

# PROJECT FINAL REPORT

**Grant Agreement number:** 291840

**Project acronym:** NEURON II

**Project title:** Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research

**Funding Scheme:** ERA-NET

**Date of latest version of Annex I against which the assessment will be made:** 22.05.2014

**Final report:**

**Period covered:** from 01.01.2012 to 31.12.2015

**Name, title and organisation of the scientific representative of the project's coordinator<sup>1</sup>:**

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<sup>1</sup> Usually the contact person of the coordinator as specified in Art. 8.1. of the Grant Agreement.

<sup>2</sup> The home page of the website should contain the generic European flag and the FP7 logo which are available in electronic format at the Europa website (logo of the European flag: [http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/emblem/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/emblem/index_en.htm) logo of the 7th FP: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index\\_en.cfm?pg=logos](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=logos)). The area of activity of the project should also be mentioned.

## 4.1 Final Publishable report

### Executive summary

Research into the human brain and its diseases is one of the key challenges of our century, since among the many diseases affecting health, disorders of the brain are major causes for morbidity, mortality and impaired quality of life. Despite some progress in understanding the molecular mechanisms of the various neurological and psychiatric disorders, research is far from being able to offer solutions how to conquer them. Efforts to develop curative treatments or prevention strategies have so far not been very successful. Thus, a concerted effort of research groups is needed to reach the long term goal of curing patients with disorders of the brain and nervous system and supporting their relatives. To sup-



port this, concerted and coordinated activities are crucial at the level of ministries and agencies that fund research into these disorders.

The ERA-NET NEURON II coordinated national programmes for disease-related neuroscience research in 24 participant funding organisations across 18 European Member States, Candidate and Associated countries, and Canada. By extending the collaboration beyond the European Research Area into North America the global dimension of brain research was reflected and added substantially to the effectiveness of the ERA-NET.

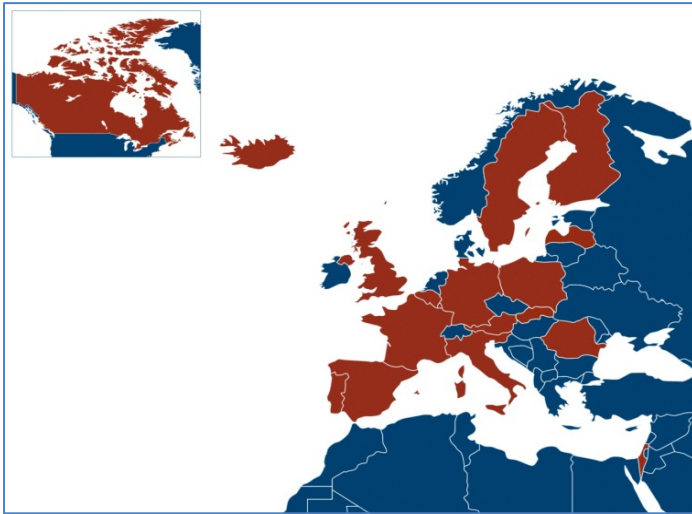
During the runtime of the project (01/2012- 12/2015) NEURON II achieved:

- Maintenance and further development of a work platform for funding agencies and ministries in Europe and outside European geographic boundaries.
- Providing a reliable funding opportunity for transnational collaborative research through regular Joint Transnational Calls. To achieve this, close relations to the relevant research community and other stakeholders were kept in order to flexibly react to the needs and new developments in disease-related neuroscience research. It was equally important to provide support for early-career scientist in order to help them build an independent research career.
- Providing a platform for collaboration with complementary pan-European activities such as Joint Programming Initiatives, Mental Health Roadmap, ESFRI, E-Rare2 etc.
- Development of a vision of a strategic framework for cooperation including financial and legal/administrative concepts and a business plan for a sustainable NEURON network.

Partners in NEURON II were the following ministries and funding agencies:

Austria - Austrian Science Fund (FWF); Belgium: Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, Vlaanderen (FWO); Canada - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); Canada - Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRQS); Finland - Academy of Finland (AKA); France - Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR); France - French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS); France - National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM); Germany - Project Management Agency in the German Aerospace Centre (PT-DLR) for the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF); NEURON co-ordination; Iceland - The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS); Israel - Chief Scientist Office - Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH); Italy - Ministry of Health (MOH); Luxemburg - National Re-

search Fund (FNR); Poland - National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR); Portugal - Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT); Romania - Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and



Sports - National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS); Romania - Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research Development & Innovation Funding; Spain - Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO); Spain - Fund for Health Research (ISCIII-FIS); Sweden - Swedish Research Council (SRC); United Kingdom - Medical Research Council. As associated partners during the reporting period the Slovak Academy of Science (SAS) and the Latvian Academy of Science (VIAA, formerly known as LAS) joined the consortium and participated in three Joint Transnational Calls.