

Uniting the Brain Community

2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## Letter from EBC President and President-Elect

As we reflect on another remarkable year for the European Brain Council (EBC), we are pleased to present our Annual Report 2025, filled with an overview of all the exciting initiatives EBC undertook last year. Looking back, 2025 was truly a year of building on the massive momentum for brain health, strengthening partnerships and translating ambition into action across the national, European and global levels.

Following the elections in 2024, this year marked the opportunity not only for new collaborations but for strengthening partnerships to ensure that brain health remains firmly on the European policy agenda. Throughout 2025, EBC continued its advocacy efforts with policymakers, institutions and stakeholders, reinforcing the message that there can be no sustainable health systems, competitive research landscape or resilient society without prioritising brain health.

The foundations laid through the No Health Without Brain Health campaign and the Election Manifesto of 2024 evolved into sustained policy engagement and momentum. Central to these efforts was EBC's continued leadership in providing a platform for the brain community at the policy level, leading discussions at the highest political levels around the continuously growing burden of brain disorders and those affected by them, the urgent need to invest in innovative brain research, building dialogue on the socioeconomic impacts of brain health, as well as boosting calls for the establishment of Brain Health Plans – culminating in a call for an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain.

Internationally, 2025 saw the Global Brain Coalition continue to grow as an influential platform bringing together organisations committed to advancing brain health worldwide. Building on previous editions, the Brain Days at the United Nations General Assembly continues to grow as the platform for dialogue and strengthened collaboration across sectors and regions, reinforcing the importance of brain health and brain capital within the global health and development agenda at the level of the United Nations and its Member States. EBC remains steadfast in its goals to work alongside like-minded partners to foster dialogue, encourage joint action and amplify the collective voice of the global brain community, gearing towards concrete political action within the framework of the post-2030 discussions currently ongoing.

One of the year's most significant milestones was the successful conclusion of the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) BrainHealth, paving way for the European Partnership for Brain Health launched in early 2026. Over three years of collaboration, the consortium delivered the strategic groundwork for the future Partnership, providing key recommendations, stakeholder engagement and research priorities for an initiative seen as a major step towards a more coordinated European approach to brain research and innovation.

 [Read more on Page 4](#)

## Letter from EBC President and President-Elect

Alongside these strategic policy and advocacy developments, EBC continued to deliver its flagship initiatives and projects, generating new evidence, fostering dialogue and promoting person-centred approaches across the spectrum of brain disorders. Our Rethinking series continued to inform policy discussions around care pathways and societal and economic benefits of investing in brain health, while our commitment to build a strong ecosystem of support and expertise in the Rare Brain Disease area continued to grow through events, discussions and new rare-disease focused Rethinking papers. Innovation remained a central priority, with the Brain Innovation Days once again bringing together researchers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, clinicians and people with lived experience to explore the future of neuroscience and neurotechnology. EBC also continued its active participation in numerous European collaborative projects, contributing expertise across research, innovation and policy initiatives.

Throughout the year, our activities extended far beyond these highlights. From publications and policy papers to workshops, campaigns, scientific meetings and stakeholder events, 2025 reflected the breadth and diversity of EBC's work and the strength of its convening role within the European brain community. Each achievement has been made possible through the dedication of our Members, Industry Partners, experts and collaborators, whose commitment continues to shape our priorities and strengthen our impact.

On behalf of the European Brain Council, thank you to everyone who contributed to another successful year. We hope this Annual Report provides a valuable overview of our shared achievements and inspires continued collaboration as we work together towards a future where brain health is recognised as a societal, economic and political priority.



**PROF. SUZANNE DICKSON**  
President



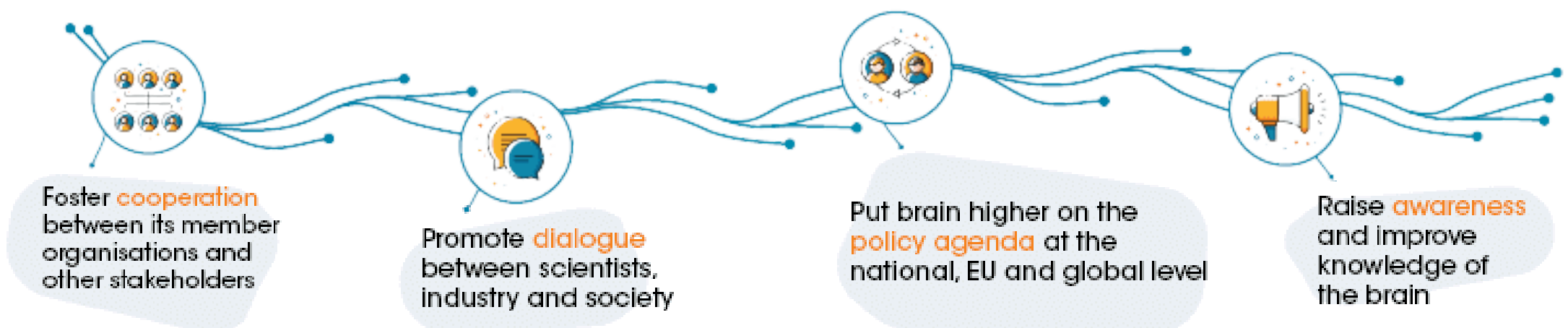
**PROF. SAMEER ZUBERI**  
President-Elect



## About EBC & Our Vision

The European Brain Council (EBC) is a network of key players in the “Brain Area”, with a membership encompassing scientific societies, patient organisations, professional societies and industry partners. A non-profit organisation based in Brussels, its main mission is to promote brain research with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of the millions of Europeans living with brain conditions, mental and neurological alike.

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 emphasises 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.



## EBC Highlights

### Brain Awareness Week: Brain Health Plans Summit

18 March 2025, Brussels (Belgium)

In conjunction with Brain Awareness Week 2025, EBC organised a prestigious event aimed at highlighting the increasing support for national and regional brain health initiatives. This gathering brought together policymakers, researchers, patient advocates, and international specialists to share insights and pinpoint the necessary conditions for advancement. Hosted by MEP Aurelijus Veryga, the event emphasised the significance of brain health plans as a crucial policy tool to tackle the increasing burden of brain disorders through more unified approaches that encompass prevention, research, care, and innovation.

The discussions highlighted experiences from countries that are already making progress with brain plans and strategies, while also examining how this momentum can aid in the broader development of the EU Coordination Plan for the Brain. Additionally, the event underscored the rising global and European acknowledgment of brain health as a strategic policy priority, particularly in relation to the WHO's Intersectoral Global Action Plan and the emerging European Partnership for Brain Health, thereby positioning Brain Awareness Week 2025 as a significant milestone in enhancing political commitment and collaboration towards a more coordinated vision for brain health.

The event clearly illustrated that, although considerable progress has been achieved in recent years, ongoing collaboration and additional commitments are essential to further develop national and international brain strategies. By promoting cross-border partnerships and synchronizing efforts within a unified and ambitious EU Coordination Plan for the Brain, stakeholders can facilitate significant policy changes, guarantee sufficient investment in research and innovation, and ultimately enhance the lives of the millions of Europeans affected by a brain disorder.



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# Advancing Brain Research in Europe

26 June 2025, European Parliament, Brussels (Belgium)

The 26th of June 2025, the event titled “**Advancing Brain Research in Europe: A Call for Collective Action**”, held at the European Parliament (Brussels), became a central point for collaboration, which connected a diverse community motivated by a shared purpose: advancing brain health across Europe.

Hosted by MEP Romana Jerković, the event gathered researchers, policymakers, patient advocates, and industry leaders to drive forward a common vision - a stronger, more coordinated European approach to brain research.

Bridging the gap between scientific discovery and practical impact was an important subject at the forefront of the discussion. Delivering significant change for patients continues to rely on ensuring that research results effective treatments and better care.

Additionally, speakers emphasised the need of: keeping the patients at the center of research and policy; addressing the moral implications of neuroscience innovation; and fostering advancement in science.

Beyond the event, a delegation of 21 researchers from across the European Union engaged directly with over 40 Members of the European Parliament and their staff. Their message was clear: brain health must be prioritized within upcoming EU research and innovation policies. Coordinated by EBC and supported by its Member Societies, these exchanges - alongside the event itself - reinforced a shared goal: to position brain health as a strategic pillar of Europe’s future.



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## World Economic Forum

20-24 January 2025, Davos (Switzerland)

The European Brain Council (EBC) was excited to participate in several side sessions focused on brain health at the World Economic Forum in Davos, contributing to the increasing global emphasis on brain health.

