



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 aims to promote research into obesity, facilitate contact between individuals and organisations, and promote action that tackles the epidemic of obesity. EASO is a leading biomedical association in Europe with networks in over 30 countries. It hosts the annual European Congress on Obesity (ECO), has dynamic and active Task Forces, organises educational activities throughout the region and plays a major role in EU/WHO projects.

The **objects** of EASO are:

- To promote the preservation and protection of health and relief of sickness for the public benefit in the field of obesity and its related disorders.
- To promote research, the dissemination of the results of such research and exchange of scientific information in the field of obesity within Europe.
- To develop a deeper understanding of how to achieve and maintain a healthy bodyweight, and to manage and prevent obesity and its related conditions by those engaged in the study of obesity - healthcare professionals, health related organisations, governments and the European community.

EASO now has 31 member associations representing more than 4000 individuals in 32 countries. Through EASO, obesity is discussed 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; Republic of Macedonia; Portugal; Serbia; Spain; Turkey.

Members come from a wide range of professions and include clinicians, scientists, allied health professionals working in the field of obesity research and education, opinion leaders and advocacy groups, health related organisations, governments, policy makers, representatives of UN Bodies and the international community.

The association is conscious that our congress and other projects would not be possible without industry funding. Whilst acknowledging this fact, the EASO Executive Committee firmly believes that it is important that EASO's reputation is upheld at all times and we 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

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

Production, distribution, advertising, marketing or sponsorship of:

- Tobacco and tobacco products.
- Arms production.

Or from organisations which engage in unethical practices. For example:

- 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.
- Discriminatory business practices.

EASO will generally accept funding for the following activities:

- The European Congress on Obesity (ECO).
- EASO Meetings (e.g. Björntorp Symposia, Medico-Surgical Meetings Series, Task Force Educational Workshops).
- EASO Collaborating Centres (Obesity Management).
- 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 E-Newsletters.
- Joint Obesity Projects with 'Sister Societies'.

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

General Funding Regulations

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

- All sponsors must be approved by the EASO Executive Committee. The EASO Executive Committee will only accept sponsorship from companies that display a commitment to tackling the problem of obesity in Europe.
- All sponsors will be openly declared on the EASO or related activity websites.
- Funds from corporate membership will be used at the discretion of the EASO Executive Committee and will be used for general association administration, for educational workshops, for travel grants and for any other projects as agreed by the Executive Committee.
- Funds 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 EASO **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 EASO 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 Executive Committee 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
- Industry Sponsored Session programmes must be approved by the EASO Executive Committee 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 Executive Committee.
- 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.