

Frequently Asked Questions

After almost three years of virtual learning, the **WECAN Academy** is returning to an in-person training event this summer.

Below we provide answers to the most asked questions about the WECAN Academy 2023 Face to Face Training Programme. If you still have questions after reading through, feel free to [contact us directly](#).

Q: What is the WECAN Academy face-to-face training event?

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Q: What is the WECAN Academy face-to-face training event?

A: The WECAN Academy face-to-face training event is an in-person educational programme for novice, intermediate, and expert patient advocates to grow their skills in the three knowledge pillars “Advocacy Tools & Skills”, “Healthcare Systems, Policy and Access,” and “Research and Data”.

It combines two programmes, WECAN SmartStart and WECAN Masterclass, and facilitates best practice sharing between patient advocates of all experience levels.



WECAN SmartStart is a three-day patient advocates’ educational course during which those who are relatively new to patient support and advocacy will have the opportunity to learn basic knowledge and tools which will provide the solid foundations for them to create and maintain a national not-for-profit advocacy/support organisation in their own country.

The 3-day training course provides:

- basic knowledge to set up and maintain a national cancer patient group in their own country
- networking with experienced patient group leaders and trainers
- balanced mix of practical advocacy and support “tools”



The WECAN Masterclass was originally initiated by ESO (European School of Oncology) and took place three times between 2014 and 2018. It is now being taken forward by the patient community as the WECAN Masterclass in Cancer Patient Advocacy recommended by ESO.

The Masterclass is an important event for the cancer patient community, since there are limited opportunities available for highly experienced cancer patient advocacy leaders to enhance their understanding of key cancer policy issues and enhance their advocacy skills. Many issues and topics are similar across all cancer indication, so it is a very important opportunity for advocacy leaders representing different cancer patient organisations active at a European or international level to meet, share and interact and enhance their skills and knowledge in advocacy.



3-day Masterclass for experienced patient advocates:

- helps participants hone their advocacy and leadership skills
- discuss ways of improving organizational impact and effectiveness
- review state-of-the-art approaches to evidence-based advocacy
- provide participants with opportunity to network and share experiences

Q: Who is the programme for?

A: The programme addresses patient advocates with all experience levels who are nominated by the [WECAN member organisations](#). The goal is to train patient advocates who have not attended the WECAN Academy before, or at least are now nominated for a higher training level (i.e., a nominee previously attended SmartStart and is now nominated for Masterclass). The programme is ideal for advocates located in the **European region**.

SmartStart participants are **novice to intermediate advocates** who...

- are in the process of starting a group/organisation
- have already started an organisation and are seeking to improve their skills
- are relatively new in existing groups/organisations and who would like to take future responsibility as Chair, Board Member or Director

Masterclass participants are **experienced advocates** who...

- help participants hone their advocacy and leadership skills
- discuss ways of improving organisational impact and effectiveness
- review state-of-the-art approaches to evidence-based advocacy
- provide participants with opportunity to network and share experiences

Q: How are can patient advocates attend?

A: Participants of the WECAN Academy are nominated by WECAN members. WECAN members and alternates are emailed a link to a nomination form. The nomination form should be completed by the WECAN member.

Each member organisation can and should nominate **two patient advocates for the SmartStart** classes and **two for the Masterclass** sessions. Additionally, 3 further people should be nominated (regardless of their level of experience), who will be on a waiting list, in case people fall ill or must cancel their attendance due to other reasons.

Q: How was the programme prepared?

A: This four-day training event is organised and facilitated by a Programme Committee represented by the WECAN member organisations.

The WECAN Academy Programme Committee consists of:

- Hans Scheurer, WECAN Chair, Myeloma Patients Europe
- Jan Geissler, WECAN Past Chair, CML Advocates Network
- Ananda Plate, Myeloma Patients Europe
- Anita Kienesberger, Childhood Cancer International
- Bettina Ryll, Melanoma Patient Network Europe
- Gilliosa Spurrier-Bernard, Melanoma Patient Network Europe
- Judith Taylor, Thyroid Cancer Alliance
- Kathy Oliver, International Brain Tumour Alliance
- Michi Geißler, Sarcoma Patient Advocacy Global Network
- Rachel Giles, International Kidney Cancer Coalition
- Teodora Kolarova, International Neuroendocrine Cancer Alliance
- Zack Pemberton-Whiteley, Acute Leukaemia Alliance Network

Q: Where will it take place?

A: The WECAN Academy 2023 F2F training event will take place in Frankfurt, Germany at the Leonardo City South, Isenburger Schneise 40, 60528 Frankfurt.

Q: Will there be a hybrid option?

A: The WECAN Academy 2023 will be taking place in-person only. WECAN will be adding online training modules to the [WECAN Academy Online Training Platform](#) in the months following the event.

Q: Will materials be shared after the event?

A: Sessions from the WECAN Academy 2023 will be recorded. Some sessions will be made available online following the event.

Q: When will it take place?

A: The WECAN Academy is schedule from 01 July 2023 - 04 July 2023

- **SmartStart** begins on 10:30 CET 01 July and ends at 15:30 CET 03 July
- **Masterclass** begins on 8:30 CET 02 July and ends at 16:30 CET 04 July

Q: What is on the agenda?

A: The training consists of **25 sessions** covering the three knowledge pillars “Advocacy Tools & Skills”, “Healthcare Systems, Policy and Access,” and “Research and Data”.

Within these sessions, there will be a large variety of different formats. The training will have an **increase in complexity from day to day, so that all experience levels of the attendees are considered.**



2023 Face to Face Training Programme
01 July –04 July 2023
Leonardo Frankfurt City South Hotel

The full agenda can be found here. <https://wecanadvocate.eu/wecan-academy-2023-f2f-training-event/>



Q: How much does it cost to attend the WECAN Academy and what is included?**A:** Invited patient advocates attend this training course for free. **Included at no cost is up to three nights of accommodation at the Leonardo Frankfurt City South Hotel, meals, and conference materials.**

Patient advocates who are invited to attend the programme will also receive a **travel grant of 400 EUR**. The reimbursement will be issued to the member organisation who has nominated that individual. These funds will be used to cover travel expenses only (i.e., flight, train). Any travel expenses over 400 EUR such as cancellation fees, rebooking fees etc. will have to be covered by the WECAN member or their member organisation or the participant.

For Sponsors:

Organisations who sponsor the event are invited to attend the full programme at no cost on an observer basis. Sponsors may only elect one representative to attend the Academy and must cover their own travel and hotel accommodation.

Q: What sponsorship opportunities are available?**A:** To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please email info@wecanadvocate.eu