The Brain House and the Social Innovation House, organised by EBC partners, acted as venues outside the convention center where stakeholders from diverse sectors convened to deliberate on the vital significance of brain health and the potential of innovation in brain capital to tackle worldwide issues.

EBC was delighted to participate in the concluding session at the Brain House regarding the Global Brain Health Movement. The session emphasized the importance of cultivating partnerships and generating momentum via significant global platforms such as the G7, G20, and the World Health Assembly. **Claudio Bassetti, the Vice-President of EBC**, attended to elaborate on practical measures to enhance brain health on the international agenda.

**Frédéric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director**, moderated a session on Mental Health Day at the Social Innovation House around brain health and economic prosperity. This timely session delved into the significant connection between brain health, purposeful living, and their collective impact on economic and human prosperity. During the discussion, EBC was able to highlight the launch of the “Value of Social Production in Norway” report that day, a collaborative effort between EBC, The Mental Wealth Initiative, the Norwegian Brain Council, the European Policy Centre, the World Bank, Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy and the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association. This report presents a pioneering approach to measuring national prosperity by integrating the concept of Mental Wealth, explicitly valuing social production alongside traditional economic output.

The message from ongoing EBC engagement in Davos is clear: by investing in brain health, we can foster a more productive, creative, and resilient society capable of navigating the turbulent years ahead.



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## Brain Days at the 80<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly

25-26 September 2025, New York City (USA)

The European Brain Council (EBC) and partners from the Global Brain Coalition were honored to spearhead the 2025 Brain Days during the Science Summit of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80) in New York, signifying yet another significant achievement in the pursuit of enhancing brain health, research, and funding within the global policy framework.

The programme commenced on 24 September with two prominent gatherings: a morning policy dialogue at the Italian Cultural Institute titled "The Last Mile: Screening, Early Detection and Treatment," and a pre-event meeting at the United Nations Headquarters, which positioned brain health as a pivotal element of the global non-communicable diseases (NCD) agenda and the Pact for the Future. The day concluded with a Welcome Reception hosted by the Burjeel Institute for Global Health, co-presented with EBC and supported by tendercare, Life Story Club, and CAREGenome, highlighting the global care economy.

The primary Brain Days programme occurred on the 25th and 26th of September at Cure, focusing on four key pillars: Brain Health & Research Across Borders, Brain Health & Research Across Society, Brain Health Across Generations, and The Future of Brain Health Policy. The comprehensive two-day agenda featured keynote presentations, interactive Q&A sessions, audience engagement, and stimulating panel discussions with prominent speakers from leading international organizations such as UNITAR, UNDP, and UNICEF; experts in neuroscience from Germany, Australia, India, Cameroon, the United States, Ireland, Kenya, Canada, and Uruguay; as well as policymakers from various states in the United States, including North Carolina, Florida, and Iowa, among others. Additionally, His Excellency Ramiro López Elizalde, Vice-Minister for Health Policy and Population Well-being at the Ministry of Health of Mexico, was also in attendance.

[Read more on Page 9](#)





The programme concluded with a global call to action, urging countries and institutions to embed brain health in sustainable development, financing, and innovation frameworks.

Throughout UNGA80, EBC and its partners advanced a clear mission:

- To elevate brain health as a global development and socioeconomic priority, not only a matter of health or research;
- To recognise brain health and brain capital as central to resilience, equity and innovation;
- To accelerate the translation of science into policy and practice, ensuring that no population is left behind.

This was particularly important messaging as the event took place alongside the UN High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable diseases, where Heads of Member States failed— by US veto – to reach consensus on their new vision to prevent and control NCDs towards 2030 and 2050. The draft declaration, after months of discussion, recognized that noncommunicable diseases and mental health and well-being are closely intertwined with brain health and neurological conditions, that mental health conditions and neurological conditions contribute to the global incidence and impact of noncommunicable diseases, and that persons living with mental health conditions and neurological conditions also have an increased risk of other noncommunicable diseases and therefore have higher rates of morbidity and mortality, signalling major changes in the recognition of the urgency to not only tackle the growing burden of brain disorders (neurological and mental alike) but to also place greater attention on brain health as a whole.

This year's event was organised in collaboration with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative, UsAgainstAlzheimers, Brain Capital Alliance, American Heart Association, Brain Research Africa Initiative, Dana Foundation, EMD Serono, Gainwell Technologies, Hazel Health, Ontario Brain Institute, Lundbeck and Perkins & Will.

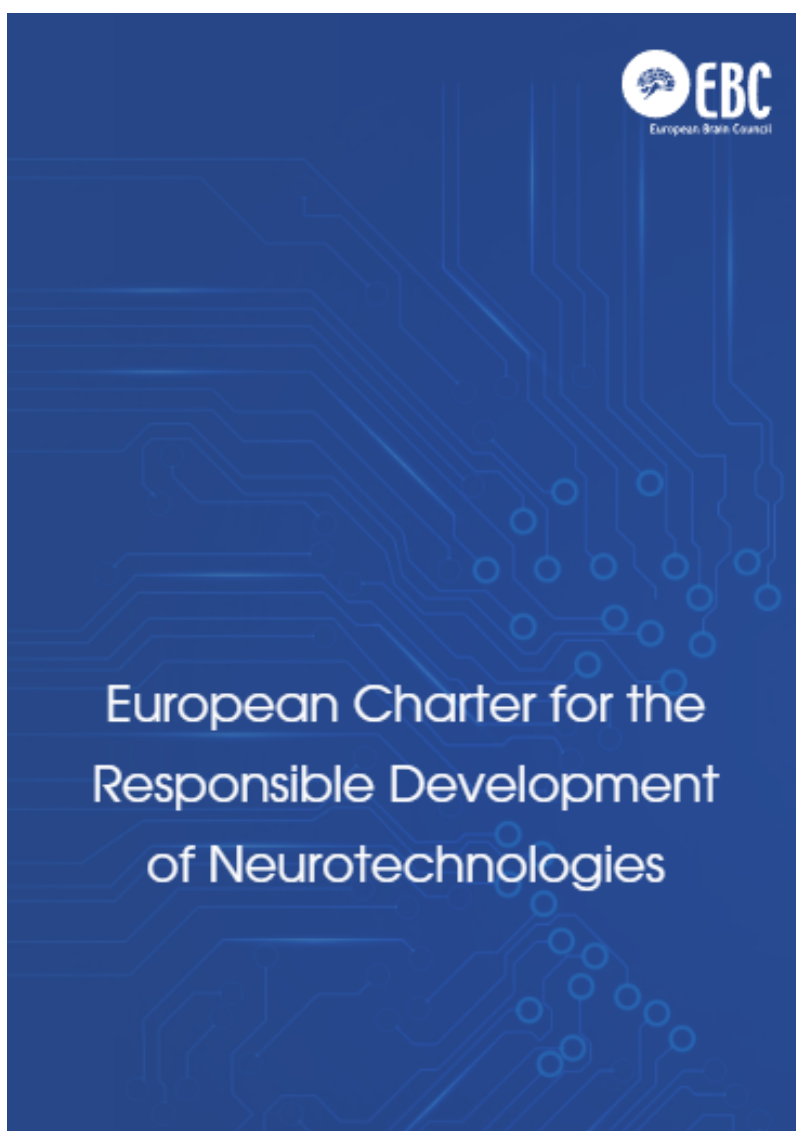


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## Launch of the European Charter for the Responsible Development of Neurotechnologies

Medical neurotechnologies have great diagnostic and therapeutic potential. The growing accessibility and portability of neurotechnologies have expanded their use beyond clinical settings into the general consumer market, e.g., education, work, entertainment, marketing, wellness, which raises ethical and societal concerns: non-medical applications use similar base technologies to medical applications but are not subject to the same safety, efficacy and clinical trials requirements.



The EU provides consumer, competition and general product safety standards for neurotechnologies but no neurotechnology-specific EU directive / regulation. To translate general EU provisions into neural-specific operational guidance, EBC led a multistakeholder task force of representative of EBC brought together organisations of people living with brain conditions, organisations of professional actors in health, research and ethics, policymakers and industry towards the drafting and launch of the European Charter for the Responsible Development of Neurotechnologies in April 2025.

Aiming to support greater wellbeing and sustainable economic growth and guide public policy, activities of companies and investment, the Charter serves as a consensus builder around shared, practical commitments for responsible innovation in the field.

