

ESMO NATIONAL SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

The ESMO National Societies (NS) Committee is part of the ESMO Public Policy structure and reports directly to the ESMO Executive Board. This Committee functions via direct contact between ESMO and the National Oncology Society, reinforcing the Society to Society relationship.

The Committee focuses on public policy initiatives and lobbying efforts which are deemed of strategic importance improving the outcomes of cancer patients and in protecting and reinforcing the specialisation of Medical Oncology.

The NS Committee is composed of the Chair, the officially recognised National Medical or Clinical Oncology Societies that are in turn represented by the National Liaisons.

National Society Role

The aim of the NS Committee is to form a bridge between ESMO and the National Societies strengthening the relationship between the Societies, creating an effective network. Each National Society will work with ESMO to identify needs and key areas of collaboration, engage local oncologists and health authorities, support ESMO's policy efforts and advocate for ESMO on the national level.

National Society Liaison Role

The National Liaison will be the main interlocutor between the National Society and ESMO. As the appointed Society representative, the Liaison is responsible for maintaining effective and timely lines of communication and project follow up. While the National Society is responsible for the endorsement of the ESMO public policy initiatives, the Liaison is responsible for the more practical actions such as lobbying at the national level, ensuring the proper involvement of the local oncology community, with national politicians and Health Authorities, as appropriate.

Mandate and appointment process

a) National Societies

1. All European countries with a National Medical or Clinical Oncology Society and with ESMO members can potentially be invited by the ESMO Executive Board to join the ESMO National Societies Committee. Countries outside of Europe are eligible if they have 120 ESMO members in the country.
2. In countries with more than one National Medical or Clinical Oncology Society, the ESMO Executive Board will select the Society most similar in structure (i.e. Medical Oncology member-based society). Otherwise, there will be an election organised by the ESMO Head Office allowing ESMO members of that country to vote for their society of choice.
3. If there is no official National Medical or Clinical Oncology Society in the country, the ESMO Executive Board could evaluate nominating a country representative who will be invited to join the ESMO Membership Committee.

National Society mandates will be reviewed by the ESMO Executive Board every 4 years and mandates are renewable.

b) National Society Liaison

The National Society will appoint a National Liaison from their society to represent them on the National Societies Committee. This person must be a member of the Board of the National Society. The official term for the Liaison is for 2 years, starting from 1st January to 31st December of the following year. The National Liaison mandate can be renewed once for a subsequent term should the Liaison still be a member of the Board of the National Society. If the Liaison is no longer a member of the Board, the National Society will appoint a new representative. If the Liaison's mandate in their National Society Board ends before the term as the ESMO National Liaison, the National Society must appoint a new Liaison.

The National Liaison must commit to being active in the Committee and dedicate the necessary time required to follow Committee activities and projects, as detailed in the position description.

The outgoing National Society Liaison should ensure a proper handover at the end of mandate to ensure a smooth replacement process. National Liaisons should advise if they are not willing to take on an additional mandate (renewal) ideally 6 (six) months ahead of end of mandate.

Liaison Profile

The individual must be:

- A Board member of the National Society, in order to ensure the most effective relationship, facilitate exchange of information and expedite approvals
- Recognised in the national oncology community and well positioned to be able to follow up on various political and educational activities
- Well-versed with national issues and the changing medical oncology landscape
- ESMO Member or willing to become one for the duration of the role
- Willing to dedicate the necessary time to fulfil the role effectively and respond in a timely manner
- Sufficiently fluent in English
- Engaged with ESMO - experience from serving or contributing to ESMO Committees or projects is an advantage

Commitment

- Maintain regular contact with ESMO Head Office and the Committee Chair as required:
 - Respond quickly to calls for action
 - Provide input and feedback on projects and action points as appropriate
 - Read and take action as suggested by the internal means of communication to the National Societies – dedicated mailings, National Societies Bulletin, etc.
- Attend the Annual National Society Committee meetings
 - ESMO National Societies Summit in Europe with the ESMO Leadership - for NSs based in European countries to take place during the annual European congress
 - ESMO National Societies Summit in Asia with the ESMO Leadership - for NSs based in Asia-Pacific to take place during the congress in Singapore
 - ESMO National Societies Meetings in conjunction with the ESMO Summits – based on the region where the Summit is held.

Tasks

- Act as a bridge between ESMO and the National Society
- Serve as the Liaison at national level and play an active role in advising ESMO on key topics
- Report the change of Board and President/Chair of the National Society to ESMO Head Office
- Regularly update ESMO about National Society initiatives, local activities, projects and issues and in turn inform National Society and local community about ESMO public policy activities
- Provide ESMO with information about number of national health professionals working in the field of Oncology
- Assist in facilitating the relationship with politicians, Health Authorities, media, Patient Advocacy groups and other national key stakeholders, as appropriate
- Active involvement in national public policy initiatives and lobbying
- Provide/review key information about the national situation (e.g. through survey and questionnaires) in order to ensure that the ESMO Head Office is apprised of the local situation, i.e. participate or provide contact details for individuals who can respond to specific surveys (MO education, national curriculum, availability of anticancer medicines, access to opioids, national implementation of regulations, etc)
- Participate in meetings on national and regional level with ESMO Leadership, as required
- Support the endorsement of ESMO initiatives (e.g. the Global Curriculum) by the National Society
- Suggest activities within own country, in which ESMO can assist in order to strengthen collaboration

Means provided by ESMO to fulfil the role

The National Societies Committee is supported by the ESMO Head Office staff. The ESMO Head Office provides:

- Organisation of National Societies Summits and meetings, including ad-hoc material and follow-up (reports, presentations, minutes, action points, surveys...)
- Targeted emails and National Societies Bulletin to facilitate communication and interaction between the National Society, local community and ESMO
- ESMO tool kits containing information about ESMO's public policy and educational activities as well as national involvement in ESMO projects, when required for specific initiatives
- ESMO corporate PowerPoint slides adaptable to specific needs (e.g. presentations at National Society meetings)