

ENMC THEMED WORKSHOPS

Introduction

In addition to the Regular Workshop applications, where the topics are proposed by the workshop organisers, the ENMC also offers “Themed Workshops”. For this type of workshop, the ENMC’s stakeholders (members of the ENMC Executive and Research Committee, Associated Partners and members of the Company Forum) have identified two specific themes that are prioritised based on the needs of neuromuscular patients and related research.

The themes are topics that benefit from the ENMC platform’s ability to bring together diverse stakeholders from around the world and to facilitate discussions and collaborative work. Although the themes are selected by ENMC stakeholders, applicants are fully responsible for identifying knowledge gaps related to the theme and the specific challenges they encounter in their daily practice or research. This understanding of theme-related questions will help applicants define the workshop objectives and deliverables, which in turn shape the programme and the list of participants. A well-considered workshop proposal and a clear, concise description in the application are essential preparatory tools for fostering productive discussions during the workshop and promoting meaningful follow-up work.

Researchers and/or clinicians from the neuromuscular field, can adopt one of the selected themes and apply for an ENMC workshop in the March review round. It is highly encouraged that individuals from different stakeholder groups form a joint organising committee to lead the workshop on the selected theme and to build a broader consortium for future collaboration.

Differences between Regular and Themed workshop applications (see Table 1)

For a Regular Workshop, the ENMC provides workshop funding opportunities focused on neuromuscular topics identified by the applicants or organisers themselves. Of the ENMC’s annual workshop budget, at least 90% will remain available for Regular Workshops (a total of up to 9 Regular Workshops can be selected each year). These Regular Workshop applications can be submitted and will be assessed by the ENMC twice a year (in March and September), according to our review procedures. These conditions ensure that the ENMC provides sufficient resources and opportunities to address topics that arise spontaneously from the neuromuscular field.

For a Themed Workshop, the ENMC provides funding opportunities for 1 or 2 themed workshops per year, focusing on two identified themes that are:

- preferably applicable across many neuromuscular conditions, and, if relevant, able to share experience even beyond the neuromuscular field (transversal workshops);

- topics and/or diseases that are not frequently discussed in workshops;
- groundbreaking and strategic topics that may influence the direction of the neuromuscular (NMD) community.

A theme should also meet the following basic criteria for Themed Workshops:

- **Multidisciplinary:** A heterogeneous group of participants—such as clinicians, healthcare professionals, scientists, patient and pharmaceutical representatives, technical experts, and external specialists—is required.
- **Unique:** The theme must offer added value to the neuromuscular community, ensuring no duplication of efforts and demonstrating endorsement from partner organisations (e.g., WMS, EURO-NMD, Treat-NMD).
- **Sustainable:** The topic should warrant the development of a long-term platform or consortium to build upon the outcomes of the workshop in the future.

The themes, identified by RC and EC members, Associated Partners, and members of the Company Forum, are discussed and prioritised at the General Assembly Meeting (GAM) every other year. The two highest-scoring themes are then selected by the EC for the next call for Themed Workshops. These themes will be in effect for two years.

Themed Workshop applications can be submitted and will be assessed by the ENMC only once a year (on 1st March). The assessment of the two types of workshops will be conducted separately and independently by the Research Committee.

Similarities between ENMC Regular Workshop and Themed Workshop applications

Themed Workshop applications generally follow the same Workshop Application Guidelines as the Regular Workshops. The rationale for the chosen themes in a given year, along with the research questions that may be addressed in the Themed Workshop application, will be announced via the regular ENMC channels (LinkedIn, newsletter, etc.).

Potential applicants are requested to visit <https://www.enmc.org/workshops/how-to-apply/> to download the Workshop Application Guidelines, additional Themed Workshop guidelines and the application forms (workshop application template and participants list template).

Table 1: Similarities and Differences between Regular and Themed Workshops

ENMC workshop applications	Regular Workshop	Themed Workshop
Workshop topic	Comes spontaneously from the NMD field	Is identified by the ENMC's stakeholders (EC, RC, AP and CF) every two years
	Can be both condition-specific and NMD broad	Mainly NMD transversal topics (topics which are relevant for multiple NMD's and even for diseases outside NMD field)
Workshop applications can be submitted	Twice per year with a deadline of 1 March and 1 September	Once per year, with a deadline of 1 March
Workshop organisers	Maximum of four organisers: a multidisciplinary team that may include representatives from academia, clinical practice, patient advocacy etc.	
Workshop participants	Multi-disciplinary workshop groups are encouraged including representatives from academia, clinics and patient organisations and/or individual people affected by a NMD, health care (psychology/physiotherapy/surgery etc.) and economic or regulatory professionals, pharma representatives etc.	
Max. number of participants (incl. Early Career Researchers and patient representatives)	26	35
Feasibility criteria	According to ENMC guidelines	According to ENMC guidelines and theme proposal
Quality assessment	By the RC	
Workshop selection	By the EC	
Annual Budget (10 workshops)	8-9 workshops	1-2 workshops (dependent on the amount of selected Regular Workshops)

Abbreviations: AP (Associated partners), CF (Company Forum), EC (Executive Committee), ENMC (European Neuromuscular Centre), NMD (Neuromuscular disorders), RC (Research Committee)