



**Italian Society of Pharmacology**

**Società Italiana di Farmacologia**

**European Certified Pharmacologist (EuCP)**

**“SIF-EuCP Program”**



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## Section 1. Targets

The Italian Society of Pharmacology (SIF) European Certified Pharmacologist (EuCP) – “SIF-EuCP Program” is part of the European Registration Program initiated by the Federation of European Pharmacological Societies (EPHAR) and the European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (EACPT) for individual pharmacologists or scientists working in the field of pharmacology. It was established to carry out the following tasks:

- To Ensure that “Certified Pharmacologist” designation is restricted to those who satisfy the criteria of EuCP program based on their professional expertise and competence, standards that are equal for all the national societies adhering to EPHAR and EACPT
- To identify, recognize and bring together the expert scientists actively engaged in the multidisciplinary field of pharmacology
- To stimulate professionals in the field of Pharmacology to expand and consolidate personal skills and to increase their qualification for high level positions in an increasingly competitive employment environment, be it academic, industrial, regulatory or self-employed
- To recognize, in addition to scientific expertise, professional competence (portfolio) in the whole discipline of pharmacology
- To issue the “EPHAR EuCP Certificate” by the Italian certifying body SIF and its ratification by the EPHAR EuCP Committee which will certify these individuals as “EuCP” without further evaluation.

## Section 2. Association

2.1 Candidates who wish to apply for inclusion in SIF-EuCP Program have to fill out the Application Form which is made available by SIF Secretariat and on-line (<https://www.sifweb.org/>) in the version approved by “SIF-EuCP Program Certificate Commission” (CC) and ratified by SIF Executive Council (EC).

2.2 A non-refundable fee of € 30.00 is due by each candidate for first application examination (*una tantum*) and for each renewal request (Maintenance of certification) to SIF-EuCP Program. The Register administrative maintenance is self-financed therefore a registration fee of € 300.00 (€ 150.00 for applicants less than 40 years-old) is due after certification approval.

2.3. To be eligible for assessment by the CC the candidate is required to have a minimum but high standard of academic and professional skills in accordance with the provisions and ethical conduct of EPHAR (see [http://www.epharm.org/docs/EPHAR\\_Ethical\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](http://www.epharm.org/docs/EPHAR_Ethical_Code_of_Conduct.pdf)).

The application is possible through two different profiles: "Academic" (essentially Professors and Researchers with a university contract – see also note 2) and "Health Professional" (essentially all public and private professionals, including self-employed professionals, involved in Health and Clinical Research – see also note 3).

The two annexes (annex I and II) identify, through a checklist, which and how many academic and professional competences the candidate has and assign a total qualification score.

Annex III is used for the application aimed at certificate renewal (see Maintenance of Certification) and is also common to both profiles.

All annexes are available at SIF website (<https://www.sifweb.org/>).

2.4 The fundamental requirements for certification (without these criteria the application will not be taken into consideration by the CC) are:

1) University second cycle qualification<sup>1</sup> (MD, PhD, or MSc) in a relevant subject such as Medicine and Surgery<sup>2</sup>, pharmaceutical sciences<sup>2,3</sup>, second cycle qualification in biomedical sciences, biology or chemistry achieved at any university in the European Union or in other country and recognized by Italy according to Lisbon Convention (Law n. 148 of 11 July, 2002), and other Italian laws for Nostrification procedure (“*ex equipollenza*”).

The Ministerial Decree 1 September 2016, n. 662 defines the table of correspondence between the Italian and foreign academic positions. (see [http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/303091/allegato\\_dm\\_662.pdf](http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/303091/allegato_dm_662.pdf)).



2) Considering the applicant employment profile:

- Academic <sup>(4)</sup>: at least three relevant peer review publications in the field of pharmacology research and other activities/credits in accordance with the ANNEX I (assessment check list, see point 2.3.1). Permanent academic personnel with the position of professor or researcher is evaluated exclusively by submission of a Curriculum vitae (see <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/>), with no further application of assessment criteria provided in Annex I <sup>(5)</sup>
- Health professionals <sup>(6)</sup>: at least three relevant reports/works/company paper/workshop and other activities/credits in accordance with ANNEX II (assessment check list, see point 2.3.1)

3) **current** professional engagement in the practice of Pharmacology (experimental, clinical or regulatory) with a proven professional experience and scientific qualifications.

