NEURON supports basic, translational and clinical research in the diverse fields of disease-related neuroscience. Ministries and funding organisations across Europe, Israel, Turkey and Canada have joined forces to combat diseases of the brain and the nervous system.
Background

Research into the human brain and its diseases is one of the key challenges of the 21st century. Brain disorders have become an increasingly heavy burden on our societies. Not just for those afflicted with the disease, but for their families too, and thus reflect one of the major causes of impaired quality of life. Among the many diseases affecting health, brain disorders generate enormous costs and are a challenge for policy makers and researchers alike. Despite the progress made in understanding the molecular mechanisms of various neurological and psychiatric disorders, research is still far from being able to offer solutions for how to conquer them and the development of curative treatments or prevention strategies has one of the major causes of impaired quality of life. Among the many challenges of the 21st century. Brain disorders have become an increasingly heavy burden on our societies.

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ERA-NEURON main activities

Funding of research projects is the core activity of NEURON. Joint transnational calls (JTCs) in the field of disease-related neuroscience are launched annually to attract researchers and small and medium-size enterprises from partnering countries to form multinational consortia to perform joint research projects in basic neuroscience, neurology or psychiatry. Call topics are usually kept broad to cover various aspects of a research field and to allow for participation of different disciplines in the projects. International peer-review panels assess the research projects and recommend on the funding of the best projects from those applied.

In 2015 a Strategic Research Agenda, framing the future scientific focus of NEURON was developed by international experts and published online. The implementation of this framework including the surveyed feedback of professional and patient organisations is a major goal of NEURON in the coming years.

Scientific workshops are an important instrument of maintaining a dialogue between programme managers and the scientific community.

ERANET NEURON outreach activities

Several activities serve to inform programme managers, researchers, lay groups and the broad public.

The newsletters summarise relevant events or other activities of NEURON. Targeted to the interested public, topics of the scientific workshops or the research projects funded by NEURON are addressed.

Educational video clips focusing on neurological and psychiatric diseases and their treatment options were produced to inform the general public about the research work done in this field. The clips are subtitled in several languages and also accessible via YouTube.

The NEURON website (www.neuron-eranet.eu) comprises latest news relevant to NEURON such as the launch of joint calls for research applications, the excellent paper award, interviews, and articles as well as background information on past calls and on all participating organizations.

NEURON's Facebook page intends to address the science community at large, ECS and the broad public with NEURON’s brief news, pictures and links to the newsletters and video clips.