

European Resuscitation Council

Policy for joint projects, collaboration and endorsement

Background

The European Resuscitation Council (ERC) aims to preserve human life by making high-quality resuscitation available to all. The ERC approaches delivering its mission through promoting high quality science, guidelines, training, congresses and public awareness through its network of 33 national representative countries from within and beyond Europe.

The reach of the ERC is extended through collaboration with sister organisations who share similar goals and values. Examples of such collaboration include the post resuscitation care guidelines which are co-developed by the ERC and European Society of Intensive Care Medicine.

The chair of the ERC requested that the Director of Science and Research work with the Director of Guidelines and ILCOR to develop a transparent and consistent approach through which the ERC can engage in collaborative research, science and guideline projects. The proposal presented to the Board draws on insights from the Guidelines International Network (GIN) recommendations on Guideline Collaboration (under-review). Items marked with italics below are drawn from the GIN recommendations directly.

General principles

- The ERC welcomes collaboration where the purpose aligns with the mission of the ERC
- This guidance refers only to non-commercial, scientific, technical, educational development and collaborations. Proposals for commercial partnerships should be directed to the CEO.
- It is expected that those seeking collaboration are aligned with ERC values
- Any collaborative projects must adhere to the ERC principles for managing conflict of interest

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Description	Examples and process
<p>Joint guidelines/ projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guidelines, research or scientific projects developed, coordinated, funded, and approved by more than one organisation in a formal partnership with each other. Each organisation may contribute equally to development or one organisation may serve as the lead.</i> • The organisations participating should agree roles and responsibilities at the start of the project. Best practice is to summarise these in a memorandum of understanding or equivalent. • Approval process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ERC Board approval required prior to the start of project and prior to publication of the main output(s). ○ The Board will usually assign a Director of the Board of the ERC to oversee the project ○ The named individuals who will participate in the project must be approved by the Board • Office support: Project Officer assigned from ERC office (unless provided by partner); Discussion with Editor in Chief of Resuscitation/ Resuscitation Plus if publication in official ERC journal desired. Advertised in ERC Newsletter, ERC on website, and on ERC social media platforms. • The ERC logo is expected to be used on joint guidelines / projects. The logo of the partner organisation is anticipated to also be included, subject to that organisations rules in relation to logo use.
<p>Endorsement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A form of collaboration in which one group or organisation supports a guideline or related product after a formal, detailed review of the said guideline or product by the endorsing organisation.</i> • <i>Endorsement of the guideline implies the endorsing organisation is in general agreement with the process, methods, and recommendations of the guideline or related product.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ERC will only provide endorsement where the guideline or project is aligned with its mission and values • When considering endorsement consideration will be given to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ERC's involvement in the guideline / project ○ Process and methods used ○ How conflict of interest was managed ○ The recommendations within the guidelines • Approval process: ERC Board approval is required. This may occur prior to or after publication, subject to Board approval. • The ERC logo can be used on guidelines and projects which received endorsement. • Office support: Information included in ERC Newsletter, ERC ResearchNet, highlighted on ERC website and social media channels.
<p>Affirmation (Acknowledgement)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A statement of support for a guideline, research project or other product developed by another group, organisation, or individual. Compared with endorsement, affirmation may be provided when only some specific standards for endorsement (e.g., agreement with process, methods, and all recommendations of the guideline) are met.</i> • Approval process: ERC Board agreement. This may occur prior to or after publication, subject to Board approval. • The ERC logo would not be used on guidelines/ projects which are acknowledged/affirmed. Text acknowledging ERC support would be permitted. • Office support: Information included in ERC Newsletter/ ERC ResearchNet mailing

Advertisement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A guideline, research project, publication or other product developed by another group, organisation, or individual. Project is not formally adopted or endorsed by ERC.• Approval process: Approval by relevant ERC Director (Guidelines, Science, Education, Congress).• Office support: Information included in ERC Newsletter, ERC Researchnet• The ERC logo or supporting text are not permitted.
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Footnote: The terms joint guidelines, endorsement, affirmation are presented to align with the Guideline International Network (GIN) recommendations. Items in italics are drawn from GIN recommendations.

Right to withdraw joint authorship / endorsement / affirmation

The ERC reserves the right to withdraw its approval / support from a project, publication, statement or guideline without prejudice. A decision to withdraw support would only be taken after careful consideration by the Board and where the output no longer aligns with the ERC mission or values. Whilst not exhaustive, projects which fail to deliver within agreed timeframe or where the quality of the end-product falls short of expectation could lead to withdrawal of support.

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Directors of Science / Research, Guidelines / ILCOR / External Affairs