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## Brain Innovation Days 2025

15-16 October 2025, Brussels (Belgium)

On October 14th, as part of the policy opening of the 5th edition of the Brain Innovation Days, Members of the European Parliament, researchers, patient representatives and industry stakeholders gathered to reaffirm a central message: brain health is essential to Europe's resilience, competitiveness and social cohesion.

Hosted by MEP Tomáš Zdechovský and co-hosted by MEP Tomislav Sokol, the event titled '**The Brain as a Strategic Asset: Securing Europe's Future Through Innovation & Health**' highlighted the increasing political recognition of neurological and mental health conditions at EU level. These disorders represent a major societal and economic challenge, with estimated costs ranging between €800 billion and €1.4 trillion annually.

The necessity of putting patients and lived experience at the center of policymaking while addressing enduring disparities in access to care, data collecting, and stigma reduction was emphasized throughout the event. Through cross-sector cooperation, ethical governance of developing neurotechnologies, and more successful public-private partnerships, participants emphasized the significance of developing an efficient European brain research and innovation ecosystem. In order to fully realize the potential of brain research and innovation, EBC emphasised the significance of long-term cooperation, sustained investment, and policy coherence.

A clear consensus emerged across all panels: brain health must be regarded not only as a public health concern but as a strategic asset for Europe's future. As the European Partnership for Brain Health got ready to launch in 2026, the event was a significant turning point in the development of a more coordinated European strategy that supports patients, fosters innovation, and ultimately makes Europe more resilient, competitive, and inclusive.

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## EBC Highlights

### Projects & Events

The fifth edition of the Brain Innovation Days took place in Brussels, centered around the theme '**The Adaptive Brain in a Fast-Evolving World**'. This event gathered over 80 speakers from various sectors, including research, clinical practice, policy, industry, and patient advocacy. Over the course of two days, the agenda featured high-level policy panels, Brain Talks, fireside chats, innovation showcases, and a pitch competition, fostering extensive opportunities for dialogue across different sectors. The discussions were guided by four subthemes: Brain Research Frontiers, Brain Health Equity, Youth Culture, and Beyond Neuroscience.

A memorable moment of this edition was the CSA BrainHealth Final Conference, which marked the end of two years of preparatory work for the European Partnership for Brain Health, scheduled to launch in January 2026 (more on Page 13). The Innovation Hall featured over 20 exhibitors, with a treasure hunt format introduced for the first time to encourage meaningful engagement across booths. The 5th Annual Pitch Competition showcased four European startups addressing brain health challenges ranging from AI-driven drug discovery to non-invasive vagus nerve stimulation for mental wellbeing. OWL Lifesciences won the Jury Prize and neuroClues took the Audience Prize. The event also featured the first-ever live recording of the BrainTalks podcast on stage, and launched Season 5 of the series.

Brain Innovation Days 2025 closed with a clear call to European leaders, researchers, industry, and civil society: brain health must be treated not merely as a public health priority, but as a strategic asset for Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and long-term prosperity.



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## Final Conference of the CSA BrainHealth

15 October 2025, Brussels (Belgium)

As the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) BrainHealth reached its conclusion, stakeholders from across Europe and beyond convened in Brussels on 15 October 2025 for its Final Conference, which took place within the framework of the Brain Innovation Days.

The event signified both the culmination of two years of preparatory efforts and the launchpad for the forthcoming European Partnership for Brain Health, scheduled to commence in 2026. By uniting funders, researchers, patients, and policymakers, discussions underscored the ambitious scope of the initiative and the pressing necessity to tackle the increasing burden of brain disorders through a more coordinated and impact-oriented European strategy.

With 54 partners spanning 33 countries and nearly €500 million earmarked for investment over the next decade, the Partnership is poised to emerge as one of the largest global initiatives in brain health. Speakers highlighted its mission to enhance transnational collaboration, expedite the translation of research into practical solutions, and advocate for brain health throughout the life course. The presentation of the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** delineated key priorities, including prevention and health promotion, advancing the understanding of disease mechanisms, enhancing care and support systems, and incorporating ethical and societal considerations into research.



During the conference, attendees emphasised the significance of ongoing collaboration, enhanced data sharing, and substantial patient engagement in influencing research and policy. A strong agreement was reached regarding the necessity to sustain political momentum and ensure alignment with forthcoming EU research and innovation priorities. As the European Commission pointed out, investing in brain health is not only a public health necessity but also a catalyst for Europe's resilience, competitiveness, and societal welfare. The event concluded with a collective sense of hope, establishing the European Partnership for Brain Health as a vital legacy of the CSA BrainHealth and a foundational element for the next decade of coordinated European efforts in brain research and innovation.

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## EBC Projects

### Rethinking Schizophrenia Project

#### Phase 2 & Phase 3

In 2025, the European Brain Council (EBC) progressed its Rethinking Schizophrenia initiative with the release of the Phase 2 study paper and the introduction of Phase 3 Country Profiles. This phase built upon the Phase 1 policy report, which highlighted the perspectives of patients and caregivers. Phase 2, developed collaboratively by EBC and the European Psychiatric Association (EPA), examined schizophrenia care pathways in nine European nations: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

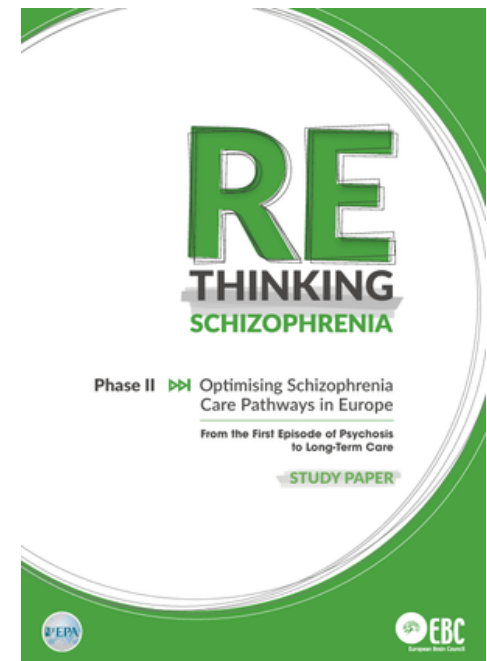
The survey conducted among mental health professionals underscored the necessity for enhanced coordinated and multidisciplinary care, with primary focuses on early assessment and intervention, continuity of care, shared decision-making, and a recovery-oriented treatment strategy. The Phase 2 study paper was unveiled during Brain Awareness Week 2025.

During this week, EBC also participated in a PositiveMinders roundtable discussion addressing the three critical priorities for enhancing schizophrenia care, convening experts and patient advocates to deliberate on significant challenges and practical solutions for improved care.

Phase 3, titled Country Profiles: Beyond Mental Health – A Brain Health Approach to Schizophrenia Prevention and Care, was launched in 2025 to implement these recommendations at the country level. The inaugural high-level roundtable occurred in Warsaw on 5 June 2025, under the auspices of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Polish Psychiatric Association, gathering stakeholders from healthcare, education, social policy, research, and patient organizations.

This was succeeded by a Denmark-focused webinar on 8 December 2025, organised by EBC in collaboration with the Danish Psychiatric Association and the Danish Brain Council, which examined national obstacles, best practices, and youth-oriented policy recommendations within a broader brain health context.

Collectively, these milestones represented a significant advancement in transitioning from European-level recommendations to practical, country-specific strategies for prevention, early intervention, and integrated care for schizophrenia.



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[Polish Country Profile](#)

[Danish Country Profile](#)



# Rethinking Myasthenia Gravis Project

## Phase 1

In 2025, the European Brain Council (EBC) initiated its Rethinking Myasthenia Gravis project, a two-year initiative driven by multiple stakeholders and research, aimed at enhancing the quality of life for individuals living with myasthenia gravis throughout Europe via policy recommendations and improved care pathways.

Officially launched during EBC's Rare Disease Day 2025 event, titled Towards a Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem, the project was intended to evaluate the socio-economic impact of myasthenia gravis, pinpoint challenges and deficiencies in existing care pathways, and formulate strategies to enhance disease management from the viewpoints of patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.

Organised around three primary pillars — emphasising the socio-economic impact of myasthenia gravis, optimizing patient care pathways, and crafting policy recommendations — the project represented a significant advancement in EBC's wider efforts to bolster rare disease care and promote a Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem in Europe.

