

Guidelines on Seeking Endorsement from SLEuro

1. Introduction

SLEuro is committed to supporting high-quality research and educational events that align with its mission to advance knowledge, education, and care in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and related syndromes to improve the lives of individuals affected by the disease. As an organization, SLEuro promotes multicenter collaboration at a European and international level among researchers, clinicians, and healthcare professionals, fostering scientific exchange and supporting high-quality studies and educational initiatives.

To ensure transparency and consistency, the following guidelines outline how to request and obtain SLEuro endorsement.

2. Scope of Scientific Endorsement

SLEuro may provide endorsements for:

- **Research projects** relevant to SLE and related syndromes.
- **Conferences, workshops, and other scientific meetings** focused on SLE and related topics.
- **Educational initiatives** aimed at improving awareness, knowledge, or clinical practice in SLE.

Endorsement serves as a mark of recognition and credibility from SLEuro but does not involve financial or logistical support or direct involvement.

3. Criteria for Scientific Endorsement

To be eligible for endorsement, a request must meet the following criteria:

1. **Scientific and Ethical Integrity:** The initiative adheres to recognized ethical and scientific principles.
2. **Alignment with SLEuro's Mission:** The project or event advances SLEuro's goals in research, education, or clinical care.
3. **Transparency and Independence:** The initiative must be free from significant conflicts of interest and maintain independence from undue commercial influence. In case of sponsorship from the industry for a conference, workshop and other scientific meetings, there must be a minimum of two different sponsors. In case of research projects, one financing entity is allowed.
4. **Quality and Impact:** The initiative should have a clear impact on the field of SLE.
5. **Organizational Competence:** The applicant must demonstrate the necessary expertise and resources to successfully carry out the project or event.
6. **European and International Collaboration:** Given SLEuro's role as an international organization, greater preference will be given to projects and initiatives that foster collaboration across multiple countries, encouraging cross-border exchange of knowledge and expertise.
7. **Demonstrated Expertise:** The individual or group seeking endorsement must have a proven track record of significant work in SLE and related syndromes research, education, or clinical practice.
8. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Encourages diversity and accessibility.

Requests for **grant application endorsement** will only be considered for multicenter projects with strong international relevance and strategic fit with SLEuro's mission. SLEuro reserves the right to limit the number of such endorsements annually.

4. Application Process

Individuals or organizations seeking scientific endorsement must submit a formal request that includes:

- A brief proposal outlining objectives, scope, expected outcomes.
- Organizer's credentials and background.
- Funding sources and potential conflicts of interest.
- Supporting documents (e.g., collaborations, track record).

For events (meetings/congresses/workshops) also include:

- Event title, dates, and venue.
- Program overview with objectives, speakers, schedule.
- Contact information.

To streamline the process and accommodate varying planning timelines, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their requests as early as possible and well in advance of the event. SLEuro aims to respond within four weeks for scientific project-related requests and within two weeks for meeting or event-related requests.

5. Review and Decision Process

- **Initial Review:** The SLEuro Executive Committee reviews submissions.
- **Clarification:** Applicants may be invited to present or clarify proposals.
- **Decision:** Determined by majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- **Notification:** Applicants will receive a response with the following outcomes: approved, conditionally approved, or declined (with feedback)

6. Obligations of Endorsed Projects and initiatives

Endorsed applicants must:

- Clearly acknowledge SLEuro's endorsement.
 - For publications: "This project has received scientific endorsement from SLEuro."
 - For events: "This course/meeting has been scientifically endorsed by SLEuro."
- Use the SLEuro logo only with prior written approval.
- Provide a report to SLEuro secretariat on outcomes of the endorsed initiative up to 1 month after it is completed or on a yearly basis from date of endorsement for longer projects (whichever comes first)
- Uphold ethical and professional standards.

Endorsed events may be promoted via the SLEuro website or newsletter at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

7. Revocation of Endorsement

SLEuro reserves the right to revoke an endorsement if:

- The endorsed project deviates significantly from the original proposal.
- Ethical or scientific concerns arise post-endorsement.
- The initiative is misrepresented or fails to meet agreed-upon standards including but not limited to scientific rigor, ethical conduct, and transparency

8. Conclusion

These guidelines ensure SLEuro endorsements are granted fairly and transparently. By maintaining high standards, SLEuro supports initiatives that meaningfully contribute to the advancement of SLE research, education, and clinical excellence.