2.4.1) The assessment <sup>(7)</sup> check lists (ANNEX I or II) screen at least five years of continuous and relevant professional development in pharmacology (experimental, clinical or regulatory) that may also include:

- “Third cycle” Specialisation course in Pharmacology and clinical Toxicology achieved at any university in the European Union or in other country and recognized by Italy according to Lisbon Convention (Law n. 148 of 11 July, 2002), and other Italian laws for Nostrification procedure (“ex equipollenza”)
- “Third cycle” Doctoral course in Pharmacological Sciences, Medical and biomedical sciences achieved at any university in the European Union or in other country and recognized by Italy according to Lisbon Convention (Law n. 148 of 11 July, 2002), and other Italian laws for Nostrification procedure (“ex equipollenza”)
- Other activities in institutional, pharmaceutical and therapeutic/advisory boards and commissions, events, meetings.

2.4.2) Candidates who meet requirements and who are not members of the SIF may be also accepted if they are registered to a society member of EPHAR or EACPT.

For the inclusion of members from other pharmacological societies (guest societies) a formal agreement shall be in place between SIF as hosting society and the guest society. The guest society should be member of EPHAR and/or EACPT. The agreement has to be approved by the EPHAR EuCP Committee before coming into effect.

2.4.3) The suitability of the candidate for the SIF-EuCP Program must be evaluated by the CC before November, 30<sup>th</sup> of the year in which the request was submitted and shall be notified in writing, within the same year, both in case of positive or negative result.

i.e. Application in January 2021:

- Answer due by November 30, 2021
- Application in December 2021
- Answer due by November 30, 2022.

2.4.4) In the event that the CC does not approve admission, the Candidate may submit a new application for admission to the Registry until the applicant has satisfied the requirements.

2.4.5) Members of SIF-EuCP Program are “Certified Pharmacologists” and may use the abbreviation “EuCP” (European Certified Pharmacologist).

### Section 3. Maintenance of Certification

3.1 On a 5-year basis, the European Certified Pharmacologists (SIF-EuCP Program members) shall re-affirm their certification credentials submitting an application of “Maintenance of certification” using the designated form (see “Maintenance of certification Application Form”). To remain registered, a EuCP must be employed or be active or seek employment in the field of Pharmacology (continuous practice of research in Pharmacology and a continuous professional development i.e: CPD, ECM or ECTS, publications, reports and other academic training such as PhDs, specializations, presentations, teaching activities, publications,



activities in expert committees and/or similar) as required by the EuCP Guidelines (ANNEX III assessment check list).

3.2 Failure to produce evidence to support the maintenance of certification shall result in the revocation or termination of the certification.

#### **Section 4. Membership Fees and costs and SIF-EuCP Program financing**

4.1 A non-refundable *una tantum* fee of € 30.00 is due by each candidate for application examination (both admission or renewal application).

4.2 A five-year fee of €300.00 (€150.00 if applicant age is below 40) must be paid by each member to SIF-EuCP Program to access the Register, within 30 days from the receipt of the payment request.

#### **Section 5. Suspension of Members**

5.1 Members who do not renew their certification, will be removed from the Register.

5.2 Members may be removed from the Register for ethical reasons. In this case, an appropriate report containing the reasons shall be drawn up by the CC. Suspension decisions could be appealed (see 11.1).

#### **Section 6. The Lead Body - Certification Commission (CC)**

6.1 Appointment of the CC

The members of the CC shall be appointed by the SIF EC.

