



FEAM European Biomedical Policy Forum

Governance and objectives

1. Proposed mission of the Forum

The FEAM European Biomedical Policy Forum will fill a gap in the European biomedical policy arena and will enable stakeholders from across the biomedical community in Europe to be able to discuss key issues in an independent forum. It will act as a catalyst for better collaboration and coordinated policy action among such groups. In seeking to facilitate cross-sectorial biomedical science policy collaboration in Europe the Forum will contribute to the support of a cohesive, coherent and creative biomedical sector.

2. Principles of governance of the Forum

The governance of the FEAM European Biomedical Policy Forum is based on fundamental principles of participation, inclusion, transparency and accountability. Rules and processes of the Forum are applied and implemented to guard the independence of its partners and of FEAM, whilst facilitating cooperation with them in a neutral context, based on FEAM's stated independence from influence from vested interests.

3. Proposed objectives of the Forum

- Bring together representatives from the different sectors from across Europe in a neutral environment;
- Allow Forum partners the opportunity to discuss European biomedical and health policy-related issues that might not be addressed through *ad hoc* and informal meetings;
- Organise meetings to inform the policy activities of Forum partners and to act as a conduit to external stakeholders, policy makers and other opinion-formers;
- Ensure an open and timely dialogue between Forum partners to:
 - clarify the position of the different Forum partners, especially on potentially controversial issues and from an early stage;
 - identify potential divergences of views and to debate them;
 - explore areas of consensus between Forum partners where possible and to identify opportunities for joint working;
 - facilitate exchange of information and build connections between the Forum partners.
- Ensure timely dissemination of Forum's activities towards external stakeholders.

4. Partnership

4.1 Partners

The FEAM Forum will be an invitation -and partnership- based European biomedical forum. Partners of the Forum can include, but are not restricted to:

- Academia;
- European and national research organisations;
- European and national industry trade associations;
- European and national healthcare professionals' networks and not-for-profit organisations focusing on health;
- European and national patients and consumers' groups;
- Health-related industrial companies;
- Medical charities.

Representatives from these key stakeholder groups will be invited to join as partners on an equal footing, regardless of size and type of organisation.

FEAM will seek to ensure that there is a diverse, engaged partnership that is representative of the different biomedical sectors.

4.2 Approval and withdrawal of partners

Suggestions for new partners can be made by existing Forum partners, by FEAM staff or by members of FEAM Council. Key criteria for partnership will include support of the agreed objectives of the Forum and willingness and ability to contribute to its activities. Partners of the Forum will be subject to approval by the FEAM Council (or through delegation to the President and a member of the FEAM Board).

The FEAM Council (or through delegation to the President and a member of the FEAM Board) reserves the right not to allow into, or to remove from partnership of the Forum any organisation whose activities are not consistent with the principles of FEAM or the Forum, or which lacks the necessary scientific or biomedical policy expertise.

4.3 Liaison

Partner organisations will be asked to identify a contact person responsible for liaising internally and ensuring active participation in Forum activities.

5. Funding the administration of the Forum

The sustainability of the Forum will be dependent upon annual contributions from supporting (partner) organisations. The anticipated level of funding sought from potential partners will be discussed with applicants on a case-by-case basis. Here below is presented the average amount of contributions expected to be received. This is based on the type and average size and income of the (partner) organisation:

- Academia: €1.000
- European and national research organisations: €5.000
- European and national industry trade associations: €10.000

- European and national healthcare professionals' networks: €5.000
- Not-for-profit organisations focusing on health: €1.000
- European and national patients and consumers' groups: €1.000
- Health-related industrial companies:
 - Big companies: €10.000
 - Medium companies: €5.000
 - Small companies: €2.500
- Medical charities: €2.000

The level of contribution and renewal of partnership are confirmed by the end of the third quarter and an invoice for the coming year sent at the beginning of the financial year. For transparency purposes, information on the secured funds and from which sources (e.g. contributions from supporting organisations) will be published on an annual basis on the FEAM website. FEAM will consider applications for Forum partnership from organisations willing to provide in-kind contributions to the running of the Forum, where financial contributions may not be appropriate.

6. Proposed governance of the Forum

A formal oversight mechanism of the work of the Forum will be established by the *FEAM Executive Director*, who will work with FEAM President and the appointed Board member to oversee activities and ensures Forum's aims and activities are aligned with those of FEAM.

The *FEAM Council* (or through delegation to the President and a member of the FEAM Board) will be responsible for:

- approving the policy programme of the Forum;
- identifying Chairs of Forum activities;
- approve Forum partners and, where necessary, remove from the partnership organisations whose activities are not consistent with the principles of FEAM or the Forum, or which lacks the necessary scientific or biomedical policy expertise;
- on an annual basis, monitoring the partnership of the Forum and the resources required for its successful continued operation.

The Forum will be supported by a *FEAM Forum Policy Officer*, who will:

- liaise with Forum partners in the identification and organisation of potential Forum activities. Liaison with Forum partners will anticipate a need for flexibility and will incorporate telephone conversations, email communications, audio-conferences and face-to-face meetings (together or individually);
- periodically inform FEAM and Forum partners about the activities carried out.

The FEAM Forum Policy Officer will report to the FEAM Executive Director and will work closely with other FEAM staff.

Forum partners will regularly be consulted on the programme of activities and will be invited to suggest topics to be discussed within the Forum and to identify experts.

Outputs from public events (e.g. summary reports) will be reviewed by the experts involved before formal approval by the FEAM Council (or through delegation to the President and a member of the FEAM Board). It is intended that whilst the proposed deliberations of the Forum will inform the activities of FEAM and Forum partners, the Forum will not publish its own position statements or any formal recommendations. It will however foster further discussions between its partners and facilitate the elaboration of collective statements, endorsed by supporting partners, where appropriate. Such documents will not be presented as FEAM's views or positions.

The Forum governance may evolve in time, based on lessons learned during the initial Forum's operations and future feedbacks received from FEAM members and Forum partners.

7. Programme of activities

The policy programme for the Forum will be shaped by input from the Forum partnership.

- In addition to the holding of an annual lecture, cross-sectoral workshops, symposia and roundtable discussions will be organised on topical issues. The production of reports reflecting the discussions will be produced and disseminated in a timely manner.
- Sharing of information and early dialogue on key topics between the Forum partners will be coordinated by the FEAM Forum Policy Officer and FEAM staff, who will seek to facilitate contact among the partnership. FEAM Forum events will provide a platform for the stimulation of new European collaborations and networks.
- Forum partners will be invited to attend and participate in FEAM and Forum partners' conferences.

8. The role of FEAM

FEAM is the European umbrella group of national Academies of Medicine and Medical Sections of Academies of Sciences. Its mission is to:

- Promote cooperation between national Academies of Medicine and Medical Sections of Academies of Sciences in Europe;
- Providing its Member Academies with a platform to formulate and express their common position on European matters concerning human and animal medicine, biomedical research, education, and health;
- Provide an advisory role on such matters to the European authorities.

FEAM's strength lies in its member Academies that give it the authority to provide an EU-wide scientific opinion on the European medical science base and evidence to underpin European biomedical policy. Its growing membership currently includes 18 national Academies that represent over 5000 among the best scientists in Europe. FEAM also actively collaborates with sister academic networks (Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC and Euro-CASE) representing Academies from all the scientific fields and engineering in Europe, as well as with the IAP for Health, representing the national Academies of Medicine worldwide.

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