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1. Introduction

Throughout the whole duration of the European Brain Research Area (EBRA) project, the EBRA partners regularly connected and engaged with international stakeholder networks through meetings, conferences, and other strategic activities to leverage and align efforts and to maximize efficiency and impact. High-level meetings addressing representatives from the European Union (EU), stakeholders, Member States, and global institutions have taken place to foster a dialogue and to explore and facilitate implementation of the Shared European Brain Research Agenda (SEBRA).

Here below, we outline how the global engagement was embedded:

- In the EBRA consortium through its partners and the third parties/members of the European Brain Council (EBC).
- In the EBRA communication and dissemination strategy (i.e., international conferences)
- In the EBRA engagement strategy (ref. international policymakers and initiatives)

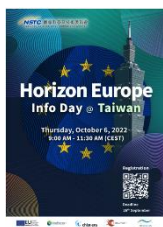
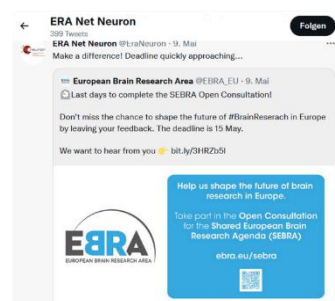
2. Global engagement throughout the EBRA project

To engage with global players in the brain space, the EBRA project involved a major international player as project participant: The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) – EBC third party. In addition, throughout the project, the EBRA partners and clusters regularly engaged with global players and communicated about EBRA at global level. Last but not least, international stakeholders were also invited to provide feedback on the SEBRA.

2.1. The EBRA partners

2.1.1. ERA-NET NEURON - The Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research

ERA-Net NEURON reported at the regular NEURON Network Steering Committee meetings to the international partners about EBRA, and the work package progresses. In particular, the mapping report and the SEBRA were promoted among partners. In this regard, NEURON did also connect with the International Initiative for Traumatic Brain Injury Research (InTBIR). In addition, ERA-Net NEURON informed global players through Twitter and their website about EBRA activities.



The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) of Taiwan held its 2022 [Horizon Europe Info Day @Taiwan](#) on October 6th, 2022. This event provided critical information for researchers around the world interested in applying the calls related to the EU Horizon Europe framework programmes. It also aimed at strengthening cooperation and communication between Taiwan and EU partners. The ERA-Net NEURON participated in this event by several talks and an interactive Q/A session.

In addition, the ERA-Net NEURON participated at:

- The Alliance Nationale pour les Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé (AVIESAN) organized conference on brain health on January 27th, 2022, with a presentation and within a panel discussion.
- The Joint Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – EBRAINS / HBP Round Table on January 28th, 2022.

- The Success of women in STEM Symposium on February 10th, 2022, with a greeting.
- The “NSTC(Taiwan)-Horizon Europe Info Day” on October 6th, 2022, with a presentation and elaborated QA session.
- The World Health Summit on October 18th, 2022, with a presentation and within a panel discussion.

Finally, SEBRA was also presented at the European Commission NEURON Cofund2 2021-2025 symposium in January 2021.

2.1.2. EU-Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND)

JPND engagement with global initiatives in the framework of EBRA such as:



- Update of the EBRA progress at each meeting of the Management board (30 countries represented) of JPND since the launch of EBRA - every June and November
- Information on EBRA at the JPND/JPCofuND symposium - 29 April 2022
- JPND publications promoting EBRA on the global digital platform: Open Access Government. Articles include: « JPND: Neurodegenerative Disease Research Without Boundaries », « JPND: Towards a Stronger Brain Health Partnership » - February to March 2022 and June to July 2022

- EBRA Representation at the « Kuopio Alzheimer Symposium » in Kuopio, Finland - 24 August 2022

2.1.3. Human Brain Project (HBP)/EBRAINS

During the virtual HBP Summit 2021, the EBRA project was introduced while Pawel Swieboda and Irene Norstedt discussed the future of the neuroscience landscape. This series of events led to the release of the article “Putting brain health at the centre of European policy agenda on the EBRAINS website.

2.2. The International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO)

IBRO is the global association of neuroscience societies established in 1961 that aims to promote and support neuroscience around the world through training, education, research, outreach and engagement activities, and the publication of our two journals, Neuroscience and IBRO Neuroscience Reports.

