- Tobacco and tobacco products
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Arms production.

Or from organisations which engage in unethical practices. For example (but not limited to):

- Violations of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes or other unethical marketing practices.
- Other breaches or failure to comply with national guidelines on the promotion of healthcare products or of food and beverages.
- Exploitation of children or child labour.
- Marketing towards young children.
- Discriminatory business practices.

EASO will generally accept funding activities such as, but not limited to:

- The European Congress on Obesity (ECO).
- EASO Meetings (e.g. YIU Summer School, Train the Trainer Workshops, Task Force Educational Workshops).
- EASO Collaborating Centres for Obesity Management (COMs).
- EASO Patient Council
- EASO Patient Education/Support Programmes.
- EASO Statements and Guidelines.
- Translation of EASO Educational Materials.
- EASO Scientific Exchange Programmes.
- EASO Awards & Travel Grants.
- EASO Website.
- EASO Communications.
- Joint Obesity Projects with 'Sister Societies'.

Funding partnerships will be evaluated by the EASO Trustees on an individual basis. It should be reiterated that EASO will only accept sponsorship from companies that demonstrate a serious and active commitment to tackling the problem of obesity in Europe.



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General Funding Regulations

When accepting sponsors/exhibitors, EASO has adopted the following policies:

- All sponsors/industry partners must be approved by the EASO Trustees. The EASO Trustees will only accept sponsorship/support from companies that display a serious commitment to tackling the problem of obesity in Europe.
- All sponsors/industry partners will be openly declared on the EASO or related activity websites.
- Funds from corporate membership will be used at the discretion of the EASO Trustees and will be used for general association administration, for educational workshops, for travel grants and for any other projects as agreed by the Trustees.
- Funds and/or other forms of support received for specific projects will be listed as such and will be used exclusively for the development and implementation of said projects.
- It should be noted that companies shall not use their donation in promotional or other materials and the EASO Trustees **must** approve all usage of its name and logo, in either print or electronic formats. Brand names (EASO and related activity brand names such as ECO) may be used by an industry sponsor on specific occasions and permission to do so must be received by the EASO Trustees in writing.
- EASO will periodically review and revise its rationale and strategy for industry funding and these guidelines may change accordingly.

The European Congress on Obesity (ECO)

One of EASO's major activities is its annual congress – the European Congress on Obesity. The objectives of the European Congress on Obesity are:

- To provide an annual forum for the dissemination of information about research advances in the field of obesity
- To identify, debate and promote innovative preventive and treatment strategies to reduce the prevalence of obesity and its associated burden of diseases
- To provide networking opportunities for experts in the field of obesity research and management

Congress Sponsors (Congress Sponsorship and Industry Supported Sessions)

- All congress sponsors must be approved by the EASO Trustees and must adhere to the regulations set out above.
- All congress sponsors will be openly declared on the EASO and/or Congress websites and in printed congress material.
- The use of commercial promotional material on audio visual aids for scientific sessions is not permitted.
- Any conflicts of interest must be disclosed in written documentation for:
 - chairs of sessions
 - speakers at sessions
 - discussants at sessions (verbally, when appropriate)

Examples of conflict of interest include:

- employment of self or close family members in commercial organisations relevant to content of the session
- funding of research by commercial organisations



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- Industry Sponsored Session programmes must be approved by the EASO Trustees and the International Scientific Committee. Final programmes must be submitted no later than 8 weeks in advance of the congress.
- Industry sponsors may be willing to financially support the participation of delegates to the congress. EASO welcomes any such initiative that assists with the dissemination of knowledge about obesity. This support may enable some delegates, for whom it would be otherwise impossible, to attend a congress, and it complements the bursary programmes organised by EASO for some of its congresses. In situational cases, all the conflict of interest policies concerned (EASO, host country, delegate's country) must be respected. It is the responsibility of each sponsor to ensure that they comply with all regulations and restrictions.
- All sponsors must adhere strictly to the Congress Terms and Conditions of Contract.
- All agreements should be covered by legally binding contracts.

Congress Exhibitors

- All exhibitors must be approved by the EASO Trustees.
- All exhibitors will be openly declared on the EASO/Congress websites and in printed congress material.
- Commercial exhibits must be for educational purposes only and open only to registered delegates.
- All exhibitors must adhere strictly to the Congress Terms and Conditions of Contract and to all regulations set out in EASO congress Exhibitor Manuals.
- All agreements should be covered by legally binding contracts.

For further information, please contact the EASO Secretariat:

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