

Impacts of Public-Public Partnerships - expectations and experiences

**Network of European funding for neuroscience
research**

ERA-NET NEURON

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Annual Joint Programming Conference
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Expected impact



Challenge: > 380 million patients in Europe suffer from brain-related diseases and disorders; costs related to brain disorders amount to 800 billion euros annually

Impacts envisaged by NEURON:

- *Impact on European Research Area*
- *Impact on research community*
- *Impact on health theme*
- *Impact on alignment*





Achieved impact in detail 1/3



– *European Research Area*

- **27 funding organizations** from **19 countries** (EU, EU-associated, Canada)
- **Multi-step widening scheme** in the joint calls for ‘underrepresented’ countries (Latvia, Slovakia, Romania, Turkey)

– *Research community*

- Annual Joint Transnational Calls (JTC) for proposals: **10 JTCs**, ~ **100 projects funded**, comprising ~ **400 research groups**, total budget ~ **100 million €**
- Support measures for **early-career scientists**

– *Health theme*

- **Translational** projects, from preclinical research through clinical proof-of-concept studies to rehabilitation research
- JTC 2008: in 80% of projects at least one PI was a medical doctor, **patients** were involved in 50% of consortia
- JTC 2009: 40% of projects submitted **patents**, > **200 peer-reviewed publications**

– *Alignment*

- **Common standards** at project level: 60-90% of projects exchanged material or data
- Cooperation at NEURON level with **other initiatives**, e.g. JPND, ESFRI, InTBIR



EUHFAUTISM ('European high-functioning autism network: translational research in a phenotypically well characterised sample')

- ‘Researchers find piece of autism puzzle’, EC communication (Research and Innovation) on an article published in PLoS genetics, 2012
- Research groups from France, Germany, and Spain



COORDINATOR | THOMAS BOURGERON

PROJECT PARTNERS:

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MESCOG ('Mechanisms of small vessel related brain damage and cognitive impairment: integrating imaging findings from genetic and sporadic disease')

- Project contributed to an ambitious international effort to create expert consensus on the terminology and definitions used to describe vascular pathology on neuroimaging. Published in Lancet Neurology, 2013
- Moreover, project served as the basis of a successful proposal under H2020
- Research groups from Germany, France, and Austria



COORDINATOR | MARTIN DICHGANS

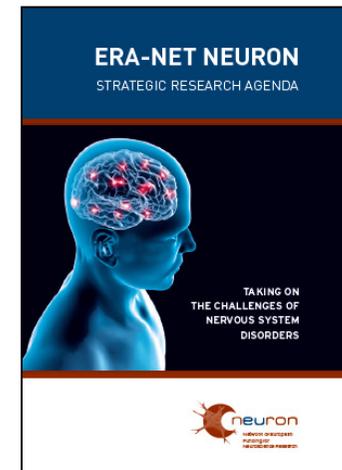
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Assessing achieved impact

- Basis: NEURON's **work plan, Strategic Research Agenda, Implementation Plan**
- Monitoring tools and activities
 - **Midterm symposia**: presentation of project progress, assessment by members of original peer-review panel
 - Annual **written progress reports**
 - Final reports => **key performance indicators** (e.g. intensity of collaboration [meeting attendance], excellence [no. publications, joint publications, quality of journals], impact on health [involvement of patients, submission of patents])
impact report for each JTC, published on website
 - NEURON performance => external perception by research community, **online survey**, published on website



Identify opportunities to maximise the achieved impact and its visibility

- NEURON website, newsletters, social media
- Collaboration with journal editors
- Collaboration with European Societies
- Presentation at conferences
- Suggestions for external support:
 - Access to science journalist
 - Access to fundraising/foundations



THE LANCET **Neurology**

“ERA-NET NEURON: a network with emergent properties”

FENS Federation of European Neuroscience Societies



ERA-NET NEURON

<http://www.neuron-eranet.eu/>



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