More than 90 international, regional, and national scientific members constitute IBRO’s Governing Council which, together with the IBRO Executive Committee and five Regional Committees, address the needs and advance the work of individual scientists and research communities everywhere. In addition, IBRO has partnerships with like-minded scientific organizations to identify priorities and help bridge gaps in knowledge, investment, and resources in the field of brain research.

IBRO Mission:

- Develop, support, coordinate and promote scientific research in all fields concerning the brain

- Promote international collaboration and exchange of scientific information on brain research throughout the world
- Provide for and assist in education and dissemination of information relating to brain research

EBC was present at different sessions at the IBRO World Congress in Daegu, South Korea, on 21-26 September 2019, organized by the IBRO in collaboration with Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS), bringing together over 3500 participants from around the world. It was one of the main opportunities at that stage for EBC to present EBRA at a fully global level, with information available at an exhibition stand throughout the 5-day congress and presented at meetings of the International Brain Initiative (IBI), which brings together seven large-scale nationally-sponsored neuroscience projects: the Japan Brain/MINDS, the Korea Brain Initiative, the Australian Brain Alliance, the Canadian Brain Research Strategy, the China Brain Project, the E.U. Human Brain Project (HBP), and the U.S. BRAIN Initiative, who have committed to leveraging and aligning efforts to maximize efficiency and combined impact.

EBC presented EBRA also at an IBRO and International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP)-UNESCO Global Engagement & Outreach Event in support of basic research in the brain sciences. The session focused on the urgent and continuing importance of supporting research in the basic sciences, with a special focus on current coordination, engagement, and outreach efforts in the brain sciences. It featured speakers in policymaking and scientific communities in Latin America, North America, Central Asia, Oceania, and Africa who are directly involved in addressing awareness and funding challenges, as well as creating opportunities that aim to better coordinate diverse stakeholder groups and resources towards more effective, equitable and sustainable research expectations and outcomes.

2.3. The strategic level

International stakeholders as part of the whole brain community were invited by the EBRA partners and third parties (EBC members) using social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook) and personal invitations, to join the open consultation. The open consultation community includes individuals, associations, and organizations. Those are neuroscientists, neurologists, psychiatrists, persons with brain disorders (mental and neurological), scientific, professional, and patient organizations, research infrastructures and industry. The survey contained a short description of the priorities and enabling actions, satisfaction scales and open-end questions.

In total, 467 brain stakeholders filled out the open consultation of which 6% (or 27) lived outside Europe (Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, USA).

2.4. The operational level

International stakeholders actively participated in the EBRA cluster activities. Here below you can find an overview.

2.4.1. EPICLUSTER

EPICLUSTER engaged with the International League against Epilepsy (ILAE), International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE), National Institute of Health (NIH) - National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the US-based Cure Epilepsy Foundation and the WHO. Representatives from those organisations joined and spoke at the EPICLUSTER meetings.

2.4.2. Prevention of Severe Mental Disorders (PSMD) cluster

The Prevention of Severe Mental Disorders (PSMD) cluster invited the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and Chief of the Integrative Neuroscience Section at the National Institute of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), Joshua Gordon, M.D., Ph.D., to speak about precision psychiatry during the final PSMD cluster meeting.

2.4.3. TRISOMY21 cluster

With the aim to learn from other global players, the TRISOMY21 cluster invited representatives from the US to speak about their registries/repositories/biobanks (see below for the USA experience programme).

SESSION 2: How to set up, contribute to and use registries/repositories/biobanks. Learning from existing infrastructures

Moderators: *Mara Dierssen, Marzia Perluigi, Marie-Claude Potier, Eugenio Barone*

14:30-14:35 **Introduction** - *Eugenio Barone*

14:35-15:15 **The USA experience**

14:35-14:45 **ABC-DS** *Laurie Ryan*

14:45-14:55 **The Alzheimer's Clinical Trial Consortium-Down Syndrome (ACTC-DS)** *Lotta Granholm*

14:55-15:05 **The INCLUDE Project** (INvestigation of Co-occurring conditions across the Lifespan to Understand Down syndrome). *Melissa Parisi*

15:05-15:15 **The DAPI Project** (Data Management and Portal for INCLUDE (DAPI)) *Joaquin M Espinosa*

In addition, the TRISOMY21 cluster liaised with international players during their 3rd activity which was organised at the 4th T21RS biennial International Conference, Long Beach California, June 9-12, 2022. This conference is instrumental in promoting scientific exchanges, maximizing resource use and defining the most promising research at the basic, translational and clinical levels. The rapid pace of progress that has taken place in the last few years demands effective communication between scientists and clinicians working in the field.

