

## Principles of Membership Engagement with Digestive Cancers Europe (DiCE)

### Background and Scope

Digestive Cancers Europe is a Not-for-Profit organisation created according to Belgian law, representing patients with digestive cancers (oesophageal, gastric, pancreatic, colorectal and rare cancers) and their carers at the European level. The Organisation is governed by the General Assembly and the Board of Directors, as described in our [Constitution](#). The organisation's Vision, Mission and Goals can be read [here](#).

Digestive Cancers Europe aims to unite, represent and strengthen digestive cancer patient organisations from across Europe, as described in our [Membership Value Statement](#).

### Types of Membership:

1. **Full Members** are entitled to vote at the DiCE General Assembly and elect the Board Members; these organisations will also be supported free of charge to participate at various events DiCE organizes.
2. **Associate Members** do not have the right to vote at the General Assembly; these organisations will be able to participate at the events organised by DiCE but will not be funded to do so.

In order to achieve our goals, we need the engagement of a wide range of partners including: patient support organisations, Cancer Leagues, charities, scientific and professional societies and public health agencies. All are welcome to become members of Digestive Cancers Europe.

### Full Membership

In order to safeguard Digestive Cancers Europe's status as an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, a member must aspire to a number of qualifying criteria. These criteria apply to Full Members and are used by Digestive Cancers Europe to assess whether an organisation applying to be a member should be accepted.

In order to fulfill the criteria for Full Membership, the following elements must be in place:

1. Organisations that are representing patients with colorectal and other digestive cancers at a national or European level.
2. To be a not-for-profit organisation, foundation or charity in accordance and in compliance with all national legislation.
3. To have governing bodies, which are elected by their members, who shall be patients, their carers or their elected representatives as per each country's legal requirements.
4. To have the objective mission to improve the lives of cancer patients, whether medical, social, psychological or economic.
5. To endorse the Vision and Mission of Digestive Cancers Europe.
6. To perform activities that are relevant for patient support, prevention, screening, healthcare practices, research and policy.
7. To be located in the [WHO European](#) region.
8. To have full transparency in accounting and the publication of an Annual Report. This includes the exact amount of money received from funders.
9. To comply with the legislation and to respect the existing codes of ethics and privacy in their relevant countries.
10. Do not promote or benefit from the sales of products or services from third parties.
11. To ensure that commercial funding is proportionate and with the maximum amount received from one company is not more than 25% of annual revenue.

Any organisation wanting to become a member must address a request in writing to the Board of Directors of DiCE. This written request should be made by e-mail. The Board will make a decision about any request for membership without having to justify its decision. The [Constitution](#) explains the voting rights of members, the composition and competencies of the General Assembly, as well as how Membership can be discontinued.

## Associate Membership

Associate Membership is open to national (or European) organisations who do not fulfill the criteria for Full Membership in terms of geography or scope, such as associations from outside the WHO Europe region, other patient support organisations, Cancer Leagues and charities, scientific and professional societies.

Associate Members may attend the General Assembly but may not vote. Associate Members must be compliant with all national legislation and adhere to all the codes of ethics and privacy that are applicable in their country of registration.

## Working Together

Digestive Cancers Europe takes great pride in its membership. It is important to us that members feel respected, heard and included in everything that we do. We regularly communicate with our members to ensure that the services we provide, the actions we take and the decisions we make are in line with the thoughts of our members. We aim to represent all our members with utmost professionalism, with integrity, with respect for others and in a way which engages a broad set of partners to deliver on the strategic plan that is approved by the General Assembly.

To be successful, we depend on all members to work together, in partnership and across a wide range of activities. Our reputation and the reputation of our members are intricately entwined and therefore we set expectations of ourselves in terms of acceptable conduct which we feel should be reflected in the conduct of our members.

We consider acceptable conduct to be:

- a) Members will represent the Digestive Cancers Europe community with professionalism and integrity at all times.
- b) Members will support the Digestive Cancers Europe community in delivering its shared purpose.
- c) Members will be prepared to participate in the activities of Digestive Cancers Europe, engage with campaigns and other services offered by Digestive Cancers Europe.
- d) Members will participate in the Annual General Assembly.
- e) Members will be willing to share information, materials and best practices with other members.
- f) Members will interact regularly with Digestive Cancers Europe officers to keep them informed of progress in their country, new initiatives which will be of value to others in the Digestive Cancers Europe community and insights which will help DiCE deliver its purpose statement.
- g) Members will seek opportunities to work closely with other members of DiCE in their country and region.
- h) Members will share the successes of other DiCE members through their own networks.
- i) Members will ensure that Digestive Cancers Europe news and opportunities are disseminated within their organisations.
- j) Members will advise Digestive Cancers Europe if any issue emerges in their own work or their community which has the potential to impact the reputation of DiCE.
- k) Members are allowed to use the DiCE and EuropaColon logo after having received permission to do so.

## How to apply:

Organisations wishing to apply for Full or Associate Membership should complete the Application Form ([LINK](#)) signed by the official leadership by the organisation and send it to [info@digestivecancers.eu](mailto:info@digestivecancers.eu) together with the following documents:

- A letter stating that the Organisation wants to join Digestive Cancers Europe
- Legal status with a registered copy of the Constitution