European

The european brain research area: A catalysing initiative for brain research stakeholders to streamline brain research across europe

W0039

European brain research area: The operational level

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Brain research in Europe is a rapidly evolving field, and increasingly at the forefront of science. Although considerable amounts of knowledge and innovative approaches have been generated, the translation into new health interventions is hindered by excessive fragmentation. Effective and efficient collaboration and cooperation among the various initiatives are often identified as a key success factor to achieve brain research full impact. EBRA fully responds to these needs by bringing together the various stakeholders and major brain research initiatives, at European level and beyond. EBRA creates the conditions for real and effective cross fertilisation, dialogue, building consensus and exploiting research potential. On the operational level, EBRA facilitates the emergence of research projects in specific areas in active clusters. A cluster is understood as a research community that can be directed towards basic research, clinical research and/or methodological approaches under a common topic and disease area within brain research. EBRA support clusters to: 1. Consolidate or expand further the research community expand their community, 2. Engage with policy makers and other relevant stakeholders, 3. Build consensus on various issues (research priorities, research roadmap, data sharing, etc.), 4. Promote links with existing research infrastructures, 5. Increase the visibility of the research community through communication and dissemination activities, 6. Coordinate the development of position/consensus papers, white papers, guidelines, meeting reports and/or other cluster outcomes. EBRA currently has 6 existing clusters: EPICLUSTER, Prevention of Severe Mental Disorders (PSMD)-cluster, TRISOMY21-cluster, BRAINFOOD-cluster., PREMOS-cluster and ECIB-cluster.

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Brainfood cluster

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Brainfood cluster The mission of EBRA brainfood is to increase awareness of the importance of research exploring the bidirectional links between brain health and nutrition, including the mediating systems, and to use this knowledge to identify novel nutritional, neuropsychological and neuropharmacological intervention strategies. The BRAINFOOD cluster builds new bridges across research disciplines and strengthens links to relevant stakeholders across Europe, including those involved in health and food policy. It gathers experts on brain health and nutrition that by combining and integrating strengths and complimentary expertise has the volume and capacity to develop novel intervention strategies that improve brain health of European citizens, working together with public health and the food industry. BRAINFOOD is built upon an existing network that includes: 1 Discovery, with expertise in human genetics, metabolomics, nutrition, the microbiome and brain health that utilizes existing data from a variety of population and disease cohorts across the lifespan and aims to propose testable hypotheses; 2 Mechanism, with expertise in animal models, metabolomics, the microbiome and neuroscience that tests hypothesis of how the microbiome and nutrients impact on performance in different behavioral domains; 3 Experimental medicine, with expertise in psychiatry, neurology and nutrition with capacity to run randomized controlled trials; 4 Implementation, with expertise in dissemination and policy making and behavior change, to ensure that EU citizens benefit from novel insights gained in the project.

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W0042

European brain research area: The strategic level

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Brain research in Europe is a rapidly evolving field, and increasingly at the forefront of science. Although considerable amounts of knowledge and innovative approaches have been generated, the translation into new health interventions is hindered by excessive fragmentation. Effective and efficient collaboration and cooperation among the various initiatives are often identified as a key success factor to achieve brain research full impact. EBRA fully responds to these needs by bringing together the various stakeholders and major brain research initiatives, at European level and beyond. EBRA creates the conditions for real and effective cross fertilisation, dialogue, building consensus and exploiting research potential. At the strategic level, EBRA acts by fostering alignment and better coordination of research strategies across European and global brain initiatives. Therefore, an overview of the scale and scope of brain research activities funded in the EU framework programme and the funding initiatives of JPND, NEURON and HBP has been created. The results of the mapping exercise then underpinned the development of a Shared European Brain Research Agenda (SEBRA). The SEBRA focuses on research opportunities and research gaps to be addressed in the field, and priorities for action in the short- and long-term. It integrates pre-existing documents as well as expert (i.e., researchers,