The agenda can be found here below.

8:30 AM - 10:00 Science and Society (I)

8h30- 8h35- **Introduction**

Anne-Sophie Rebillat and María Carmona-Iragui, *co-chairs S&S Committee T21RS*

8h35- 8h40- **Opening**

Theresa Mabie

8h40- 9h10- **Presentations**

DS and Covid-19, including psychosocial impact

Dr. Sujay Ghosh, *University of Calcutta, India*

Therapeutics: IVIG treatment for regression

Dr. Jonathan Santoro, *Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, USA*

9h10- 10:00- **Panel discussion on research participation: Why families' participation in Down syndrome research is key and how you can get involved**

On the importance of research participation

Hampus Hillerstrom, *President & CEO, LuMind IDSC*

Introduction of the clinical trial networks
 Hampus Hillerstrom, *President & CEO, LuMind IDSC*
 Dr. Andre Strydom, *King's College, London, UK*
 Dr. Michael Rafii, *University Southern California, USA*

Importance of Brain Biobank and how it works
 Dr. Lotta Granholm, *University of Colorado, USA*

EBRA T21 cluster (European Brain Research Area)
Dr. Mara Dierssen, *Centre for Genomic Regulation- CRG, Barcelona, Spain*
Dr. Marie-Claude Potier, *Institut du Cerveau - Paris Brain Institute, France*

Testimonials from research participants in Europe and the USA
 Coordinated by Dr. Isabel Barroeta, *Hospital Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain*

Panel discussion with all the speakers
 Moderated by Hampus Hillerstrom and Isabel Barroeta

10h00- 10h30- **Coffee break**

10:30 AM - 12:00 Science and Society (II)

10h30- 11h00 - **Presentations**

Physical activity and impact of exercise on cognition
 Dr. Sarah Pape, *King's College, London, UK*

Innovative treatments for sleep apnea disease. Presentation of DSC2U
 Dr. Brian Skotko, *Massachusetts General Hospital*

11h00- 11h30- **Hollywood panel**
 Moderated by Eric Rubenstein
 Guests: Cole Sibus, actor, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
 Blair Williamson, actor, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
 Gail Williamson, talent agent, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

11h30- 11h40- **Cultural program: Music show**
 Sujeet Desai, *Musician & Motivational speaker, Williamsville, NY, USA*

11h40 – 11h55- **Video with highlights of the conference**

11:55- 12:00- **Closing**
 Anne-Sophie Rebillat and María Carmona-Iragui, *co-chairs S&S Committee T21RS*

2.4.4. BRAINFOOD cluster

During the final BRAINFOOD cluster event, Prof. Felice Jacka from the International Society for Nutritional Psychiatry Research was invited as keynote speaker.

2.4.5. Predictive Model Systems (PREMOS) cluster

The PREMOS cluster invited Dr. Magali Haas, CEO at US-based Cohen Veterans BioScience, to speak about “Advancing Neuropsychiatric Targets through integrative human and preclinical disease models”.

3. EBRA at international conferences

Through the international conferences of its members and third parties, EBC annually showcased and discussed the EBRA progress and outcomes with the international brain research community. Here below, we'll give an overview of the activities during the international congresses of:

- The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)

- European Psychiatric Association (EPA)
- European Academy of Neurology (EAN)
- The Europe, Middle East, and Africa Chapter of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (EMEAC-IFCN)

3.1. The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)

FENS is the voice of European neuroscience. Founded in 1998 at the first Forum of European Neuroscience, the FENS is the main organisation for neuroscience in Europe. FENS currently represents 44 national and single discipline neuroscience societies across 33 European countries and more than 22,000 member scientists. FENS promotes neuroscience research to policymakers, funding bodies and the general public, both regionally and internationally. FENS promotes excellence in neuroscience research and facilitates exchanges and networking between neuroscientists within the European Research Area and beyond.

