

Funding & Integrity Policy

Digestive Cancers Europe represents the voice of patients with cancer of the digestive tract (oesophageal, gastric, colon, rectum, pancreatic and rare cancers), their families and their carers. It is our mission to contribute to the early diagnosis of digestive cancers and to increase overall survival and quality of life.

In order to achieve this, we rely on funding by partners and donors, both public and private. We develop our strategy and actions based on patient needs and priorities, and that is where the funding goes. Our core philosophy is that we collaborate with a good dose of constructive criticism. **We work with three types of funding:**

- Structural funding allows us to operate on a day-to-day basis, to expand our activities, to build capacity, to communicate and to manage our activities. This type of funding is given without any requirement for a specific activity to be developed.
- Project funding finances specific projects that deserve attention, such as screening programmes, educational materials, position papers, events. This funding is always collaborative between different partners, often competitors.
- Value-based services are offered to one individual company or organisation, for instance to give them insight into patient needs for clinical trial design, Patient Reported Outcomes Measurements, patient advisory boards, reviewing patient information materials, speaking at internal company meetings, etc. This type of funding is made by one single sponsor for each project.

We welcome any funding that may improve the situation of patients and of society. The funding we receive will not be used to serve political or commercial purposes. **Integrity is essential to our success, and we adhere to the principles of independence, impartiality, transparency and objectivity.**

- **Independent:** all our activities are designed and approved by the member organisations in our General Assembly and supervised by a Board of Directors. They represent the patient's voice in Europe, and they are the guardians of our independence. It is not because we are funded by either public or private partners that we cannot have a critical attitude towards the same partners. We have a critical but constructive and collaborative attitude in the interest of patient outcomes.
- **Impartial:** since we do not serve any interest other than the patients', we try to provide the full picture of the current situation and possible actions to improve the situation of patients. We look at results and evidence to improve practices.
- **Transparent:** our funding is transparent, and is published as part of our annual accounts.
- **Objective:** none of our activities will promote one single product or service. We will never promote branded or generic products, whether pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, imaging technology, commercial apps or other technologies, nor will we benefit from the sales of any of these products. All the information we provide on new technologies will always present the entire class of products (e.g. immuno-oncology, genetic tests, screening tests), and will provide information that is neutral, objective, evidence-based and complete.
- **Evidence-based:** to the extent possible, all information we provide will be substantiated by scientific, medical or other evidence with reference to the publications and sources from which they were derived.

Possible violations of this code can be reported to our Board of Directors.
We adhere to the Code of Practice between Patient Organisations and Industry.