



VISA for the SPONSORING
of CONTINUING EDUCATION

*m*deon

ETHICAL HEALTHPLATFORM

Common ethical platform

Healthcare professionals and the medicinal products and medical devices industry have joined forces as **continuing training partners**. They are involved in organising scientific events where professionals have the opportunity to keep abreast of trends in their profession.

The industry extends hospitality to some healthcare professionals anxious to take part in these events (see 'sponsoring participants' below) and contributes to financing the organisation of these manifestations (see 'sponsoring organisers' below).

As the funding for some of these events is subject by law to a PRELIMINARY VISA, industry and healthcare professionals have joined forces to create a **common ethical platform** called **Mdeon**, whose primary aim is to guarantee the visa procedure through self-regulation and in a transparent manner.

The visa number provided is a **guarantee** that the project sponsorship to organise or take part in a scientific event is consistent with the relevant legislation and ethics.

For whom and what?

Who is the visa procedure's target audience?

- All (Belgian and non-Belgian) companies which have a marketing authorisation in Belgium for a medicinal product or a CE marking for a medical device
- all healthcare professionals pursuing their professions in Belgium
- organisers of scientific events

What events can qualify for sponsoring?

Any exclusively scientific events: international conferences, meetings of experts or investigators, local seminars, practical courses, etc.



SPONSORING PARTICIPANTS

You are sponsored by the industry of medicinal products or medical devices to take part in a scientific event?

Check whether the visa exists!

Your company sponsors healthcare professionals to take part in a scientific event?

Obtain a visa before inviting them!

What hospitality may be extended?

The costs of travelling, registration, accommodation and meals. The hospitality is reasonable and continues to be subsidiary to the aim of the event.

Abroad?

Yes, in the case of international events, life surgery courses provided at a non-Belgian colleague's location, certain factory visits, training in specialist centres not available in Belgium, for example.

For which events is a visa required?

For events that proceed over several consecutive calendar days (scientific program + possible stay).

"Event" means the scientific event as such, as well as the stay necessary to take part in the event.



Who is responsible for making a visa application?

The company has to make a request for a visa for the participants it is sponsoring. The number of the visa provided then has to be mentioned in any correspondence with the participants, so they can check the availability of the visa. This is of key importance because they share the responsibility with the company for compliance with the visa procedure.

When should the visa application be made?

- the visa has to be obtained prior to inviting/sponsoring the participants
- the visa application has to be made no later than the 15th working day preceding the day when the event starts

SPONSORING ORGANISERS

You organise a scientific event with sponsoring of the industry of medicinal products or medical devices?

Obtain a group's visa for all your sponsors!

Your company sponsors the organisers of a scientific event (stand, brochure, etc.)?

Check if the visa exists before making the funding available!

Which sponsoring can be offered?

Companies may sponsor the costs related to the scientific activities of the event, as rent of the conference room, brochures, speaker's fees, etc. (most of the time through the hiring of an exhibition stand).

Social program?

No, the social or cultural activities have to be financed by sources of revenue other than sponsoring by the industry of medicinal products and medical devices.

For which events is a visa required?

- for events that proceed in their totality over several calendar days.
- and are organised by an association managed by a majority of healthcare professionals working in Belgium

Who has to apply for the visa?

It is up to the scientific organiser to present a visa application featuring all the event sponsors. The number of the visa provided then has to be mentioned in any correspondence with the sponsors which have to be able to verify whether their sponsoring is consistent with the relevant legislation and ethical codes. A company inviting a number of participants at the same time has to submit a visa application separate from the collective visa application made for sponsoring the organiser.

When should the visa application be made?

- the visa has to be obtained before any funding is made available to the organiser
- the visa application has to be made no later than the 15th working day preceding the day when the event starts



Mdeon members (May 2013)

Medical associations

- Association Belge des Syndicats Médicaux asbl /Belgische Vereniging van Artsensyndicaten vzw (ABSyM-BVAS)
- Cartel/Kartel asbl
- Domus Medica vzw
- Groupement des Unions Professionnelles Belges de Médecins Spécialistes, Union professionnelle reconnue/Verbond der Belgische Beroepsverenigingen van Geneesheren-Specialisten, erkende beroepsvereniging (GBS-VBS)
- Société Scientifique de Médecine Générale asbl (SSMG)
- Syndicaat van Vlaamse Huisartsen vzw (SVH)

Associations of pharmacists

- Association Pharmaceutique Belge, Fédération nationale des Unions professionnelles pharmaceutiques/ Algemene Pharmaceutische Bond, Nationale federatie van Belgische Apothekersverenigingen (APB)
- Instituut voor Permanente Studie voor Apothekers vzw (IPSA)
- Office des Pharmacies Coopératives de Belgique, Union professionnelle reconnue/ Vereniging der Coöperatieve Apothekers, erkende beroepsvereniging (OPHACO)
- Société Scientifique des Pharmaciens

- Francophones asbl (SSPF)
- Association Belge des Pharmaciens Hospitaliers asbl (ABPH)/Belgische Vereniging van Ziekenhuisapothekers vzw (BVZA)

Veterinary associations

- Formavet asbl
- Union Professionnelle Vétérinaire asbl (UPV)

Dental associations

- Vlaamse Beroepsvereniging Tandartsen vzw (VBT)

Associations of nurses

- Nationaal Verbond van Katholieke Vlaamse Verpleegkundigen en Vroedvrouwen vzw (NVKVV)

Paramedical associations

- Fédération Belge des Podologues asbl/ Federatie van Belgische Podologen (FBP)

Associations representing the industry

- Bachi asbl
- FeBelGen asbl
- pharma.be asbl
- Unamec asbl

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to make a visa application?

All applications are made electronically using our Internet site www.mdeon.be. The forms available from the site tell you what information and documents you have to provide. You will receive a decision 5 working days after the submission of your application.

Do you require further details?

Various types of information are available from our Internet site (relevant texts, communications, activity reports, etc.). You may also take part in our information sessions or get in touch with us on +32 2 609 54 90.

For any subsequent questions concerning the a posteriori control, please get in touch with the "Contact Point" set up by the authorities:

Agence Fédérale des Médicaments et Produits de Santé/Federaal Agentschap voor Geneesmiddelen en Gezondheidsproducten (AFMPS-FAGG)

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