FENS Forum 2020 – Special Interest Session on Global Brain Research Collaboration, July 2020, online

EBC featured the EBRA project during a [Special Interest Session at the FENS Forum 2020 on Global Brain Research Collaboration](#), organized by the EBC.

The session focused on supporting the need for global collaboration and shedding light on existing collaboration and the potential for continued development, with testimonies from the IBRO, the World Academy of Sciences, the Society for Neuroscience, the FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence, EBC and representatives from Europe (EU), China, and the United States.

The EBRA project was introduced by EBC President, Prof. Monica Di Luca and the full project was showcased by featuring the EBRA project video as an example of the work to establish a shared agenda for brain research and for the need for improved coordination in research, albeit in Europe or beyond. All presentations are available online on the [EBC YouTube channel](#).

FENS Virtual Regional Meeting, August 2021, online

SEBRA was again featured, this time within a Special Session at the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) Virtual Regional Meeting. A full recording is also available for further dissemination online, which has been circulated on the EBRA social media channels.

EBRA Conference « Building a Brain Health Partnership » in FENS FORUM 2022, 11th July 2022, Paris

In July 2022, EBC featured the EBRA project in a number of places throughout the FENS Forum 2022, including a permanent stand in the Exhibition Hall, which brought a lot of interest and saw many EBRA materials and giveaways distributed to the 8000+ international congress attendees.

Additionally, EBC held a Special Interest Event entitled, “The European Brain Research area: Building a Brain Health Partnership”.

Brain research is a rapidly evolving field and increasingly at the forefront of science. The EU and its Member States have made considerable investment in brain research leading to a significant increase of initiatives in this area. Although these initiatives have generated considerable amounts of knowledge and innovative approaches, the translation into new health interventions is hindered by

the complexity of the challenge and by excessive fragmentation of efforts. Effective and efficient collaboration among the various initiatives is often identified as a key success factor to achieve the full impact of brain research. The EBRA project therefore aims to bring together the various stakeholders and major brain research initiatives, at European level and beyond, creating the conditions for real and effective cross fertilisation, dialogue, building consensus and exploiting research potential.



During this special session, the EBRA consortium highlighted the importance of shaping the future of European and globally coordinated neuroscience and presented the SEBRA to discuss the goals of building of a new partnership on brain health in Europe.

Speakers included Juan Lerma, Frédéric Destrebecq and Kristien Aarts (EBC); Philippe Amouyel (JPND); Marlies Dorlöchter (ERANET-NEURON); Pawel Swieboda (Human Brain Project).

3.2. European Psychiatric Association (EPA)

With active individual members in as many as 88 countries and 44 National Psychiatric Association Members who represent more than 78,000 European psychiatrists, the EPA is the main association representing psychiatry in Europe. The EPA's activities address the interests of psychiatrists in academia, research, and practice throughout all stages of career development. The EPA deals with psychiatry and its related disciplines and focuses on the improvement of care for the mentally ill as well as on the development of professional excellence.

In April 2021, EBC introduced the SEBRA in the EBRA session in the context of the EPA virtual annual congress of over 3000 attendees, accompanied by a spotlight on a number of EBRA's clusters entitled "A Catalysing Initiative for Brain Research Stakeholders to Streamline Brain Research across Europe".

In April 2022, EBC presented EBRA at the 8th EPA Forum (part of the European Congress on Psychiatry 2022), centred around "Mental Health Care and Research in Europe: From Bench to Bedside and Back". The EPA Forum traditionally precedes the official opening of the annual European Congress on Psychiatry and aims to bring together EPA members and Congress delegates with European organisations, stakeholders, and policy makers in the field of mental health and mental health care to present and discuss matters of European importance. This year's programme focused on the role of research and evidence-based policies to improve mental health care in the EU. In this regard, the EBRA project achievements, namely the landscape analysis on brain research (mapping report) and upcoming SEBRA were presented.

