



**Contributing to better health  
for the people of Europe**

**EIH** is an Non-Profit International Organization (AISBL)  
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### **What is the European Institute for Health (EIH)?**

The EIH is an independent, non-profit making body, which aims to contribute to better health for the citizens of Europe by developing policy recommendations and guidelines on emerging health issues for European policy-makers. It is registered in Belgium and based in Brussels. Its work is overseen by a board, whose members are drawn from different European countries and have wide experience in health policy making.

### **Does the EIH offer anything new?**

Yes. The EIH offers a new approach to policy-making. For the first time, all bodies concerned with health issues -whether in the public, private or non profit-making sectors - will have an opportunity to contribute to the development of policy recommendations and guidelines before health policy decisions are taken at the European level.

### **What does that mean in practice?**

The EIH operates flexibly. But there is a core process for developing policy recommendations and guidelines. For each policy issue considered, there are four stages:

- **first**, the EIH board selects an issue after consultation;
- **second**, the board commissions a university or similar body to make an independent study of that issue and draft policy recommendations and guidelines on it;
- **third**, the draft is examined and debated by a range of invitees (through a conference, round table or similar event), with a view to reaching agreement on the general approach to be taken in the final version;
- **fourth**, the board finalizes and approves the policy recommendations and guidelines. They are then presented to policy-makers in EU and national bodies and the WHO. They are also published in print and on the Institute's web site.

### **What is the EIH's approach to its work?**

The EIH wants to produce practical evidence-based policy recommendations and guidelines, not lengthy reports. The final content of the policy recommendations and guidelines is the responsibility of the EIH board alone. But many different people and organizations will be involved in the earlier stages, including sponsors and supporters of EIH.

### **What is the focus of the EIH's work?**

The focus is on emerging issues in areas where public policy can be a crucial element. Examples are public and animal health; health care services; medicines; medical devices; and the relationship between food and health. The board does not expect to be involved in areas that are primarily for clinical or professional decision.

### **How is the EIH financed?**

The EIH is financed through sponsorship, both general sponsor-ship and for specific projects. Funding can come from sponsor-ship by partners, or a group of partners, in the public, private and non-profit making sectors. There can also be project funding from a group of sponsors. The EIH also aims to generate income from other sources such as attendance fees and subscriptions.

### **Who supports the EIH?**

The EIH wants to work with all the major health interests, in the public, private and non-profit making sectors. In particular, it seeks support from EU and national bodies and the WHO; academic bodies; professional bodies; patient groups; and health related industries. To foster this, there are different types of membership of the EIH - founder, individual and institutional. The EIH also expects to develop partnerships with bodies that have an interest in health policy-making, including bodies that sponsor the Institute's activities.

### **How is the EIH governed?**

The EIH has its own board of 12-15 members. The board includes people with experience as health professionals and managers; policy-makers; patient representatives; and in health related industries. All board members serve on a personal, not representative, basis. The board's policy is for the Institute to be independent, free standing and transparent. There is a small executive organization headed by a director.

### **What are the board's responsibilities?**

The board is responsible for overall strategy and performance; corporate governance; project selection and management; approval of policy guidelines and appointment of senior staff. The board has an audit committee to oversee finances, remuneration and corporate governance and an academic committee to oversee the commissioning and production of studies. Day to day management is the responsibility of the director.

### **What is the board's communications policy?**

The board policy is to be open and transparent. Details of the EIH's activities are published on the web site. All project outcomes will be published, both in print and on the web site.