

# Open Call for Collaborating Centres in GA2LEN

**Target group: societies, working groups, companies, enterprises, initiatives, etc... active in the area of allergy and asthma**

Dear colleagues,

The Global Allergy and Asthma European Network (GA2LEN) is a network of 26 partners from 16 European countries launched in 2004. 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 has started. Therefore an open call is launched for new collaborating centres interested in joining the GA2LEN network.

We are inviting all European institutions, organisations, enterprises, companies, societies, working groups, etc.. with a long term interest in the field of allergy and asthma to 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 Network of Excellence (NoE) will be able to sub-contract work to these centres where appropriate.

Centres will be involved in specific tasks or in work packages or in clinical collaboration. At a later stage, a collaborating centre 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, after review by the Executive Committee, that 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](http://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)

## **Requirements for societies, working groups, companies, enterprises, initiatives, etc... active in the area of allergy and asthma to become a collaborating centre of GA<sup>2</sup>LEN**

### Requirements and Duties

- outstanding activities in the field of allergy and/or asthma
- acceptance of GA<sup>2</sup>LEN rules (for further details see GA<sup>2</sup>LEN Functioning Charter attached)

### Benefits and Rights

- inclusion in GA<sup>2</sup>LEN activities
- free access to the infrastructure of the NoE and to the services of the GA<sup>2</sup>LEN Office (for further details see GA<sup>2</sup>LEN Functioning Charter attached)
- admission as guest to GA<sup>2</sup>LEN conferences
- possibility to become a full partner in the process
- possible funding depending on tasks or for staff exchange

## **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 applicant's activities in allergy and asthma. The form must be signed by the head (chairman, CEO, ...) of the applicant organisation.

2. Site Visit. If the proposal fits the demands of the NoE, a member of the ExCom or the Quality Management task force will make an appointment with the teamleader. In case of a site visit, travel costs of the ExCom member will be covered by the applicant organisation.

3. Acceptance. If criteria are met, formal acceptance is made by vote at the following GA<sup>2</sup>LEN Assembly (single majority), after review by the ExCom.

## GA2LEN FUNCTIONING 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 allow the participants to fulfil their commitments

All the partners, collaborating centres 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
- ensure true exchange
- enrich the infrastructure with data and knowledge, pre-existing to the project or that they acquire during the project
- allow free access to their conferences and meetings for a small to be determined number of GA2LEN representatives and, if travel grants are given for juniors, reserve a number for GA2LEN juniors.

### Rights:

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

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

Partners and collaborating centres may receive funding for the work they actually perform within GA2LEN.

## Application Form

**Name of your organisation**

Address

Country

Website

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

Name

Affiliation

Position

Phone, Fax

Email

Please attach:

-a description of the activities of your organisation

-a short curriculum vitae of the team leader.

-a list of the members of your organisation who will eventually work within GA<sup>2</sup>LEN (plus their e-mail address)

**In what kind of activities is your organisation involved?**

Please cross the appropriate box(es).

Type of activity	Yes	No
Basic Research		
Clinical Research		
Commercial (biotechnology)		
Commercial (pharmaceutics)		
Professional organisation		
Scientific Society		
Patient organisation		
Dissemination of knowledge		
International body		
Others (specify)		

**How many members/employees of your organisation will be involved in the GA<sup>2</sup>LEN activities?**

PhD-level

MD (specialists)

MD (GP/primary care)

Bachelor/master level

Administrative collaborators

Others (specify)

**If there is a yearbook, annual report, etc. on the activities of your organisation, please send a copy to the GA<sup>2</sup>LEN Office.**

**If you have any other relevant documents related to the activities of your centre, please send them together with this form to the GA<sup>2</sup>LEN Office.**

## Signatures

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Place, date

Name  
(Head of the whole organisation)

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Place, date

Name  
(Team Leader for GA<sup>2</sup>LEN)