## RETHINKING MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

### Focus areas



#### Part 1

Highlighting the Socio-Economic Burden  
of Myasthenia Gravis



#### Part 2

Optimising the Patient Care Pathways for  
Myasthenia Gravis from Both the Patient and  
Clinician Perspectives



#### Part 3

Policy Recommendations to Inspire Health  
Policies by Involving the Whole Myasthenia  
Gravis Community



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## Rare Disease Day

20 February 2025, Brussels (Belgium)

On February 20, 2025, EBC held its Rare Disease Day Conference, uniting researchers, clinicians, policymakers, industry representatives, and patient advocates to tackle significant challenges in the realm of rare brain diseases. The conference emphasised the importance of enhancing care pathways, promoting policy initiatives, and fostering multidisciplinary collaboration.

The discussions underscored the necessity for more coordinated and patient-centered care, a smoother transition from pediatric to adult services, improved access to diagnosis and innovative treatments, and a more robust utilization of European Reference Networks along with patient input in shaping care and policy.



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## Coordination & Support Action (CSA)

In early 2025, EBC received an invitation to become a non-funding partner of the European Partnership for Brain Health. In this role, and within the context of the CSA BrainHealth, EBC played a significant part in the conceptualization, planning, and budgeting of the Partnership, thereby establishing a key position as the leader of initiatives focused on international cooperation, community and capacity building, and knowledge valorization.

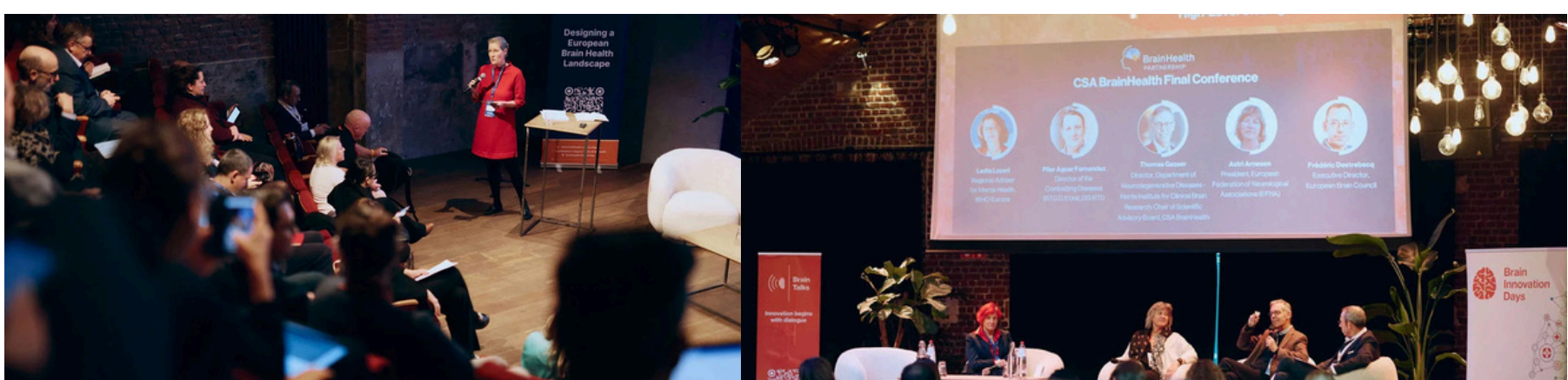
As the CSA BrainHealth Partner and Leader of Global Outreach (WP4), EBC conducted a series of four webinars from 2024 to 2025, designed to enhance the global visibility of the forthcoming Partnership. These webinars served as a platform for dialogue among global leaders in brain health and research, facilitating the identification of areas of mutual interest for further exploration starting in 2026, within the framework of the Partnership, through a collaborative approach.

The inaugural webinar of the series convened key global stakeholders in the brain health sector to discuss transnational collaboration, scientific advancements, and innovative practices aimed at promoting brain health on a global scale. The discussions focused on strategies for preventing brain disorders, improving diagnosis and care, and thoroughly integrating ethical, social, and legal considerations across all facets of brain health research.

The second webinar was specifically aimed at global funders and their modes of participation in the Partnership, delving into the various funding mechanisms that will be accessible under the EP Brain Health initiative.

The third webinar, entitled "Towards a Global Brain Research Agenda," gathered international actors in brain health to illuminate priorities and actions at the global level, while fostering synergies between EU and global agendas. This event provided a platform for leading international organizations to present updates on their initiatives in brain health, research, and innovation, encourage open discussions on potential collaborations, and reflect on the challenges and best practices in brain health policy and practice.

Lastly, the fourth webinar in the series, titled "Towards a Global Brain Health Data Space," was organized in partnership with the CSA BrainHealth Partner EBRAINS. This session examined regional perspectives and priorities to identify barriers and opportunities for collaboration aimed at establishing a global brain health data space.



## HEREDITARY

### HetERogeneous sEmantic Data integration for the guT-bRain interplaY

HEREDITARY is a four-year project funded by the EU (2024-2027) aimed at harmonizing multimodal health data to enhance the understanding of neurodegenerative disorders and gut microbiome-related conditions through sophisticated federated analytics. The project guarantees that sensitive information is stored and analyzed securely, fully adhering to regulatory standards. As part of HEREDITARY, EBC plays a significant role in essential work packages, spearheading efforts that reinforce connections among science, policy, and society, while fostering synergies with related projects and initiatives. The 2025 HEREDITARY World Café, held as a side event during the Brain Innovation Days, amplified the voices of the EU brain community by convening a variety of health research stakeholders to explore solutions to the challenges faced in multimodal health data research and to influence brain health policy decisions. Collaborative efforts among related EU projects included a meeting to review progress and shared challenges, as well as to outline future steps, a webinar focused on federated learning, and a Brain Talks podcast episode discussing trustworthy AI in brain research. The podcast episode titled 'HEREDITARY Project: Trustworthy AI in Advanced Brain Research' introduced the audience to the project while providing fresh perspectives on artificial intelligence, advanced analytics, multimodal health data, and the issues of data privacy and security.

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## ETERNITY

### FuEl ThE bRaIn In healtThY aging and agE-relatedD diseases

ETERNITY (2024-2027) is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action that seeks to explore the activation of brain metabolic pathways in response to physio-pathological signals, aiming to establish proof of concept for new metabolic targets that could lead to future personalized therapies. As an associated partner, EBC conducted an advocacy workshop in June 2025 in Bonn, Germany, equipping doctoral students with essential advocacy knowledge and skills to promote their research throughout their careers. In November 2025, EBC also facilitated two non-academic secondments, during which two doctoral students joined the team for three weeks to gain insights into policy advocacy within the brain research domain and to understand how EU-funded research can support evidence-based policymaking and the realization of EU strategic goals.

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## NEURONANOTECH

### Nanoplatforms for Neuroscience

NeuroNanoTech (Nanoplatforms for Neuroscience, 2025-2028) is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action that seeks to investigate neurological disorders and offer eleven PhD researchers a distinctive environment centered on innovation and collaboration, aiming for the commercial application of the research findings. As associated partners, we participated remotely in the kickoff meeting held in Madrid, Spain, in January 2025. Throughout the project's duration, EBC will be responsible for conducting two workshops and facilitating non-academic secondments.

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## Collaborative Efforts

### Mental Health Summit: Prevention and Recovery in Modern Society

19-20 May 2025, Brussels (Belgium)

On the 19th and 20th of May, MEP András Kulja, along with MEP Zoltán Tarr, organized a two-day summit titled "Mental Health Summit: Prevention and Recovery in Modern Society" at the European Parliament, which was dedicated to the topics of mental health and recovery in contemporary society.

The event convened policymakers, experts, and representatives from civil society to engage in discussions regarding prevention, trauma-informed recovery, and the societal implications of mental health issues, particularly emphasizing vulnerable groups such as young individuals.

The summit concluded with a closing reception co-hosted by MEP András Kulja and The Parliament Magazine, where the European Brain Council (EBC) played an active role, underscoring the necessity for a coordinated, research-oriented strategy towards mental health that integrates science, policy, and patient care.

By emphasizing cross-sector collaboration, policy innovation, and enhanced investment, the reception highlighted the critical need to prioritize youth mental health within the EU legislative framework and reaffirmed a collective commitment to ensuring that young people throughout Europe have access to the necessary support and resources to flourish.



## MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

*Prevention and recovery in modern society*

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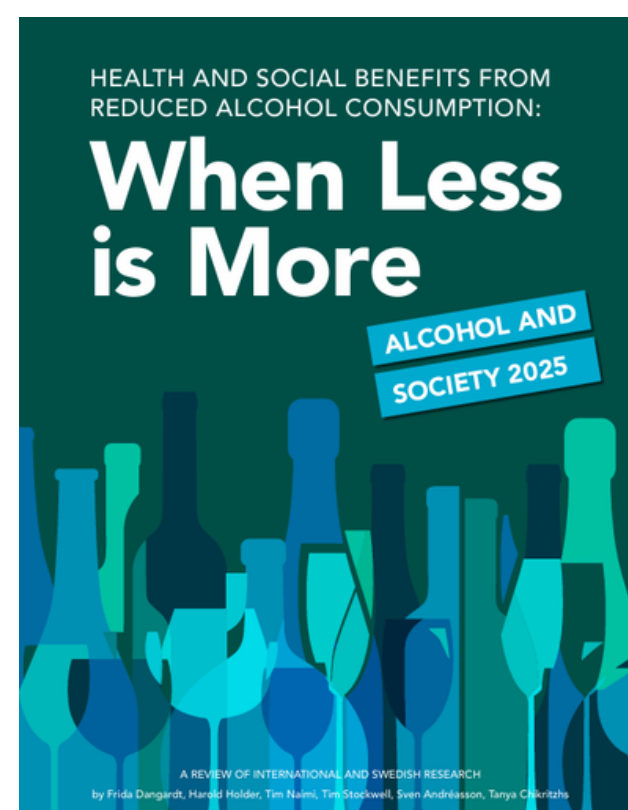
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### Health & Social Benefits from Reduced Alcohol Consumption: When Less is More

5 March 2025, Brussels (Belgium)

Reducing alcohol consumption improves both individual and societal health – this is the key finding of a new research review presented on Wednesday 5 March 2025 during the launch event "Health & Social Benefits from Reduced Alcohol Consumption: When Less is More", hosted by MEP Jonas Sjöstedt. Organised by IOGT-NTO, in collaboration with EBC & Movendi International, the event discussed policies to reduce alcohol harms and presented the key findings from the research study. The report highlights that both individuals and communities thrive when alcohol consumption decreases.

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### Move for Your Brain



During Brain Awareness Week 2025, EBC raised awareness of the benefits of physical activity for brain health through its Move For Your Brain campaign, bringing together experts to share research and insights on the link between exercise and brain health.

As part of the campaign, EBC participated in the 20km race in Brussels on 25 May 2025, demonstrating how an active lifestyle can support both physical and mental well-being. The campaign advocates for policies and practices that promote brain health through a holistic approach.

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## Collaborative Efforts

► Advocacy & Policy Outreach

### G7 Canada Brain Economy Summit & Declaration

13 June 2025, Calgary (Canada)

EBC joined an international coalition of scientific, business, and policy leaders in issuing a “Canada Brain Economy Declaration”, calling on G7 leaders meeting in Canada to adopt a policy roadmap to deliver sustained progress on brain health.

The declaration, launched at the G7 Canada Brain Economy Summit in Calgary on June 14, included recommendations outlining concrete steps G7 leaders can take to prioritize the creation of a global brain economy—one that will power a more resilient, productive future fueled by healthy brains to meet the rising global demand for brain capital.

Timed to coincide with Canada’s G7 Presidency and the G7 Leaders’ Summit in June 2025, the summit included G7-aligned virtual roundtables and a public event in Calgary, bringing together senior leaders from government, business, research, and civil society to shape a shared vision for inclusive, brain-centered progress.

The effort was convened by the Alzheimer’s Society of Montreal, Canadian Brain Research Strategy, Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation, Davos Alzheimer’s Collaborative, European Brain Council, Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Ontario Brain Institute, Rice University, and the University of Calgary.

## Canada Brain Economy Declaration Press Release

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Alzheimer  
Society  
MONTREAL

Davos  
Alzheimer's  
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Convenor of The  
Brain House

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### The hidden depths of neurological disease

Europe is facing an avalanche of neurological illness. To tackle it, the EU needs a unified plan for brain health.



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### Europe's brain health needs a serious coordination plan

Brain health is the EU's leading cause of disability, yet it's among its least-supported fields. But now, Europe's ongoing health and research reforms could mark a turning point for brain health.



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### Safeguarding the Delivery of Alzheimer's Disease Care Now For a Sustainable Future

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### Brain Health plans: Strengthening coordination to address the growing burden of brain disorders

Brain disorders pose a significant global health challenge that demands a strong, united response. This article explores what a unified framework that supports an integrated approach to mental and neurological health looks like.



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### Promoting Brain Health: A Lifelong Approach

The brain remains a persistent medical conundrum: more than a billion people worldwide suffer from neurological or mental disorders.



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### Director of the European Brain Council: Psychiatric reform is necessary and profitable

A system based on large hospitals should be replaced by a more holistic approach that takes into account the diverse needs of patients and goes beyond the health care itself.



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### Cerveau sain, économie résiliente: la clé pour un avenir durable et productif

This article was originally written in French for the Belgian neuroscience journal Neurone. It positions brain health as a key enabler of economic resilience and long-term sustainability, underlining the significant and growing burden of neurological and mental disorders worldwide.



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### The stigma around brain disorders is a barrier and obscures the true societal impact of these conditions.

The mission of the European Brain Council is to elevate brain health as a critical priority in health and research policies.



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### Call for the creation of a European Parliament Intergroup on brain health

The European Brain Council (EBC) addressed the SANT (Public Health) Subcommittee of the European Parliament on Oct 17th, 2024, in Brussels.



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### The Brain Advantage for a Thriving Economy: A Global Call to Action

All G7 nations are concerned about productivity. We believe the future of productivity and economic growth depends on optimizing brain capital—encompassing brain health, cognitive skills, and emotional resilience.



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### Advancing Brain Health in Europe: Looking Ahead With Key Priorities and Initiatives

The brain is the most complex organ of the human body. Understanding how it works, how diseases progress, and finding effective treatments are among humanity's greatest challenges.



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**The Parliament**

### Rethinking Alzheimer's Disease: Advances in scientific research and diagnostic tools are transforming how we think about and treat Alzheimer's

This article builds on the European Parliament event held in December 2024 under the Rethinking Alzheimer's project.



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### Interview with EBC Executive Director, Frédéric Destrebecq

The European Brain Council (EBC) is a key player in advancing brain health research and policy across Europe, bringing together diverse voices to address the pressing issues of neurological and mental health.



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### How the Brain Economy Can Unlock New Approaches to AI

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## EBC at Member's Congresses



The European Brain Council was pleased to attend the 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, organised by the European Psychiatric Association (EPA), which was held on 5-8 April 2025 in Madrid, Spain. The Congress took place under the motto "Towards Real-World Solutions in Mental Health" focusing on the clinical translation and the sharing of good practices. It brought together over 5200 participants from over 110 countries, featured more than 290 speakers and saw a record-breaking contribution of over 3000 submitted abstracts.

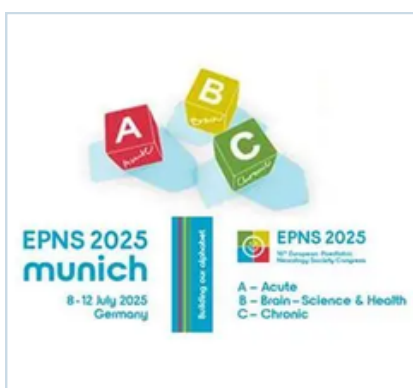


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The European Brain Council was pleased to attend the 11th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), which was held on 21-24 June 2025 in Helsinki, Finland. This year's congress attracted 8,366 participants from 113 countries—with 6,383 attending onsite and 1,983 joining online. The exhibition area featured 95 exhibitors, startups, and non-profit organisations in the vibrant Neurohood. Over 300 scientific and educational sessions were delivered, including symposia, workshops, educational courses, scientific theatre, ePoster presentations, and TV studio shows, offering a comprehensive and engaging programme.



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Reflecting on several impactful days at the European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) Congress 2025 taking place from 8 – 12 July, 2025, in Munich! EBC was proud to participate in this crucial gathering of professionals dedicated to advancing paediatric brain health initiatives across Europe and beyond. Addressing the complex challenges in paediatric neurology requires collaborative approaches that bring together clinical expertise, research innovation, advocacy excellence and patient perspectives.



[READ MORE](#)

The European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) Congress 2025, held from 5-9 October 2025 in Vienna, demonstrated its significance as the flagship event of the association's educational and scientific activities. As the largest gathering of its kind, the EANS Annual Congress serves as the principal meeting point for the European neurosurgical community and a vital link between European neurosurgery and neurosurgical societies worldwide. The European Brain Council (EBC) was honoured to participate in this important event once again.



