

ERS and ELF criteria for participation in projects under Horizon 2020 and the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)

About ERS/ELF

The European Respiratory Society (ERS; www.ersnet.org) is an international organisation that brings together physicians, healthcare professionals, scientists and other experts working in respiratory medicine. We are one of the leading medical organisations in the respiratory field, with a growing membership representing over 140 countries worldwide. Our mission is to promote lung health in order to alleviate suffering from disease and drive standards for respiratory medicine globally. These objectives shall be achieved by promoting, co-ordinating, and stimulating the activities of ERS members, facilitating scientific exchange, and by advocacy towards governments, granting agencies and political bodies, in co-ordination with national societies, in the fields of education, patient care, public health and research.

The European Lung Foundation (ELF; www.europeanlung.org) was founded by ERS in 2000 with the aim of bringing together patients and the public with respiratory professionals to positively influence lung health. ELF works to communicate respiratory science to those outside the respiratory field. ELF also works to ensure that people with lung diseases and the general public have the opportunity to influence respiratory research and guidelines at the European level.

ERS/ELF offices & legal basis

ERS is a not-for-profit, international organisation of individual persons, constituted in accordance with Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. The domicile of the Society is Lausanne, Switzerland. The core pillars of ERS are science, education, and advocacy. With its head offices in Switzerland, ERS also has two branches in the EU: a Publications and Communications office in Sheffield, UK and an Advocacy/EU Affairs office in Brussels, Belgium. ELF is a company and charity registered in the UK. The head office of ELF is based in Sheffield, UK.

Recognising the importance of European research collaboration

ERS recognises the importance and the need to strengthen European research collaborations to advance knowledge to prevent, diagnose, treat and cure respiratory diseases. ERS welcomes participation in Horizon 2020 and IMI research proposals, to increase the impact of the project and its research outcomes through the various scientific, educational and advocating activities it promotes as the main reference authority for respiratory medicine in Europe. ERS shares and improves the state of knowledge of respiratory health through:

- Publishing research and state-of-the-art knowledge in its scientific journals
- Bringing together specialists in the field of respiratory medicine at its annual congress and other specialist events.

ERS applies its accumulated knowledge by:

- Implementing projects under contract in various fields of respiratory health;

- Providing continuing medical education and training;
- Compiling handbooks and guidelines for respiratory health professionals;

ELF's goal in EU projects is two-fold:

- To facilitate and integrate patient involvement throughout the research process for the lifetime of the project;
- To communicate the aims and results of the project to patients and the public in lay language.

ELF is motivated to involve patients in all stages of EU projects. Involvement of those with expertise in living with a condition in research study design, on ethics boards and patient input groups can help ensure: that recruitment targets are met and that the patients taking part in research can have a positive experience; that real-world outcomes are achieved by the project; appropriate communication and dissemination of the project to key stakeholders outside of the respiratory professional community; a legacy for the project.

General principle concerning ERS/ELF participation in EU-funded research projects

Project applicants that wish to include ERS and /or ELF as a partner in a Horizon 2020 or an IMI project proposal need to fulfil certain requirements. These criteria have been put in place to ensure a sustainable commitment of ERS/ELF throughout the anticipated project lifetime.

ERS Rules on Conflict of Interest

ERS applies strict rules on conflict of interest which must be respected by all project participants; in particular with regard to tobacco industry funding. Please, see Article X, point 10 of the ERS Bylaws available from the ERS website: <http://www.ersnet.org/about-us/who-we-are.html>.

To request ERS and/or ELF participation to IMI and Horizon 2020 calls for proposal, please submit the project proposal forms as below

For ERS participation to: celine.genton@ersnet.org

For ELF participation to: irene.ferrario@europeanlung.org

For ERS and ELF please return to both e-mail addresses.

Procedure and timing

The project proposal forms together with any relevant other information and supporting document will be sent to the ERS Management Group for decision. A response will be sent to the contact person listed above after the next meeting after submission.

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1. ERS/ELF recognises that research project proposals may adopt a cross- or interdisciplinary approach e.g. chronic diseases or other complex health issues. Nevertheless, ERS and ELF require that **one of the project applicants in the consortium has a tangible involvement with the respiratory community** and should therefore be an **ERS member**.
2. The project proposal shall add value to ERS/ELF activities. Its objectives, activities and expected outcomes shall be in line with ERS/ELF values, mission and ERS/ELF policy objectives.
3. The project proposal must have a clear European dimension. EU-funded projects require EU-wide consortia and address a European audience.
4. To request ERS and/or ELF participation, please complete and submit a project proposal form. Information contained in **project proposal forms as well as any other supporting documents** will constitute the basis for ERS and/or ELF decision in participating.
5. To ensure a meaningful participation of ERS/ELF in an EU-funded project, ERS/ELF will only participate in projects where the proposed budget and funding sufficiently covers all aspects of its involvement e.g. operational costs incl. staff time. Costs need to be evaluated in an adequate way so that ERS/ELF can fulfil all legal and contractual obligations as required by the project.
6. It is important that ERS/ELF are informed early in the development process to be in a position to provide input, suggestions and amendments at an early stage of project development. ERS/ELF requires full access to the project proposal (in a pre-final draft) two weeks before the submission deadline.
7. Following review of this draft project application, ERS/ELF reserves the right to request amendments to the project proposal.
8. ERS/ELF reserves the right to withdraw its participation from the project proposal up until one week ahead of the submission deadline should the criteria for ERS/ELF' involvement not have been met.