

EPHA TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

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European Public Health Alliance: Transparency Statement

Introduction

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) is Europe's leading public health advocacy NGO that actively pursues and creates change to enable health in all policies at the European level. As a membership organisation, EPHA represents 70+ European umbrella and national organisations that share its vision and aims.

In order to ensure the highest level of ethical standards and conduct, in its activities EPHA operates in accordance with the transparency policy as described in this transparency statement. This policy applies to partnerships, conference collaborations, projects, and other joint activities, including with EPHA member organisations.

EPHA Funding

EPHA ensures that all fundraising is ethically sourced and managed, respects EPHA's strategic vision, mission, objectives and basic operating principles, and ensures EPHA's independence, sustainability and full transparency.

To fund the running of the Secretariat, its activities, and services, EPHA relies on:

- the operating grant from the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027),
- research grants under the Horizon Europe programme,
- action grants under the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027),
- grants offered by philanthropic funders, and
- membership fees paid by its member organisations.

Fundamental principles for EPHA funding

The following principles are followed in all forms of relationships, financial or otherwise, with both profit and not-for-profit partners:

1. EPHA only accepts funding and other relationships that are consistent with its mission and assists the organisation to achieve its mission, vision and objectives.
2. EPHA does not have any relationship with organisations primarily engaged and/or associated with the manufacture, promotion or sale of commercial products or services which are against EPHA's mission (for example tobacco, alcohol, arms, unhealthy food and beverage, gambling, oil and gas industry)¹.
3. No organisation providing funding, including sponsorship and grants, and/or in-kind support may influence or have any input into the formulation of EPHA's strategy, internal governance, work plans, event of EPHA receiving such support.

¹ This list is indicative and is not intended to be exhaustive. The EPHA Board decides on a case-by-case basis, while respecting the above-mentioned principles.



4. EPHA is transparent about all of its relationships including providing full financial disclosure².
5. All funding agreements, including sponsorship and grants, and/or agreements on in-kind support to EPHA are regulated by a written contract, signed by all parties before activities commence and/or money changes hands.
6. A written agenda is circulated in advance of meetings organised by external partners and agreed to by EPHA.
7. All minutes and records of meetings of activities and events undertaken by EPHA and supported by external partners must be submitted to EPHA for approval prior to publication.

Working with private operators

In order to strengthen EPHA's financial sustainability, it may be necessary to enter into partnership agreements with private operators to receive grants for events, projects and conferences. Private operators are defined as any organisations created in order to make a profit. These may include pharmaceutical companies, healthcare providers, food and beverage companies³, and any other profit making organisation that EPHA may consider working with in order to achieve its strategic goals. In working with private operators, the following additional considerations are taken into account:

1. There must be complete transparency about EPHA's sources of private operator funding. All funding, including sponsorship and grants, and in-kind support must be reported on the appropriate section of the EPHA website. Communications related to the supported project or event (programmes, reports, articles) will not feature company logos.
2. Events, projects or conferences organised by EPHA must be funded by more than one private operator.
3. Logos of private operators may not appear on the EPHA website or in printed materials such as annual reports, position papers and other items with the EPHA logo.
4. Private operators may not use the EPHA logo on their websites, printed communications or marketing materials. The EPHA logo may only be used on a case-by-case basis on project related materials in a manner to be agreed to in advance by the EPHA Board.

Working with foundations

Foundations of different kinds are increasingly funding NGO activities in the EU. While they offer less burdensome reporting and a relatively trouble-free source of funds than many private operators, there are concerns about recipient's decision-making freedom and organisational directions. EPHA applies the same rigorous policies when working with foundations as when working with private operators, especially in relation to influence over the organisation's strategic direction.

² By reporting all income and in-kind support from donors and partners in the EPHA annual report

³ Unless they are covered by 1.2 above



The Board or Director General assess each new potential Foundation partnership on a case-by-case basis and decide on use of the EPHA logo by a Foundation.

Working with other civil society actors

The fundamental principles as outlined above also cover EPHA working in alliance and/or collaboration with other not-for-profit organisations including NGOs, trade unions, networks and privately run not-for-profit organisations as a service provider of tailored advocacy services, in the provision of logistical support and/or in jointly implemented projects and campaigns where there are fundraising implications and beyond.

Where EPHA may be applying for the same tender as one of its members, the Board will decide whether to pursue the application. If an EPHA member does not inform EPHA of its intention to apply for a bid that EPHA is tendering for, EPHA will not be held responsible for creating undue competition.

Applying the same rigor across partnerships, the use of the EPHA logo by civil society actors, including EPHA members, is allowed only exceptionally, with the decision made on a case-by-case basis (e.g. on project-related or joint campaign materials), and in a manner to be agreed to in advance by the EPHA Board.

EPHA accountability

EPHA has a transparent accounting policy. EPHA accounts are reviewed by an independent auditor on a yearly basis, and are available upon request. The EPHA auditor's report, budget, income, and expenditure are submitted each year for approval by EPHA members at the annual general assembly. EPHA finances are publicly available in its Annual Reports, disseminated to all members and published online on our website.