Guiding principles for EUPSF participation in multi-stakeholder alliances and initiatives

The European Patient Safety Foundation (EUPSF) collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders to advance patient safety in Europe.

Multi-stakeholder policy-oriented alliances or initiatives can play an important role in improving policies, practices, and awareness related to patient safety. These coalitions can bring together healthcare professionals, patient organisations, researchers, policymakers, and a range of industry actors, including companies active in medical technologies, pharmaceuticals, digital health, services, consultancy, and other areas related to healthcare.

Such alliances typically aim to develop common positions and policy recommendations and may produce calls to action, white papers, or joint policy statements intended to inform policy and regulatory developments.

As an independent foundation, EUPSF applies a structured internal review process before agreeing to participate in alliances or initiatives led by third parties. Information about the alliance is first collected and assessed, the case is reviewed internally and submitted to the Board, and a decision is communicated, where relevant with specific conditions for participation.

In any case, EUPSF will only join alliances where it can contribute meaningfully, in line with its mission, expertise, and available resources.

This procedure ensures that any collaboration remains consistent with the following guiding principles:

Independence

EUPSF maintains full independence in its positions, activities, and communications. Participation in alliances must not compromise the Foundation's ability to express independent views on patient safety issues.

Participation in an alliance does not imply endorsement of all positions or statements made by the initiative or its participants.

EUPSF also reserves the right to withdraw from an alliance at any time if the objectives, governance, activities, or ways of working of the initiative appear inconsistent with the principles outlined in this document.

Patient Safety focus

Initiatives must address or see the relevance of patient safety in a balanced and systemic manner. While technological or medical solutions may contribute to improving safety, they should be considered alongside organisational, professional, and system-level factors such as workforce conditions, training, clinical practices, and healthcare organisation.

EUPSF supports initiatives that recognise patient safety as a complex challenge requiring contributions from multiple stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, patient organisations, researchers, and care providers.

Commercial neutrality

EUPSF does not participate in initiatives that are commercially driven, with a view to promoting specific products, brands, or proprietary technologies.

EUPSF may only consider participation in alliances that address patient safety challenges from system and / or interdisciplinary perspective and avoid solution-driven approaches centred on particular technologies or commercial offerings.

References to categories of technologies or solutions may be included when relevant to patient safety, provided they are presented in a balanced manner, do not implicitly promote specific commercial interests or technology-driven solutions, and are considered alongside organisational, professional, and system-level measures.

As a general principle, EUPSF does not participate in alliances supported by a single commercial partner (for example a pharmaceutical, medical technology, digital health, service, or consultancy company) if the initiative is not clearly open to the participation of other commercial actors. This aims to avoid situations where EUPSF's neutrality could be perceived as compromised by specific commercial interests.

Transparency and governance

The governance structure, decision-making processes, and funding arrangements of an alliance should be transparent to the public.

Alliances should also seek to ensure balanced participation among stakeholders, reflecting the diversity of perspectives involved in addressing patient safety challenges, and avoiding situations where one category of stakeholder exerts disproportionate influence.

Governance mechanisms should ensure that decision-making, representation, and leadership include independent stakeholders such as scientific or clinical experts, patient organisations, healthcare professionals, and non-profit organisations.

Alliances must also ensure that commercial actors do not exert a dominant influence over the agenda, strategy, outputs, or decision-making processes of the initiative.

Participating organisations must have the opportunity to review and approve policy or advocacy outputs prior to publication. Participation in an alliance should not be interpreted as automatic endorsement of all positions expressed by the initiative.

The use of the EUPSF logo in alliance-related communications or materials must be agreed in advance, both for general communications and specific outputs.

Policy or advocacy outputs produced by an alliance (such as calls to action, white papers, or policy statements) must not display the logos of commercial partners alongside the EUPSF logo.

Commercial partners must not represent the alliance, speak on its behalf, or participate as speakers in policy events or external communications organised in the name of the alliance.

Any commercial support for the initiative must nevertheless be clearly and transparently acknowledged in the text of the document.