



## **EURIPA International Advisory Board (IAB)**

### **Guidelines**

EURIPA is a representative network organisation founded by rural family doctors to address the health and wellbeing needs of rural communities and the professional needs of those serving them across Europe. It represents a growing network of rural practitioners and organisations across Europe working together to disseminate good practice, initiate research, develop rural education, and influence policy. The IAB was established in 2012 by the Executive Committee. The purpose of the IAB – with your continued help – will be a direct support of main EURIPA's goals as well as cooperation between rural family doctors and primary care experts hopefully in all European countries. By working together within EURIPA we will not only support our members in their scientific projects, but also share practical information suitable for the everyday diagnosis and therapy of our rural patients as well as support our colleagues and their patients in the most remote areas.

To enhance and reinforce IAB, we want to support each IAB member with a set of Guidelines which define the rights and responsibilities of members of the IAB and the relationship between the IAB and members of EURIPA.

### ***The IAB aims to support EURIPA in realising its goals.***

#### **The IAB**

- The IAB aims to have one representative from each European country
- Each representative shall have the support of their national association
- Each representative will be officially acknowledged by EURIPA and will have a certificate.
- All IAB members will be treated with respect and fairly. This condition implies that no discrimination should be applied, and that premise should consider features like age, ethnicity, ability, language, culture, religion, or where they live.

Each IAB member must be proud and honoured to be a member of the IAB and EURIPA and will adhere to these Guidelines.

#### **What is expected of IAB members**

IAB members:

- Promise to do their best to promote EURIPA
- Act as an ambassador for EURIPA in their country
- Represent EURIPA in all regional, national or otherwise, institutions in their country
- Disseminate information about EURIPA in their country
- Provide information to EURIPA on the situation in your area, issues, developments, initiatives to share and propose to other regions
- Raise concerns about rural practice his/her country
- Encourage membership of EURIPA, building a team / network, if possible of rural doctors
- Encourage and support rural input into national and regional meetings on family medicine
- Encourage rural proofing of guidelines in their country with support from EURIPA

- Undertake to respond to all tasks required by EURIPA
- Promise to inform EURIPA of any problem concerning EURIPA that they become aware of
- Contribute to the continued development of EURIPA
- To propose reforms/policies, propose scientific studies to EURIPA
- Sharing common values among all members

#### **What IAB members can expect from EURIPA**

- The Chair of the IAB will represent the IAB on the Executive Committee
- The EURIPA Executive will ensure that IAB members are fully involved and informed about EURIPA activities.
- The EURIPA Executive will aim, through the Chair of IAB, that each member has equal opportunity to take part in EURIPA projects
- Every IAB member should feel that she/he is listened to and supported by the Executive Committee of EURIPA through the Chair of IAB
- The EURIPA Executive will support IAB representatives in setting up rural networks in their own language in their country
- EURIPA will set up working groups as required on research, education, quality and practice and involve the IAB membership
- If any IAB member needs extra help in the delivery of the agreed work programme, the Chair of IAB will bring the difficulty to the EURIPA Executive. The needed help would be provided if it is considered appropriate, and when possible
- The EURIPA Executive values IAB members, which means that they should be involved in the future agenda of EURIPA, they should feel free to raise their views, and their opinions should be always considered
- The EURIPA Executive should use the information provided by IAB members through the Chair of IAB to improve the performance of the EURIPA
- The EURIPA Executive will ensure that good communication of its decisions and work programmes, through the Chair of IAB, to all members of the IAB
- The EURIPA Executive recognise that, while IAB members' views and opinions are raised freely, they will not be expressed in a way that might be harmful for other partners
- Disagreements between IAB members and the EURIPA Executive should be resolved by the main bodies of the EURIPA governance, which includes the General Assembly of EURIPA members
- The IAB will have close cooperation with the Scientific Board

## **Mutual IAB members support**

IAB members should make an effort to have the most adequate and respectful contact with their equals within the EURIPA. This means that:

- o Between IAB members communication will be performed in a way that will warrant understanding and ability to cooperate. This understanding should be confirmed and not simply assumed
- o IAB members should respect the others when they express the need of additional time
- o Communication should be easy and friendly in that IAB members should have the chance to ask questions, and the answers should be always honest
- o IAB members should respect disagreements within the EURIPA and make their most to reach conciliation.