

Open Call for Collaborating Centres in GA²LEN

Dear colleagues,

The Global Allergy and Asthma European Network (GA²LEN) is a network of 27 partners from 16 European countries launched in 2003. The aim of GA²LEN is to establish a truly pan-European Network of Excellence integrating all interested parties in allergy and asthma.

After one year of activities of GA²LEN, the procedure of enlargement of the network is started. Therefore an open call is launched for new collaborating centres interested in joining the GA²LEN network.

We are inviting all European institutions and centres of excellence in allergy and asthma become a part of the GA²LEN network as collaborating centres. These collaborating centres will be recognised with the understanding that they will have access to the programmes of the NoE and that the NoE will be able to sub-contract work to these centres where appropriate.

Possibilities for excellent centres to join the NoE are either as a GA²LEN collaborating centre or as a GA²LEN collaborating centre for specific tasks or work packages or for clinical collaboration. At a later stage, the collaborating centres may become GA²LEN partner.

In order to assess a general profile of your centre, please fill in the following form and return it together with all other required documents to the GA²LEN Office. Please remember that it will be the Assembly of GA²LEN upon suggestions of the ExCom which will take the final decisions on the expansion of the network. Any information in support of this decision taking process is welcome.

For further questions or more detailed information on GA²LEN, please visit our website www.ga2len.net or contact the GA²LEN Office.

We are looking forward to receiving your proposals.

With best regards,

Paul van Cauwenberge
(Co-ordinator)

Torsten Zuberbier
(Secretary General)

GA²LEN Office:
De Pintelaan 185
9000 Ghent
Belgium

Requirements for new collaborating centres

Requirements and Duties

- outstanding research in allergy
- interdisciplinary allergy services according to GA²LEN Quality Management standards (not applicable for research centres)
- acceptance of GA²LEN rules (for further details see GA²LEN Functioning Charter attached)

Benefits and Rights

- inclusion in GA²LEN activities
- free access to the infrastructure of the NoE and to the services of the GA²LEN Office (for further details see GA²LEN Functioning Charter attached)
- admission as guest to GA²LEN conferences
- possibility to become a full partner in the process
- funding possible depending on tasks or for staff exchange, but cannot be guaranteed

Procedure of acceptance

This procedure may seem bureaucratic, but it ensures a fair selection process and homogeneous high standards of all centres involved in the NoE.

1. Proposal Form. The proposal form should describe the centre's activities in clinical allergy and asthma as well as in research in these fields. The team leader should be a person with long-standing experience in allergology. The form must be signed by the rector/ dean/ responsible and the heads of the departments of the interdisciplinary allergy services.

2. Site Visit. If the proposal fits the demands of the NoE, a member of the ExCom or the QM task force will visit the site to inform about GA²LEN in a talk and check if quality criteria level 1 are fulfilled. Audit costs (travel expenses and accommodation costs) must be covered by the applying centres themselves.

3. Acceptance. If criteria are met, formal acceptance is made by vote at the following GA²LEN Assembly (single majority).

GA²LEN FUNCTIONNING CHARTER

Mission statement:

Primary objectives:

Bringing together European groups with different expertises into a durable multidisciplinary NoE, which will improve understanding of the causes and mechanisms of allergic diseases and asthma, and apply this knowledge to reduce the burden of these global health problems and to improve the quality of care.

Secondary objectives

- to combine all the existing, fragmented European forces from epidemiology to basic and clinical science as well as social sciences
- to assist researchers to access complementary expertise and tools
- to translate science into clinical practice and public awareness
- to disseminate information to policy makers, health care professionals, patients , industry and the public.
- to establish an open platform for joint activities including common databases, biobanks and novel communication facilities
- to develop a pan-European system of quality management for allergy services
- to incorporate patients' view into the formation of research policy
- to promote integration between academia and industry
- to establish a clinical trial network

Duties:

The GA²LEN Network of Excellence commits its members to:

- manage the Network for the benefit of the participants community, independently of any individual interest
- manage the Network with transparency and equity with the only aim to be efficient
- allocate the necessary budgets to allows the participants to fulfil their commitments

All the partners and subcontractors commit their organization to:

- really participate with the objective to progressively integrate their activities in the NoE, in respect of their own interest and constraints
- comply with the GA²LEN management procedures
- accept the decisions of the Assembly and its Executive Committee
- participate in the management and scientific/technical meetings
- professionally undertake the tasks
- enrich the infrastructure with data and knowledge, pre-existing to the project or that they acquire during the project

Rights:

All the partners and designated collaborating centers have free access to the infrastructure:

- material, tools and infrastructure of the Network
- publication/databases
- knowledge banks
- biobanks and databanks
- IPR information

All the partners and collaborating centers will receive funding, not based on the number of researchers but for the work they actually furnish.

Application Form

**Name of your
centre**

Address

Country

**Please identify the team leader of your centre
who will act as contact person for future communication.**

Name

Affiliation

Position

Phone, Fax

Email

Please attach a curriculum vitae of the team leader, including a list of publications of the last 2 years.

Is there a clinical unit in your centre? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please indicate the appropriate answer

Type of clinical unit	Number of patients/year	Number of staff
Pediatrics		
Allergology		
Rheumatology		
Clinical immunology		
ENT		
Dermatology		
Lung diseases		
Others (specify		

Additional remarks on the clinical activities in your centre

Please send a copy to the GA²LEN Office.

Please send it to the GA²LEN Office.

- 6 -

Please describe briefly the main topics of research performed at your centre.

Please include a list of relevant publications on allergy and asthma of the last 2 years from your centre.

List of researchers at your centre

[illegible]

Signatures

Place, date	Name (Dean/Rector/Responsible)
-------------	-----------------------------------

Place, date	Name (Team Leader)
-------------	-----------------------

Place, date	Name (Head/Director of Dept. of)
-------------	---

Place, date	Name (Head/Director of Dept. of)
-------------	---

Place, date	Name (Head/Director of Dept. of)
-------------	---

Place, date	Name (Head/Director of Dept. of)
-------------	---