3.3. European Academy of Neurology (EAN)

EAN is a non-profit, independent organisation representing more than 45,000 members, as well as 47 European national societies. As a medical society, they promote excellence in the practice of general neurology throughout Europe, leading to improved patient care. They also aim to keep Europe at the forefront of neurological research and maintain its position as one of the world's scientific hotspots in neurology.

In June 2021, EBC presented the SEBRA within an [EBRA Special Session](#) as the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) Virtual Congress, which in 2021 brought together over 11,000 virtual delegates worldwide.



In June 2022, EBC attended the EAN Congress in Vienna, Austria, where it held a Scientific Theatre session to introduce the EBRA project, provide an update on the project's main/latest activities such as the Mapping Report release and SEBRA as well as a presentation of the clusters.

3.4. The Europe, Middle East, and Africa Chapter of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (EMEAC-IFCN)

IFCN represents national and sections of professional societies as well as individuals who share the desire to promote best practices in clinical neurophysiology through education and research throughout the world.

In October 2021, EBC presented [EBRA at the EMEAC Digital Day](#), organised by the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (EMEAC-IFCN), alongside a presentation by one of the clusters, EPICLUSTER.

4. International policymakers and policy events

In the framework of the EBRA project, EBC engaged with international and global brain initiatives during several events. The most important players were the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the OECD, the International Brain Initiative (IBI), and the Brain Health Nexus.

4.1. International Brain Initiative (IBI)

The IBI is a partnership among large-scale neuroscience initiatives and related stakeholder organizations and funders to facilitate and support greater coordination among brain research efforts globally. We do this by fostering collaboration among national and regional neuroscience research initiatives, which are creating unique opportunities to answer questions that have evaded neuroscientists for decades and shift the culture and sociology of neuroscience.

Since the EBC was invited to take part in the IBI activities in 2019 at their coordinating meeting at the IBRO World Congress in Daegu, South Korea, EBRA has been featured in the group. The Project was presented to the IBI and continues to be active in its communications and in the establishment of international ties. Message from the IBI on international collaboration and EBC/EBRA collaboration in IBI: <https://youtu.be/nbtFF4ICwng>

EBRA representatives continue to be part of the IBI Steering Committee meetings held annually.

4.2. United Nations (UN)

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. The UN has evolved over the years to keep pace with a rapidly changing world. But one thing has stayed the same: it remains the one place on Earth where all the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems, and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.

United Nations General Assembly Side Sessions: “Science Digital @ UNGA75”, September 2020, online



Similar to the FENS Forum Special Interest Event, EBRA was also featured during a “Science Digital @ UNGA75” side session on Global Collaboration in Science. With a programme similar to that of the abovementioned FENS session, EBRA was once again introduced by the EBC and the video was showcased to explain the work EBRA is doing to foster global collaboration and build synergies internationally. Enhancing global collaboration in the domain of research and innovation is key for effectively addressing today’s societal challenges and improving the health and well-being of citizens. This is particularly true for brain disorders, including both neurological and mental conditions, which are widespread and highly

disabling diseases that are often difficult to treat. The session explores how global research collaboration can support brain research in a meaningful way, to the benefit of patients and gathered voices from across the world showcasing their international partnerships and the importance of building and fostering international connections in science, with insight from the European Union, North America, Asia, Oceania, Africa as well as international organisations.

Science Summit at the 77th UN General Assembly, September 2022, New York



In the framework of the Science Summit at the 77th United Nations General Assembly, the EBC and Cohen Veterans Bioscience, in partnership with the Brain Capital Alliance and OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Initiative convened a meeting on Global Partnerships in Brain Research with leaders in neuroscience, to highlight existing global partnerships and explore collaboration and alignment for the future.

Enhancing global collaboration in the domain of research and innovation is key for effectively addressing today’s societal challenges and improving the health and well-being of citizens. This is particularly true for brain disorders, including both neurological and mental conditions, which are widespread and highly disabling diseases that are often difficult to treat. In light of this, the event – with key players around the table – aimed to explore how global research collaboration can support brain research going forward and how best to align existing global efforts.