6.2 The Functions of CC are the following:

- a) The evaluation of candidate application for inclusion and renewal in the Register
- b) the exclusion or removal of a Member from the Register

6.3 Composition of the CC

- The CC is composed of five members, appointed by SIF EC, and holds office for three years. A member of the SIF Secretariat will participate in meetings with only administrative functions.
- The members of the CC shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary
- CC Members may be renewed but they may not hold office consecutively for more than six years (two mandates)
- In the event of resignation or retirement of a member of the CC, he/she will be replaced in accordance with paragraph 6.3.

#### **Section 7. Secretariat Office**

The Organizing Secretariat Office of SIF-EuCP Program is entrusted to the secretariat of SIF.

#### **Section 8. Operation of the CC**

##### **8.1 Meetings**

8.1.a) The CC shall meet at least once a year and may be hold also with telematic contact. Travel grants could be ensured to support participation in person.

8.1.b) The meeting is valid if a simple majority of members are present.

8.1.c) Observers and external experts who may assist the CC in the process of evaluating applications for admission, without the right to vote, can be invited to the meetings at the discretion of the Chair.

8.2.3 The Chair formulates the agenda and presides over the CC. In his/her absence, the members present at the meeting indicate a deputy chair that shall act as President only for the specific meeting. In each case, a meeting it is considered valid in the presence of a simple majority of members.

8.4 The Secretary, at the request of the Chair or at the request of a simple majority members, convenes the CC (via e-mail) with a notice of at least 15 days, indicating the agenda.



8.5 The CC may elaborate additional operational rules as stated in section 6, 7 and 8 of this Regulation.

8.6 In case a regulation was not prepared, the President's and Secretary's rights and duties must be agreed and/or determined by the Committee from time to time.

## **Section 9. Functions of the CC**

9.1 All issues concerning the SIF-EuCP Program fall within the competence of the CC

9.2 The CC is responsible for:

- preparing an annual report and define fees, in consultation with SIF EC
- managing the SIF-EuCP Program registry and budgets (see section 4)
- including, excluding or removing members from the Register (see sections 2; 3 and 5)
- informing and contributing to the SIF-EuCP Program development in Italy
- choose experts to be convened at meetings, if necessary (see section 8.1.c).

## **Section 10. Functions of the Secretariat**

10.1 The Secretariat is responsible for:

a) keeping all the administrative documents (SIF-EuCP Program register and SIF-EuCP Program members), prepare detailed minutes of all meetings and archive CC documents

b) informing interested applicants on the requirements for the applications

c) notifying and informing applicants of the CC decisions, as quickly as possible

d) preparing certificates when fees have been paid

e) communicating periodically EuCP about the new members of SIF-EuCP Program, including dates of first certification and certification renewal

f) issuing an annual report with the CC analysis and results for submission to SIF Assembly, specifying at least:

- the number of those who applied to be included in the Register, the outcome of requests and the percentage of approved requests
- the names of those who have been removed from the Register for failure to pay the fee or for any other reason
- an evaluation of the quality of the candidates on the basis of what is required for inclusion in the register
- the needs for the continuous professional development of members
- a detailed report on the financial status of the Register
- the composition of the CC and any changes that occurred in the period of the Commission appointment.

g) manage events day by day, including statutory obligations of SIF-EuCP Program and implement decisions of SIF in relation to standards of SIF-EuCP Program and every need that arises from new regulations for members of EuCP.

## **Section 11. Appeals Against Decisions of the CC Appeal Certification Committee (ACC)**

11.1 If a candidate disagrees with the CC's decision, the application must be reconsidered and evaluated by CC within 6 months. In the event that the candidate does not agree after the revaluation made by the CC, he will be able to ask for an appeal by the independent Appeal Certification Committee (ACC) or Proviris.

11.2 The ACC consists of three members, a Past President of SIF and two members of the SIF Executive Council.

11.3 The decision of the ACC will be binding on all parties.

## **Section 12. SIF-EuCP Program General Assembly**



The SIF-EuCP Program General Assembly must be convened at the SIF Congress and can be called at any time and place, depending on the decisions of the CC. The SIF secretariat will send notice of the assembly – via e-mail – at least 30 days before, to all members and to all those who are entitled to receive notice. All members of SIF-EuCP Program are entitled to participate.