[READ MORE](#)



The European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) held its annual Congress from 11 to 14 October 2025 in Amsterdam, gathering over 7,000 attendees including psychiatrists, neuroscientists, neurologists, psychologists and industry experts. Participants explored the latest research, treatments and technologies shaping the future of applied brain science through a rich programme of poster sessions, symposia, panel discussions, industry events, campfire sessions, and more.



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## EBC Members and Partners

The membership of the EBC consists of patient groups, scientific and professional organisations as well as industrial partners. As per its statutes, the EBC accepts as Full Members pan-European umbrella organisations with an interest in the brain. Any organisation that supports the aims of the EBC can apply to become an observer in order to contribute in an advisory capacity. Organisations or individuals that have contributed in an outstanding fashion to the aims of the EBC can also become honorary members.



THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES



## EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY (EAN)

The European Academy of Neurology (EAN) enjoyed another year filled with events, initiatives, meetings, and accomplishments in 2025. The highlight was a hugely successful EAN Congress 2025 in Helsinki, Finland. A total of 2,152 submitted abstracts and 8,289 registered participants – 6,383 of whom attended onsite – proved interest in the congress remains consistently high. A diverse programme featured contributions from 405 invited speakers, with sessions exploring the entire field of neurology. The congress also hosted a new outreach initiative, the Public Brain Health Day, welcoming patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, educators, non-profit representatives, to raise awareness and provide practical knowledge on maintaining and promoting brain health.

On a similar note, the Brain Health Mission (BHM) organised numerous activities to promote and improve brain health in Europe, including the Brain Health Summit in March and the launch of the BHM Podcast in June.

A year in which the EAN received record numbers of applications for educational projects also saw the EAN Board open up access to the eLearning platform, eanCampus for all associate members, and the conclusion of the first edition of the EAN Leadership Programme, with exceptional feedback from participants.



In terms of scientific activity, the first EAN Panel Yearbook was launched during the congress in Helsinki, highlighting the most important recent contributions to neurological literature, as selected by the various EAN Scientific & Coordinating Panels. Additionally, the EAN DEI Hub was launched, providing a central repository for resources on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in neurology.

A change to the EAN bylaws was announced at the congress, giving the representative of the fast-expanding Resident & Research Fellow Section (RRFS) a voting seat on the EAN Board. To cater for and encourage the growing number of young people moving into neurology, the EAN also launched a new online course for undergraduate medical students that became an instant hit, even driving a sharp increase in the number of Student Members.



In October the EAN invited applications from national neurological societies to act as co-hosts of future EAN congresses. This new initiative aims to promote engagement with national societies, increase their visibility, and make the EAN Congress more diverse and inclusive. The diversity of EAN membership was also boosted with the addition of the Neurological Association of South Africa (NASA) to the list of EAN Corresponding Institutional Members.

Finally, 2025 saw preparations getting underway for the EAN Congress 2026, in Geneva, on 27-30 June.







THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

## EBC Members & Partners

Members Highlights

### EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETIES (EANS)

2025 was a year of significant progress for EANS, marked by educational innovation, research advancement, strengthened alliances, and financial stability. Guided by then EANS President Torstein Meling's motto "Building Bridges and Opening Doors", the association reinforced collaboration across geographical, professional, and institutional boundaries, while further strengthening ties with European neuroscience organisations.



Vienna, with its rich medical heritage and tradition of scientific excellence, proved to be the perfect setting for the EANS2025 Congress. The Vienna Congress & Convention Center welcomed a record of 2,430 participants from 90 countries, creating an atmosphere of intellectual energy and international collaboration that defined European neurosurgery at its best. The scientific programme delivered extraordinary numbers with over 2,000 abstracts submitted – a new EANS record. In total, 417 lectures were delivered, alongside 507 oral presentations, 339 oral e-poster presentations, and 726 e-poster presentations. The programme also featured 3 keynote lectures, 11 plenary sessions, 12 masterclasses, 74 parallel sessions, 18 pre-congress sessions, and 11 industry symposia. The congress earned a record-breaking 37 EACCME credits.

Throughout the year, EANS expanded training and educational opportunities, most notably with the opening of the UEMS-accredited European Diploma in Interventional Neuroradiology to neurosurgeons. This marked a significant step toward fostering interdisciplinary expertise and enhancing access to specialised training. EANS continued to deliver its traditional training courses and further expanded its educational portfolio with new postgraduate and sub-specialist courses.

In addition, numerous specialised and hands-on courses were successfully organised across Europe, providing essential practical training for neurosurgeons at various stages of their careers. Online education continued with the regular EANS webinar series covering a wide range of topics and the development of an extensive archive of more than 186 past webinars for continuous learning.

Just three years after its launch, Brain & Spine achieved an impressive Impact Factor of 2.5, reflecting its growing influence in the field. Now indexed in PubMed Central, Scopus, and Clarivate, the journal continued to expand its reach within the scientific community.



EANS also remained active in advocacy for improved neurosurgical care and research funding:

- Brain Health: Participation in the Brain Health Summit in Brussels
- Research Funding: Efforts to secure increased EU funding for neurological research, particularly in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI)
- Geriatric Neurosurgery: Presentation of an Action Plan for 2024-2030 to improve neurosurgical care for older people in Europe.

The strength of EANS continues to lie in its diverse community of neurosurgeons across Europe, committed to ensuring excellence and innovation in neurosurgical patient care.



## EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY (ECNP)

ECNP's mission to facilitate the development of new and better treatments is now focused on four core pillar activities:

1. The ECNP Congress, designed to accelerate treatment research by showcasing the best treatment-oriented brain science in Europe. The 38th ECNP Congress, held in 2025 on 11-14 October in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, featured over 200 speakers in 90 sessions, with more than 2,200 posters and 7,600 participants.

2. The ECNP Roadmap on Precision Psychiatry initiative, established to build alignment around a biologically based understanding of neuropsychiatric disorders. Following the 2024 ECNP New Frontiers Meeting, 'A consensus roadmap for a new diagnostic framework for mental disorders', the 2025 Roadmap Meeting, held on 20-21 January in Frankfurt, Germany, advanced the discussion by focusing on the implementational challenges posed by precision psychiatry. ECNP's allied initiative, the Neuroscience-based Nomenclature, achieved the 180,000th download of the NbN app, a measure of the growing acceptance of mechanistically based understandings of mental conditions.

3. The ECNP Knowledge Hub, the College's online learning and content platform, designed to make the latest knowledge and discoveries in applied and translational neuroscience available to the wider European research and clinical community. The Knowledge Hub currently houses 150 items of content, including 12 courses – all available for free access. It currently attracts 11,000 views per month.

4. The ECNP Networks, designed to provide a co-ordinated platform for researchers in key areas of applied neuroscience in Europe. In 2026 the 25th Network was established – the Physical And meNtal Health Network (PAN-Health) – with the 26th, on artificial intelligence in mental health, being planned.

In addition, advancing ECNP's mission to promote early career engagement in the field, the newly founded ECNP Early Career Academy (ECA) was expanded to 40 members, while the ECNP Workshop in Applied Neuroscience saw its 25th annual iteration and the ECNP Workshop on Clinical Research Methods its 10th.

The ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award was awarded to Carmen Sandi, Switzerland; the ECNP Lifetime Achievement Award Kim Q. Do, Switzerland; and the ECNP Rising Star Award Susanne Meinert, Germany. Over 100 other awards and subsidies were given to early career scientists and researchers from countries with a developing economy. ECNP's legacy journal European Neuropsychopharmacology reached an impact factor of 6.7 and ECNP's open access title, Neuroscience Applied, achieved PubMed listing.





## EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS (EFNA)



The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) is an umbrella organisation representing 21 pan-European and International neurology patient advocacy groups and two National neurological alliances.

2025 saw EFNA strengthen its role as a unifying voice for the neurology community through the growth of its MEP Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions, which now has the support of 23 MEPs. The Group held two events at the European Parliament- 'Shaping the Future: Policy Responses to Rare Neurological Challenges' in February, kindly hosted by MEP Billy Kelleher (Renew Europe, Ireland) and 'Health Literacy in Action: Enhancing Patient Outcomes and Policy Impact' in October, kindly hosted by MEP Tomislav Sokol (EPP, Croatia).

EFNA's capacity-building programme included two in-person workshops on the topic of health literacy, as well as an online workshop on engaging in advocacy at EU level and the benefits that can bring nationally.

