

International Harm Reduction Association

Principles on seeking and accepting funding from external sources

Issues

IHRA undertakes a wide range of activities, including advocacy and campaigns, knowledge exchange (eg conference, website), providing a supportive environment for harm reduction, providing technical advice on harm reduction, and collaboration in international research projects.

We have a potentially wide range of funders: charities and foundations, UN organizations, international and national NGOs, government departments, member subscriptions, donations (personal and company), and industry. Many have their own funding principles and restrictions.

Some organizations may have, or be perceived to have, particular political, economic, cultural or commercial interests that they wish to promote. Indeed it is hard to think of a funder that does not have special interests. The practice of cross-sectoral partnerships is now fundamental to public health and health promotion fields, and IHRA is committed to working in partnership with a wide range of organizations in the furtherance of harm reduction.

Current guidelines applicable to IHRA

We are signed up to (and sponsored) the Code of Good Practice for NGOs responding to HIV/AIDS. <http://www.ifrc.org/what/health/hivaids/code/>.

Relevant organisational principles aspired to in the Code include involvement of affected communities, multi-sectoral partnerships, governance, organisational mission and management; programme planning, access and equity, advocacy, and scaling up.

We follow the Dublin Principles of Cooperation among the Beverage Alcohol Industry, Governments, Scientific Researchers and the Public Health Community, <http://www.icap.org/Research/DublinPrinciples/tabid/139/Default.aspx>.

IHRA's principles on seeking and receiving funding

The following principles were approved by the Executive Committee of IHRA in February 2006. The EC is also responsible for ensuring compliance with the principles.

Principles

1. We must maintain our independent and critical voice in pursuing our aim to reduce harm from all psychoactive substances.
2. We should base our policies, positions, advice and practices upon the fullest possible understanding of available scientific and other evidence.
3. We should adhere to the highest professional, scientific, and ethical standards in conducting our business, whatever the source of funding.

4. We should aim for a diversified funding base.
5. The Executive Director will keep the EC informed of funding submissions and potential donations from commercial organizations.
6. Funding sources should be displayed publicly by funding category.
7. Funding should not be accepted if conditions thereby attached compromise IHRA's ability to speak independently, including the ability to criticise funders.
8. We should avoid arrangements that might compromise the intellectual integrity, freedom of inquiry and freedom of action fundamental to our aims and objectives.
9. We should disclose any personal, economic, or financial interest that might directly and significantly affect our conduct.
10. Sources of funding for specific contracted activities should be disclosed in reports and public statements about the work.