### Section 13. Expulsion

13.1 The CC may expel from SIF-EuCP Program every member whose misconduct (which will include but will not be limited to non-payment) is, in the opinion of the CC, adversely affecting SIF-EuCP Program. (see 5.1) Neither SIF-EuCP Program, its officers, employees nor representatives, nor the CC, ACC nor any Member shall have any obligation to the person who has been expelled.

### Section 14. Variation of the Regulation

14.1 These Regulations may be changed only when the CC, unanimously, and the SIF EC, with three-fourths majority of the members present, approve the amendment.

14.2 The notification of the request to amend the existing regulation, must be sent by the CC to the Secretariat in writing.

### Section 15. Disputes and Controversies

15.1 Except as specified in this document, any dispute or controversy that may arise from the interpretation of the regulations or the powers or the validity of the minutes of a meeting, will be determined by the CC, in agreement with the SIF EC whose decision shall be final and binding upon all members.

### Section 16. Legend and Notes

#### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> second cycle qualification of relevant foreign higher system, awarded by official institution of foreign higher education system.

<sup>2</sup> Medicina e Chirurgia, Farmacia e Chimica e Tecnologie Farmaceutiche sono Lauree a ciclo unico rispettivamente di 6 e 5 anni.

<sup>3</sup> In Italy there are two equivalent five years degree in pharmaceutical area: pharmacy and chemistry-pharmaceutical technology (CTF).

<sup>4</sup> Sono ipotizzabili due profili per i candidati. Il **profilo accademico** contempla il ruolo di Ricercatore a tempo determinato di cui all'articolo 24, comma 3, lettera a) Legge 240 del 2010 (RTDa). Assegnista di ricerca Contratto ai sensi dell'art. Legge 240/2010– Fonte MIUR (Rev 2019). Borsista di ricerca con almeno un anno di contratto.

<sup>5</sup> **Personale universitario a tempo indeterminato** in Italia: Professore di I fascia; Professore di II fascia; Ricercatore a tempo indeterminato (ruolo ad esaurimento); Assistenti universitari (ruolo ad esaurimento). Ricercatore a tempo determinato di cui all'articolo 24, comma 3, lettera b) Legge 240 del 2010 (RTDb).

<sup>6</sup> Il **profilo non accademico**: professionisti nel campo delle scienze farmaceutiche, chimiche, mediche, biomediche e in attività di libera professione quali titolari di borse di studio o impiegati a tempo indeterminato presso strutture sanitarie pubbliche e private, aziende farmaceutiche, istituti di ricerca pubblici e privati, enti o agenzie regolatorie e di valutazione di tecnologie sanitarie, agenzie o enti di valutazione dei medicinali.

<sup>7</sup> I candidati italiani allegano autocertificazione dei titoli e competenze. (Art. 46 - lettera l, m, n - D.P.R. 28 dicembre 2000, n. 445). Annex IV



## ALLEGATI

ANNEX I Check list valutativa delle competenze e delle esperienze (CON PUNTEGGIO) per il profilo “ACCADEMICO”

ANNEX II Check list valutativa delle competenze e delle esperienze (CON PUNTEGGIO) per il profilo “PROFESSIONISTI DELLA SALUTE”

ANNEX III Check list valutativa delle competenze e delle esperienze comuni ai due profili e da utilizzare per la procedura di rinnovo del certificato

ANNEX IV Dichiarazione sostitutiva della CERTIFICAZIONE DEL TITOLO DI STUDIO, delle competenze e delle pubblicazioni

## LEGENDA

SIF-EuCP Program: Registro Italiano dei Farmacologi Certificati – Italian Certified Pharmacologists Register.

**CC: Certification Commission:** The Commission for candidates’ evaluation and approval for inclusion in SIF-EuCP Program.

**SIF** Società Italiana di Farmacologia: the Italian Society of Pharmacology.

EPHAR: The Federation of European Pharmacological Societies.

EACPT: The European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

**ACC:** Appeal Committee (Proviviri): Eminent Pharmacologists’ Committee (3 members).

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