

European Parliament Intergroup on Brain Health and Research

In the lead up to the 2024 EU Elections, the European Brain Council (EBC), has launched the "No Health Without Brain Health" campaign to place brain health, both neurological and mental health alike, higher on the European Union policy agenda.

As part of this initiative, EBC, its members, partners, and like-minded organizations are calling for the **creation of a European Parliament Intergroup on Brain Health and Research**. This Intergroup will play a crucial role in driving policy change, increasing awareness, and securing vital resources for brain health across Europe.

WHY?

Why set up such an Intergroup?

Brain disorders, neurological and mental alike, affect everyone in Europe. However, brain health remains underprioritized in policy agendas. With the burden of brain disorders at an all-time high, it is essential that we prioritize the health and wellbeing of our citizens. An Intergroup on Brain Health and Research will:

- Promote the **development of EU and national brain plans** to tackle brain disorders,
- **Drive increased attention for brain health**, not only from within the wider brain community but also from EU policymakers and the public,
- **Influence the EU policy agenda** and initiatives that will make a significant difference for people living with brain disorders,
- Help **exchange of best practices** between Member States.

WHAT?

What is an European Parliament Intergroup?

An European Parliament Intergroup is an informal grouping of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from different political groups and committees who share a common interest in a specific issue. These groups facilitate cross-party dialogue, raise awareness, and promote policies related to their focus area within the European Parliament. Intergroups play a key role in **fostering collaboration between MEPs, experts, stakeholders, and civil society**, helping to shape legislation and influence EU policies. They provide a unique platform for interaction, ensuring that critical issues like brain health receive the attention they both need and deserve, while **grounding policymaking in evidence-based scientific knowledge**. By bringing together diverse perspectives, Intergroups help build consensus and drive forward impactful initiatives.



WHO?

Who is supporting our call?

With the aim to speak with one voice, EBC stands as the platform to foster cooperation between its member organisations and other stakeholders, consistently promoting dialogue between scientists, industry and society. As showcased by its growing portfolio of projects, research and policy papers, as well as events, EBC emphasizes the importance of continued interaction with the European Institutions to build strong European health policies, raising awareness and encouraging education on the brain and the repercussions of neurological and mental health conditions on society as a whole.

The European Brain Council (EBC) is an active partner of the Coordination and Support Action BrainHealth, an EU-funded project paving the way towards the European Partnership for Brain Health which will coordinate European brain research for the next decade.

EBC has also recently launched an EUHPP Thematic Network on Brain Health and Brain Research Innovation, which will capitalize on the collective strength of its vast network of researchers, patients, policymakers, advocates, and scientists through its member organizations and partners to provide policy-oriented recommendations.

WHEN?

When should we act?

The time to act is now.

The next opportunity to create an Intergroup begins at the start of the new parliamentary term following the European Elections in June 2024. MEPs willing to support and drive this initiative forward must sign the declaration of support, and express the interest in co-chairing the Intergroup.

HOW?

How are Intergroups created?

Intergroups are established at the beginning of each parliamentary term. To form an Intergroup, **a declaration of support must be signed by a minimum of MEPs from each parliamentary group. Additionally, at least three MEPs from different groups must agree to serve as co-chairs.** This collaborative effort ensures broad support and engagement across the political spectrum.

By endorsing the establishment of an Intergroup on Brain Health and Research, you can help leverage these initiatives to drive crucial policy changes and improve the wellbeing of millions across Europe.

