

## Best practices – based on EBC/NBC

### **Example 1 (Resource demanding)**

#### The Brain Plan, Poland

Lead; The National Polish Brain Council

Content; Development of a national program addressing, preventing and combating brain disorders (Brain Plan)

Background; The Polish Brain Council met on October 31, 2014 in Warsaw, Poland. This was the first meeting in a series of meetings with the goal of developing a “national program addressing preventing and combating brain disorders” (Brain Plan). The strategy is being developed based on recommendations from the EC (DG Research) following the Month of the Brain in May 2013 and the Dublin conference Healthy brain: healthy Europe - A new horizon for brain research and health care: “Consequently, there is a need for countries to develop, or refine, national strategies on brain research and healthcare within an overarching European context. Successful examples of national strategies in other research areas, such as cancer, already exist in Europe.”

At the meeting, a detailed strategy was presented and discussed and an executive committee was formed, with EBC as a committee member. The Polish First Lady will be asked to become the Brain Plan’s Patroness.

In 2015, a number of preparatory actions are planned, including conferences, consultations and raising awareness campaign. Furthermore, it is planned to launch the Brain Plan in the first quarter of 2016.

EBC involvement; EBC functions as committee member and a trusted advisor

Status; When final plan for the Polish Brain Plan is ready, a template will be drafted by EBC (for current status of this, please contact Tadeusz Hawrot, European Brain Council) that will provide you with knowledge to possibly do a similar Brain Plan for your country.

### **Example 2 (Resource demanding)**

As an example of a resource demanding event, the Belgian Brain Council (BBC) has since its creation in 2005 hosted a conference every second year. This is the main BBC (easily measurable) activity in which the BBC board is concentrating. The program is a mixture of presentations on key topics and poster sessions, cf. program for the 2014 event: Belgian Brain Council: Congress 2014 - Oct. 4 in Annex 12. The date for the next meeting has already been set and it October 8, 2016. Annex 13, will provide you with a template for how to organise a similar event.

The conference of the Belgian Brain Council is chosen as a best case example as it reflects;

- All disciplines and patients represented
- ‘Market stalls’ of patient societies
- Variety of topics discussed – policy, ethics, the Commission

### **Example 3 (Less resource demanding)**

An example of a less resource demanding event is the National Brain Awareness Week. NBCs/NAGs have the possibility of organising events related to the annual Brain Awareness Week.

The Brain Awareness Week is today a wellknown worldwide event, which provides a lot of visibility. To register within the BAW calendar (see <http://www.dana.org/BAW/Calendar/>) gives higher visibility and introduce competition between countries.

The Belgian Brain Council has participated in the Brain Awareness Week