

# YOUTH GROUP TWINNING PROGRAM

## General Information

### Background

The **youth group twinning** component of the WFH Twinning Program encourages a network of cooperation between youth group members of hemophilia patient societies, or National Member Organizations (NMOs) around the world. Youth group twins are categorized by the WFH as either established or emerging, depending on their level of experience. Most often, the established youth group is based in a developed country, while the emerging youth group is based in a developing country, but there are exceptions.

### Program Objective

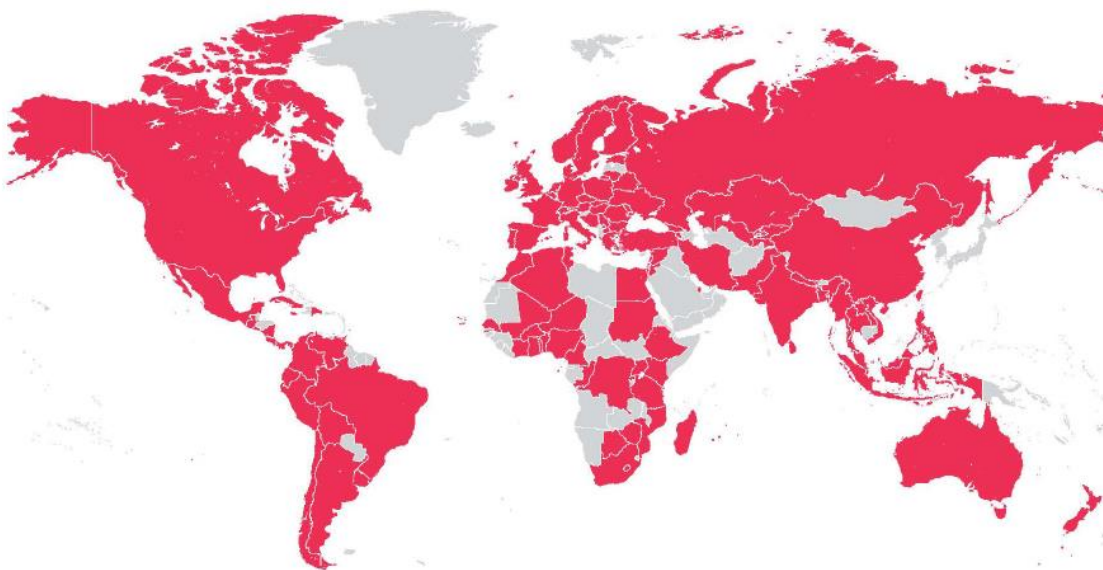
The objective of the Youth Group Twinning Program is to help emerging youth groups strengthen their membership and **empower young members of the NMO**. The program encourages the transfer of expertise and knowledge between established and emerging youth groups in the areas of **leadership training, good governance of youth groups, fundraising, peer support groups, patient education**, among others.

### Funding

The WFH provides annual grants to twins to a maximum of 8,000 USD (including any unspent balance from previous years). Funding is transferred during the first quarter of each year, and must be spent on the activities approved by the committees as outlined in the funding letter sent to twins.

### Duration

Youth Twins can be recognized and supported financially by the WFH for up to two years, with the possibility of a one-year extension. After this time, partners are free to continue their relationship, but funding from the WFH will not be provided. Once the twinning has ended, twins are required to submit a closure questionnaire to the WFH.



## Possible Activities

Twins usually meet face-to-face once per year, with most visits and activities taking place in the emerging country. In between visits, twins keep in touch regularly via email or telephone calls/Skype/social media.

### Activities undertaken by twins may include:

- Leadership and social media trainings (for i.e. effective communication, public speaking, etc.);
- Educational activities for other patients and their families;
- Organizing annual general meetings (including voting on youth leadership positions, etc.)
- Good governance of youth groups (organizing annual and other meetings, effective communication, voting on leadership positions, relations with NMO leadership, etc.);
- Organizing summer camps;
- Creating a support group for youth members;
- Planning World Hemophilia Day activities;

*Youth group twins should not organize medical workshops or trainings.*

## Selection Criteria

### To become a twin, youth groups must have:

- The willingness to give time and energy to the twinning partnership
- A clear sense of why they are beginning a twinning partnership – i.e., what the youth group thinks it can contribute to and learn from twinning
- Key contact person(s) from the youth group/patient organization who is available to coordinate and communicate with the twinning partner and the WFH
- A strong team commitment to undertake a twinning partnership
- Support from the patient organization board of directors or other key volunteers
- A commitment to respect the activity and financial reporting requirements of the WFH

## WFH Support

### WFH support to twins includes:

- Assisting youth groups in finding a suitable partner
- Financially supporting the partnerships through funding for assessment visits and annual grant funding;
- Supplying WFH educational materials;
- Facilitating the sharing of experiences between twinning partnerships, including twinning meetings;
- Providing guidance to twinning partnerships on an individual basis by WFH Regional Managers/Coordinators and Twinning Program Coordinator, including possibly accompanying twinning partners on assessment visits.

## Application Procedure

For details on the application procedure, centres should contact the WFH program coordinator or regional manager.

The first step is to complete a **background questionnaire** form that will help the WFH learn more about the youth group and its priorities, assess their capacity to take on a twinning project, and find a suitable partner. Once a potential partner has been identified, an **assessment visit** will take place (see assessment visit guidelines document and assessment visit funding application form for further details). Following the assessment visit, if both potential partners agree to pursue a twinning project, they will complete an **application using the WFH SurveyMonkey Apply platform** (access will be granted for eligible applicants by the program coordinator). Included in the application, partners will be required to submit their proposed action plan for the first year of activities.

The Hemophilia Organization Twinning Committee meets by conference call in October of every year to review the applications of potential new twins. Twins are informed of the committee decision in November and if approved are required to submit their financial information in December and officially begin twinning in January.

## Reporting Requirements

Twins must submit an annual progress report using the SurveyMonkey Apply Platform. This report comprises a financial account including back up receipts and full review of the activities that were planned and an explanation of the outcomes of those activities. If the twinning is to continue for another year, an action plan must be submitted. Financial assistance for twinning is dependent on available funding and the timely receipt of both these forms.

## Twins of the Year Award

Each year, the HOT Twinning Committee grants an award in the form of a plaque to the most active and productive partnership based on the annual progress reports. There is no formal nomination procedure, and all twins are automatically considered for the award.

## Join Us!

If you are interested in learning more about the Twinning Program, please visit the [WFH web site](#) or contact the Twinning program officer, Evelyn Chadwick, at [echadwick@wfh.org](mailto:echadwick@wfh.org).

*The WFH is grateful to Pfizer for its exclusive sponsorship of the Twinning Program.*