

EULAR call for applications for *facilitation awards* to support the national implementation of the 'Don't Delay, Connect Today' campaign

Key features

- We seek to implement the campaign 'Don't Delay, Connect Today' at the national level
- Only applications within this remit will be considered
- A total of 10x€5,000 awards will be made for this call.

Applicants who consider submitting a proposal should fill-in our application form and send it to EULAR (florian.klett@eular.org). Project ideas are welcome to be submitted from now onwards!

Closing date: 15 November 2017

1. Introduction

In 2017, EULAR launched the campaign '**Don't Delay, Connect Today**'. This Europe-wide campaign calls on people – including rheumatologists, health professionals, policy-makers and the general public – to seek earlier diagnosis of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs) and thereby facilitate improved access to treatment. The overall goal is to highlight that RMDs are major diseases that present significant public health concerns and that early diagnosis and access to treatment can prevent progressive damage and functional impairment – and reduce the burden imposed by RMDs on the individual and society. As part of this campaign, EULAR will offer ten **facilitation awards** each with a value of up to €5,000.

Projects will be awarded following a systematic evaluation process under the guidance of an independent jury. The programme is open to all in cooperation with one of the EULAR membership organisations, and organisations co-opted to the EULAR Standing Committee of PARE.

2. Background to the call

To help break down the barriers that delay early diagnosis, EULAR launched the 'Don't Delay, Connect Today' campaign. Dissemination of the campaign within and across national boundaries will connect the community working in RMDs, which runs across scientific and health professional associations through to patient groups. Connecting together and communicating with one united voice and message at a European and local level provides a strong platform to drive change: The campaign will maximise this impact if implemented at the local level in an innovative and 'context dependent' manner.

3. Scope of the call

The call will fund a number of national campaign implementation projects / events each with a value of up to €5,000. Applications will be considered if they:

- Show clear relevance to the EULAR Campaign 'Don't Delay, Connect Today'
- Present a clear and feasible implementation plan that promotes the campaign in general
- Include a realistic budget plan – detailing how the EULAR contribution will be used – which also defines use of additional funding in a transparent manner, including indication of intended sources for further funding or leverage for funding (e.g. pharmaceutical company/industry support will be approved in cases where at least two companies support the same proposed action; government funding; discipline-specific national charities).

Single applications are welcome, as are collaborative applications involving several organisations. Applications including all three EULAR 'pillars' (health professionals in rheumatology, scientific societies, and patient organisations) are encouraged.

4. Eligibility

The programme is open to all, but shall always involve at least one EULAR membership organisation or organisations co-opted to the EULAR Standing Committee of PARE. Only one application may be led by any given institution. However, one organisation may participate in more than one project as a participant.

5. How to apply

Applications must be made electronically: Download the application form from https://www.eular.org/what_we_do_dont_delay_connect_today.cfm. Applications should clearly define the lead organisation, main contact point for EULAR during preparation, plans for monitoring and evaluating the project, as well as identifying the main people involved in the project. Applications should briefly and succinctly describe the planned implementation programme / event. Applications must clearly justify relevance to the EULAR Campaign 'Don't Delay, Connect Today'. Applicants are invited to send their applications by 15 November 2017 to EULAR (florian.klett@eular.org).

6. Assessment process

The approval process will be administered by the EULAR Secretariat and will be formally governed by the campaign task force, involving representatives in EULAR as well as a representative of the national PARE organisations. A dedicated jury will consider applications based on pre-defined criteria and will recommend successful applications to the campaign task force for formal approval. The jury will act independently of the campaign task force in its deliberations.

7. Assessment criteria

For the evaluation of proposals, the following criteria will be employed:

- Clear relevance to the EULAR Campaign 'Don't Delay, Connect Today'
- Clear and feasible implementation plan, including media / communications plan
- Budget plan, justification for resources
- Innovation in delivering an event that carries lasting impact.

8. Support from EULAR

To ensure smooth implementation and consistent media coverage of the events, EULAR will support national teams with:

- European coverage of events on (social) media
- Sharing of branded templates
- Dedicated toolkit, including a 'how to make a video' guide
- Dedicated campaign implementation contact person and independent campaign experts for advice, including, for example, organisation of calls to provide clarity on open questions, as required.

9. Call schedule

Deadline applications:	15 November 2017
Announcement Jury decision:	15 December 2017
Projects to start from:	15 January 2018

10. Inquiries

For general inquiries please contact the EULAR Secretariat: florian.klett@eular.org

11. Payment procedure

The full grant amount will be paid-out following notification of the grant award.

12. Deliverables

Applicants will be asked to provide the following for reporting, evaluation and monitoring purposes:

- Short report, including a rough overview of spending
- Participate in session at EULAR Conference & EULAR Congress (if applicable)

Appendix: Standard Operating Procedure: EULAR Campaign sharing approach for 'Don't Delay, Connect Today'

The EULAR Campaign 'Don't Delay, Connect Today' may be shared with organisations across the world according to the following guidelines:

- The EULAR Campaign 'Don't Delay, Connect Today' logo and toolkit may be used by not-for-profit (NPO) organisations only; the campaign may only be used to fulfil NPO activities and objectives.
- Campaign events organised in the respective country may not be related to any business activity. Organisers must ensure that the campaign is not used for any commercial / revenue-generating purposes.
- It is the responsibility of the event organisers to ensure that multi-sponsorship is given and that industry sponsorship does not appear next to / in conjunction with the EULAR logo.
- Social media activity for the campaign must include the use of the campaign hashtag #ConnectToday in English – together with a national hashtag, if created - and attribute @eular.org (Facebook) and @eular_org (Twitter) in social media posts.
- All entities, including industry, may retweet and repost the official campaign messages carried on the EULAR social media channels Facebook and Twitter at any time.
- EULAR acknowledgement is mandatory. All documentation and content in print must include the following statement in the respective national language, or in English:
'Reproduced with the kind permission of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)'.
- National organisations are strongly encouraged to share their campaign activities with EULAR over the www.worldarthritisday.org website. EULAR reserves the right to share this information over its digital and social media channels.