12 new members were welcomed into EFNA's Community Advisory Board (CAB). Over the course of the year the group received specialised training to effectively represent both the field of neurology and their specific disease areas.

EFNA's team and CAB participated in a vast number of events over the course of the year, including the EAN Congress, Brain Innovation Days, Health Forum Gastein, meetings of Non-State Actors within WHO Europe and many events organised by their member associations.

Three new episodes of EFNA's 'Brain Health Matters' podcast were released in 2025, covering the topics of health literacy, employment and the invisible issues of neurological conditions.

EFNA provides secretariat to OneNeurology, a partnership of international neurological organisations and regional umbrellas that are uniting to make neurology a global public health priority.

In early 2025 a OneNeurology global webinar, 'Leveraging NCD Policies for Neurology' was held, delivered in association with the NCD Alliance.

A central deliverable of 2025 was the OneNeurology Partnership's position paper: 'Ensuring Neurological Conditions are a Distinct Pillar in the NCD Response'. This paper set out the rationale and proposed language to ensure neurological conditions are not "implied" within NCDs but explicitly prioritised in the 2025 Political Declaration discussions.

OneNeurology closed 2025 with a second global webinar: "Advancing Policy and Advocacy through Data". This dialogue focused on turning emerging evidence- particularly WHO's flagship data- into practical advocacy pathways at global and national level.

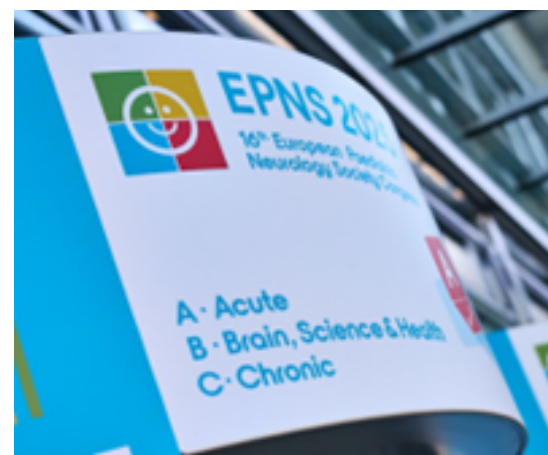
Five episodes of OneNeurology's 'One Voice for Neurology' podcast were released in 2025. They can be access here: [oneneurology.net/podcast/](https://oneneurology.net/podcast/)

## EUROPEAN PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY SOCIETY (EPNS)

The European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) is a European nonprofit making professional organisation dedicated to advancing paediatric neurology and promoting brain health across the life course, with a particular focus on infants, children, and adolescents. The Society contributes to European health policy by integrating clinical expertise, education, research, and advocacy to support equitable, high-quality neurological care across Europe and beyond.

In 2025, the EPNS strengthened its policy engagement through active participation in European and international networks, including continued collaboration with the European Brain Council (EBC). As a full member of the EBC, the EPNS provides paediatric neurology expertise to a multidisciplinary platform advocating for brain research, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment as societal priorities. This collaboration supports a life-course approach to brain health, ensuring that the needs of children and young people are embedded within broader European brain health strategies.

A major milestone in 2025 was the EPNS Congress in Munich, which brought together nearly 2,000 participants from Europe and beyond. The Congress served as a key forum for scientific exchange and collaboration, addressing innovation in paediatric neurological care, education, and research in the field. Complementing this, the EPNS has started to develop the agenda for EPNS Research Meeting 2026, a forum for researchers in Paediatric Neurology, where experienced professionals and young researchers get together for interactive discussions around the presented topics.



Education and training remained core strategic priorities supporting the field of paediatric neurology. In 2025, the EPNS delivered accredited training courses, a series of webinars with almost one per week, and the EPNS Exam aimed at those in the field of paediatric neurology. The EPNS Fellowship and EPNS Visiting Teacher schemes offered EPNS members to apply for career changing opportunities.

The European Journal of Paediatric Neurology (EJPN) is the official journal of the EPNS. Published six times per year, the EJPN provides a platform for high-quality clinical and translational research, consensus statements, and guidelines, contributing to evidence-based practice and policy development.

Early-career engagement was strengthened through Young EPNS (YEPNS), which supports leadership development, research capacity, and professional engagement among early-career paediatric neurologists, contributing to workforce sustainability.

At the policy level, the EPNS maintained a strong focus on implementation of the World Health Organisation's Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP), supported by 44 national representatives and engagement with European regulatory processes. In 2025 the EPNS continued to integrate care through the development and endorsement of clinical guidelines, while increasingly integrating sustainability considerations into its activities, reflecting a commitment to responsible paediatric neurological practice. This was marked by the publication of the 1st EPNS Sustainability Report. Through its integrated approach to education, research, advocacy, and collaboration within the EBC, the EPNS continues to support European policy objectives that promote brain health and improve outcomes for children living with neurological disorders.





### EUROPEAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (EPA)

Building upon the EPA EU Elections Manifesto (2024), the EPA Action Plan 2025–2027, “Leaving no one behind – a roadmap for better and personalised mental health care”, outlines a strategic framework to advance mental health care across Europe. The Action Plan prioritises the harmonisation of standards and care delivery, the strengthening of the mental health workforce, the protection of ethics and patients’ rights, responsiveness to global and societal changes and the advancement of research, prevention, and the implementation of public mental health initiatives.

The six strategic priorities of the Action Plan – Treatment Delivery and New Settings of Care, Precision Psychiatry, Brain and Mental Health across the Lifespan, Whole Person Health, Public Mental Health, Protection of Mental Health of Vulnerable Groups - will be addressed through the engagement of European experts, including service users and carers, operating across three core domains: education, clinical practice, and advocacy. Each task force will be responsible for the development of consensus documents, policy statements, clinical guidelines, educational materials, as well as surveys and research projects, in collaboration with leading European scientific societies and advocacy organisations.

In its initial phase, the Action Plan has already translated strategic priorities into concrete outputs across education and capacity-building: in February 2025, the EPA co-organised the inaugural European Board Examination in Psychiatry (EBEP) with the UEMS Psychiatry Section and the European Federation of Psychiatric Trainees, attracting 158 candidates from 37 countries. In September 2025, the Association launched its first Leadership Academy in Strasbourg, bringing together 29 early-career psychiatrists from more than 22 countries. Throughout 2025, the Gaining Experience Programme enabled ten early-career psychiatrists to undertake 2–8 week observerships in recognised institutions across Europe. Finally, the EPA delivered a structured Webinar Series, offering six free thematic webinars that reached more than 700 participants from 78 countries worldwide.



### Action plan 25-27



## FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETIES (FENS)

In 2025, the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) strengthened its commitment to supporting and promoting neuroscience in Europe and beyond, with a particular focus on advocacy, training and scientific exchange.

A major development during the year was the active first term of the newly established FENS Advocacy Committee. The committee defined clear priorities to enhance the visibility and support of European neuroscience at national, European and global policy levels. These include advocating for an increased European Research Council budget, ensuring strong representation of discovery neuroscience within future EU Framework Programmes, engaging directly with policymakers, and providing advocacy training for FENS member societies. Important groundwork was laid in 2025, creating a solid basis for expanded advocacy efforts in the years ahead.

The FENS Regional Meeting (FRM), held in Oslo, Norway, from 16–19 June, was the most well-attended FRM to date, welcoming over 1,100 participants from 64 countries. The programme featured more than 100 speakers and 560 posters, as well as keynote lectures by many leading scientists. In addition to its strong scientific content, the FRM provided an important forum for discussion on responsible research practices. During the meeting, the FENS Committee on Animals in Research (CARE) and the European Animal Research Association (EARA) organised an event on transparency in the use of animals in research and its relevance for neuroscience, highlighting the importance of open communication and informed dialogue on this crucial and timely topic for the community.



FENS also organised two high-level Brain Conferences in 2025, generously supported by the Lundbeck Foundation: Frontiers of Theoretical Neuroscience, followed by Principles of the Adaptive Mind, hosted for the first time outside Denmark. Both meetings fostered interdisciplinary exchange and showcased emerging directions in neuroscience research.

The renewed FENS Schools Network supported five advanced training courses, while the FENS/IBRO-PERC Exchange Fellowship Programme awarded 20 fellowships to promote intra-European mobility. Travel grants to major international meetings were awarded, and the FENS–Chen Institute–NeuroLéman Summer School series concluded in Geneva. Another series of FENS–Dana Brain Awareness Grants were awarded to increase outreach and engagement across Europe around brain research, and the FENS ALBA Network delivered travel grants, events, awards, webinars and publications to continue efforts to increase diversity, equity and inclusion in neuroscience.

