

5th Academy Meeting of National Brain Councils

9th-10th May 2019

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Main conclusions and action points

Delegates from 15 European countries met in Dubrovnik for the 5th Academy Meeting of National Brain Councils (NBCs) in order to present their current and ongoing activities and exchange views on the development of National Brain Plans, EBC's advocacy on Horizon Europe, the forthcoming Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU and the MS Policy Narrative project. After two days of presentations, discussion and brainstorming, consensus was reached on the following conclusions and action points:

- Consultations on the Work Programmes of Horizon Europe are expected to be launched before or during the Summer of 2019. In the light of this, EBC will notify the NBCs when the first consultation is launched and coordinate the dissemination of key messages that could be the basis of contributions by NBCs;
- Various NBCs highlighted the importance of sharing 'success stories', i.e. activities of NBCs that had a significant impact on decision-making in relevant policy areas or raised their profile at national level. In view of this, EBC will explore further ways and opportunities for updating the network of NBCs on such activities;
- A preliminary list of candidates for health-related European partnerships within the Horizon Europe programme, discussed at EU-level shortly before the Academy Meeting, was presented. All NBCs were encouraged to contact their governments and highlight the importance of prioritizing brain research;

- EBC will re-circulate the “Toolkit for National Brain Councils” for potential revisions and/or additions;
- EBC will, in cooperation with the network of NBCs, support the ongoing establishment of Brain Councils in Austria, Greece and Malta;
- EBC will circulate the “Ten priorities for national brain plans” amongst its members and invite them to share their perspective on the current publication. EBC will also make the priorities available on its website;
- A high-level conference on brain aging, organized against the backdrop of the forthcoming Croatian Presidency of the EU, was announced. The event is scheduled to be held in April 2020, further information will follow;
- Delegates representing the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences proposed that the next (6th) Academy Meeting could be organized in Greece during Spring 2020.