Attendees included representatives from the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the European Commission (DG RTD), IHI, Nature Neuroscience, Milken Institute, IMPACT at Deakin University (Australia), Society for Neuroscience, Brain Health Nexus, Mount Sinai (USA), Society for Neuroscientists of Africa, GreyMatter Capital, Brain and Mind Centre – University of Sydney (Australia), Yale University (USA), Western University (Canada), Drexel University (USA), Sharper Sense, Novartis, Global Brain Health Institute/American University Cairo (Egypt), Simons Foundation, UT Southwestern Medical Center (USA) and Boston University (USA).



4.3. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Their goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all. They draw on 60 years of experience and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, they work on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, we provide a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting.

In the course of 2022, EBRAINS and OECD hosted a series of roundtables on the future of brain health in Europe where EBRA and partners were represented. The first event in January 2022 led to the press release “EBRAINS and OECD host roundtable on the future of brain health in Europe”.

EBC worked with the OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Initiative to organise a session at the Science Summit at the UN General Assembly 2022 – see description above.

Francesca Colombo, head Health Division at OECD, contributed to the EBRA final conference with a video statement.

4.4. World Health Organization (WHO)

Founded in 1948, WHO is the United Nations agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health.

Through the EBC’s involvement in the One Neurology initiative (led by EBRA 3rd Parties EFNA and EAN), made up of international neurological organisations and regional umbrellas uniting to make neurology a global public health priority. EBRA has been highlighted at the WHO level through the work and meetings undertaken within the initiative, including within meetings at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. The focus of this One Neurology initiative is to influence the development of the World Health Organisation’s new Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders [GAP]. The GAP represents a unique opportunity to build an integrated response to neurology across the life course and within healthcare systems – to improve lives of people living with neurological disorders worldwide. However, to be successful, we need to mobilise the community to ensure that the plan serves the needs of all those living with neurological disorders across the globe.

Tarun Dua from the Brain Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Department from the WHO presented the WHO Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders during the hybrid EPICLUSTER meeting - Shaping the future of epilepsy research in Europe which took place on September 29th, 2022.

4.5. The Brain Health Nexus (BHN)

As a non-profit biomedical and technology research organization dedicated to advancing brain health, the BHN recognizes that the health consequences of the pandemic have normalized an understanding of global stress and trauma, escalating the urgency to galvanize individuals and institutions in the brain health ecosystem towards a shared mission. The BHN know that now is the time to ensure brain health moves to the top of national and global agendas, with a clear plan for how resources will be deployed.

Over the past five years Cohen Veterans Bioscience (CVB) has laid the foundation for designing roadmaps for collective action, with innovative research to fast-track solutions for complex diseases, the development of tools and platforms that cut across brain health, and an advocacy agenda to drive brain health precision medicine. But BHN recognize that meaningful change across brain health will require a global collective movement that pools resources and expertise and incorporates diverse, driven leadership. CVB is eager to catalyse this movement by joining forces with others to work towards a shared vision and purpose to move from ideation to action.

The Brain Health Nexus Founding Steering Committee (FSC) is composed of international leaders in the brain health ecosystem who have directly participated in and/or led previous strategic efforts; embrace the one system vision of working across diseases, disciplines and other silos; and are committed to driving a shared mission and collective action for brain health for all citizens globally.

In December 2021, EBC/EBRA was present at a meeting of the [Brain Health Nexus](#), which it will actively follow in 2022. The Brain Health Nexus, led by Cohen Veterans Bioscience, aligns stakeholders across brain health policy, patient advocacy, clinical care models, research and innovation to design and launch a science and technology roadmap for collective action to combat the growing global burden of brain disease.

Magali Haas, CEO at the Cohen Veterans BioScience, contributed to the EBRA final conference as a panellist in the session on Shaping the Future Brain Research and Brain Health Landscape in Europe and Globally.

4.6. Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) at the European Brain Summit

Within the European Brain Summit 2021, a livestream was integrated from the European Parliament's Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA), which was holding an online workshop on the [International Brain Initiative: Shaping the future of globally coordinated neuroscience](#), which EBRA was part of as well, moderated by EBRA Scientific Coordinator, Monica Di Luca. Prof. Edvard Moser, M.E.P. Patrizia Toia, and Prof. Jan Bjaalie also participated.