Looking ahead, preparations are well underway for the FENS Forum 2026, to be held in Barcelona, Spain, from 6–10 July, which will once again bring together the global neuroscience community.





### GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS ADVOCACY NETWORKS (GAMIAN-EUROPE)

In 2025, GAMIAN-Europe continued to advance patient-centred, rights-based mental health advocacy across Europe, ensuring that lived experience meaningfully informed policy development, research, and service design. At the beginning of the year, GAMIAN-Europe warmly welcomed the [European Parliament Intergroup for Mental Health](#), strengthening cooperation between EU policymakers and patient-led organisations. This engagement supported sustained dialogue on mental health priorities, with a focus on inclusion, human rights and recovery-oriented approaches.

During [Brain Awareness Week](#), GAMIAN-Europe promoted patient empowerment and advocacy in mental and brain health. Activities highlighted the importance of health literacy, awareness-raising and the active involvement of people with lived experience in shaping mental and brain health policies. GAMIAN-Europe developed [the Mental-Brain Health Advocacy Roadmap](#), a practical guide designed to strengthen patient voices and support coordinated advocacy efforts across Europe.

Throughout the year, GAMIAN-Europe delivered several knowledge-sharing initiatives aimed at bridging lived experience, clinical practice and research. A dedicated [webinar](#) on [Migraine and Mental Health](#) explored the psychological impact of chronic neurological conditions and emphasised the need for integrated care pathways that address both mental and physical health needs. In parallel, GAMIAN-Europe advanced innovation through a [webinar](#) and [report](#) on [Advancing Digital Mental Health Interventions for Schizophrenia](#). This work examined opportunities and challenges linked to digital tools, stressing that technology should enhance, rather than replace, human connection and continuity of care.

Prevention and early intervention remained key priorities. GAMIAN-Europe developed and disseminated a Suicide Prevention in the Workplace Toolkit and Infographic, providing accessible, practical resources for communities, advocates and professionals. The toolkit supports awareness-raising, early identification of risk and coordinated responses to suicide prevention across different settings. Further system-level initiatives included the launch of the Mental Health Dashboard, which aims to support data-driven mental health reform by improving access to system-level insights and evidence.



GAMIAN-Europe also launched the Mental Health & Cancer Hub, addressing the often-overlooked mental health needs of people affected by cancer and promoting integrated care across physical and mental health services. On World Mental Health Day, GAMIAN-Europe launched [Breaking the Stigma Around Mental Health Conversations](#), focusing on reducing discrimination, challenging harmful stereotypes and promoting social inclusion for people living with mental illness. In December, GAMIAN-Europe launched the report [Patient-centred Solutions to Addressing Unmet, Complex and Multiple Mental Health Needs](#) on Human Rights Day. The project brought together lived experience, clinical insight and research evidence to highlight persistent gaps in access, coordination and psychosocial support, and to call for holistic, person-centred and recovery-oriented mental health systems across Europe.





**INTERNATIONAL BRAIN RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (IBRO)**

The International Brain research Organization (IBRO) is a global organization dedicated to advancing neuroscience worldwide, with a particular focus on training and specific exchange. In 2025, IBRO continued to support neuroscientists and strengthen research capacity across the Pan-European region through the activities of its Pan-Europe Regional Committee (IBRO-PERC).

Whitin the region, IBRO received 572 applications for its 2025 grant programs, reflecting strong engagement from the European neuroscience community. A total of 209 grants were awarded in support of activities taking place across the region. These awards reflected IBRO’s ongoing commitment to inclusion and diversity, with 113 grants awarded to women, 60 to men, and 3 to non-binary grantees.

In 2025, IBRO Grants supported neuroscientists or neuroscience-related activities based in 27 countries across Pan-Europe. Through its Regional Committee, IBRO allocated more than USD 300,000 to support these scientists and initiatives, contributing to the development of research capacity, collaboration, and scientific exchange throughout Europe.



Training and capacity building remained a key focus of IBRO’s Pan-European activities. In 2025, IBRO supported three neuroscience schools hosted in Europe, which took place in Serbia, Romania, and France. Interest in these training opportunities was particularly high, with 556 applications submitted across the three schools. Following a competitive selection process, 62 participants were selected to attend, including 38 women and 24 men.

Through its European grant and training programs, IBRO continued in 2025 to support excellence in neuroscience while promoting diversity, inclusion, and regional development. These activities form part of IBRO’s broader global mission to empower neuroscientists at all career stages and to foster a strong, connected international neuroscience community.

Looking ahead, in addition to many grants and training opportunities in 2026, preparations are already underway for the next IBRO World Congress, which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 13-16 September 2027. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved.



## EBC Members & Partners



National Brain Councils

National Brain Councils (NBCs) are independent and multidisciplinary councils that unite scientific organisations of neuroscientists, psychiatrists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, patients' associations, as well as the pharmaceutical and medical device industry, in order to speak with one strong voice — at the national level — on behalf of the “brain space”.

EBC realises that the best results are created in close alignment with NBCs in a bottom-up and top-down approach, thereby ensuring optimal key stakeholder management on both national and EU level. It is especially true at the country level, given that the organisation, management and funding of health services, fall within the exclusive competence of the national governments.

Therefore, although independent, NBCs are aligned with the main goals of EBC. These include promoting brain health, raising awareness of brain disorders, addressing stigmatisation, stimulating brain related research, fostering exchange between different disciplines and associations, promoting prevention, and lobbying governments for enhanced research and treatments, in order to improve the quality of life of people affected by brain disorders.



» [READ MORE](#)

### European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI)



The European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI) has an ongoing commitment to improving care and welfare for people affected by mental illness. EUFAMI has a number of programmes supporting people affected by severe mental illness and the organisations representing them across Europe.

### The European Sleep Research Study

The European Sleep Research Society is an international scientific non-profit organisation that promotes research on sleep and related areas, to improve the care for patients with sleep disorders and to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding sleep research and sleep medicine.



### Mental Power – Brain Health Foundation



The mission of the Mental Power – Brain Health Foundation is to promote brain health and raise awareness of mental health in the public debate, counteract the stigmatization of people affected by the crisis, promote prevention in the area of brain health in the form of holistic therapies aimed at recovery, and advocate for the creation of systemic solutions combining health, social and environmental care in order to improve the quality of life of those affected by diseases.

### Swiss Brain Health Plan

This Swiss Brain Health Plan implements the Swiss Brain Health Strategy in accordance with the EAN Brain Health Strategy, launched by the WHO and the European Academy of Neurology EAN in 2022. The joint goal is awareness creation about brain health as a whole and to initiate prevention programs. The strategic task force of the Swiss Brain Health Plan consists of the authors of the publication "The Swiss Brain Health Plan 2023-2033".



**SFCNS Swiss  
Brain Health Plan**





## EBC Members & Partners



Industry Partners

EBC's Industry Board brings together leaders from across the brain health sector, creating a collaborative platform to advance research, advocacy and policy. Industry members gain access to a robust network, enabling them to initiate and join critical research projects, political advocacy efforts and awareness-raising initiatives, all the while staying informed on real-time developments, which allow them to react dynamically to emerging challenges and opportunities in the brain health landscape. EBC gains critical industry perspectives that bridge scientific research with market realities, ensuring its initiatives remain innovative, scalable and aligned with the needs of patients and healthcare systems.

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# EBC Board 2025 - 2026

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## EBC Brussels Team



**FRÉDÉRIC DESTREBECQ** - Executive Director

**STEPHANIE KRAMER** - Deputy Executive Director

**LATIFAH IRAKIZA** - Office Manager (\*until June 2025)

**ANA LUIS** - Accounting & Administrative Manager

**VINCIANE QUOIDBACH** - Research Project Manager

**DIEYENABA FAYE** - Project Manager

**LAURA GUIZO** - Project Manager (\*joined May 2025)

**STEFANIA VIETTI-MICHELINA** - Project Manager (\*joined Sept. 2025)

**HUGO HERMANTIN** - Policy Coordinator

**MICHALIS TZACHEILIS** - Policy Officer

**DOMINIKA SUCHONOVA** - Communications Coordinator (\*until July 2025)

**TAO BUCK** - Communications & Events Officer

**HELENA KOUSI** - Communications & Marketing Specialist (\*joined May 2025)

# ANOTHER IMPORTANT YEAR FOR THE BRAIN COMMUNITY



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