Impacts of Public-Public Partnerships - expectations and experiences

Network of European funding for neuroscience research
ERA-NET NEURON
PD Dr. Marlies Dorlöchter, DLR-PT, Germany

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
Achieved impact in detail 2/3

**Project examples**

*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

*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
Achieved impact in detail 3/3

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
Achieved impact – visibility

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

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