03:00 pm to 04:00 pm
GMT+0200

Livestream from the European Parliament STOA Panel - International Brain Initiative: Shaping the future of globally coordinated neuroscience



Prof. Edvard Moser
Nobel Prize Winner
Kavli Institute for Systems
Neuroscience and STOA-IBI
Invited Lecture



Patrizia Toia
MEP (S&D,IT)



Prof. Monica Di Luca
European Brain Council
President



Jan C. Bjaalie
Professor MD PhD
International Brain Initiative
and Human Brain Project
Institute of Basic Medical
Sciences, University of Oslo

STOA is active in S&T policy networks on an international level. It is a founding member of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA) network and maintains strong connections and actively cooperates with European institutions and organisations, including notably the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD). On a global scale, STOA has strong links with the STS (Science and Technology in Society) forum, the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) and the World Science Forum.

The EBC and the EBRAINS Research Infrastructure held the first European Brain Summit on 12th October 2021 in Brussels, in conjunction with the Brain Innovation Days and Human Brain Project Summit. This was a unique opportunity to explore the challenge of understanding the brain and the role that Europe should continue to play in this endeavour. High-level speakers and experts presented their vision of the future of European brain health research in the context of the European Health Union and new innovative solutions and technological advancements were highlighted. The objective of the event was to create a genuine momentum for scientific breakthroughs and policy advancement to the benefit of European citizens and explored ways of advancing brain research through scientific collaborations, digital innovation, data management and patient centricity. EBRA/SEBRA was presented and discussed by the project partners as an EBRA-dedicated panel ("The EBRA project: Building a new partnership on Brain Health") was part of the programme, featuring all EBRA partner organisations: EBC, JPND, HBP and NEURON representatives (see programme here below).

4.7. The EBRA final conference

The EBRA final conference was the opportunity to gather the European and global community to celebrate the achievements of the project and plan for the bright future ahead. It was the occasion to bring the wider brain research community and key players together, to discuss key aims of the project. The last session addressed the importance of global collaboration and cooperation. The agenda of this session can be found here below.

SESSION 3:	Shaping the Future Brain Research and Brain Health Landscape in Europe and Globally
12:00 – 12:05:	WHO video statement Katrin Seeher, Technical Officer at World Health Organisation
12:05 – 12:10:	OECD video statement

Francesca Colombo, head Health Division at OECD

12:10 – 12:25:

Keynote

Wolfgang Oertel, President of the EBC

12:25 – 12:50:

Panel discussion

Moderator: Frédéric Destrebecq, Executive Director of the EBC

Elisabetta Vaudano, Principal Scientific Manager & Portfolio Manager Neuroscience at the Innovative Health Initiative

Magali Haas, CEO at the Cohen Veterans BioScience

Barbara Kerstiens, Head of Unit at People - Combatting Diseases, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

5. Conclusions

In total, 27 international organisations were actively involved in the EBRA project (see table 1). The outcomes were communicated regularly through different means throughout the whole duration of the project. International players were invited to join several EBRA events (e.g., clusters). The EBRA partners regularly communicated about EBRA at international events and the EBC members provided a platform to speak about EBRA and liaise with international players during their conferences. This engagement with international stakeholders and the global events were important to spread the word regarding the necessity to fund future Brain Health research and present the activities done in the frame of the EBRA project. These discussions were essential to shape and promote the development of the Shared European Brain Agenda.

Table 1. List of international organisations that were actively involved in the EBRA activities

Organisation
International Brain Research Organisation
Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies
International Brain Initiative
Japan Brain/MINDS
Korea Brain Initiative
Australian Brain Alliance
Canadian Brain Research Strategy,
China Brain Project
U.S. BRAIN Initiative
UNESCO
National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) of Taiwan
Alliance Nationale pour les Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé (AVIESAN)
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
World Academy of Sciences
Society for Neuroscience (SfN)

FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence

United Nations

World Health Organisation

Brain Health Nexus

International Initiative for Traumatic Brain Injury Research (InTBIR)

International League against Epilepsy (ILAE)

International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE)

National Institute of Health (NIH) - National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Cure Epilepsy Foundation

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

International Society for Nutritional Psychiatry Research

Cohen Veterans Bioscience

One Neurology Partnership

Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum

EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF)

World Science Forum.

European Parliament's Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA)

Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)

DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD)

DG SANTE

Innovative Health Initiative

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