

Guidelines on industry-sponsored events

February 2016

Introduction

The European Heart Network (EHN) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) independent of political parties and economic interests. EHN is fully-funded by its members, which are national heart foundations, and receives no grants and donations towards its operation from any industry.

EHN is positive towards working with external organisations, groups and companies to achieve its mission and vision. EHN will never enter into any relationship with tobacco companies and/or any related organisations (cfr. EHN's internal rules).

EHN is often invited to speak at industry-sponsored events. Such invitations may come either from one company or several companies or an agency acting on behalf of the sponsor(s).

Nature of event and conditions

I EHN can accept invitations to speak at public events provided:

1. The event is sponsored by more than one company; and
2. Speaking at the event supports EHN's strategy and help to achieve its mission and vision; and
3. EHN has a position on the subject matter of the event; and
4. There is a relevant audience.

If one or more of the above conditions are not met, the Board of EHN can decide that there are other reasons why EHN should accept*.

II EHN will not accept invitations to speak at or participate in companies' in-house meetings or conferences or provide scientists or other experts unless approved by the Board of the EHN.

III EHN will accept to participate in multi-stakeholder events organised by one company provided:

1. Participating in the event supports EHN's strategy and helps to achieve its mission and vision; and

2. EHN has a position on the subject matter of the event; and
3. There is a relevant audience.

If one or more of the above conditions are not met, the Board of EHN can decide that there are other reasons why EHN should accept*.

IV EHN must always proclaim its financial independence and declare any grants and donations that it receives other than membership contributions.

*Other reasons include:

- Creating awareness of a subject with which EHN is engaged
- Supporting fellow NGOs on subjects which are of some interest to the EHN
- Creating goodwill
- Grasping an opportunity