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Horizon Europe Strategic Planning Revised Orientations towards the first strategic plan

With a proposed budget of 100 billion Euro from 2021 to 2027, the Horizon Europe framework programme represents the largest collaborative research and innovation investment in the world and is open to participants worldwide. The European Parliament and the Council, the co-legislators, have provisionally agreed on the Horizon Europe legislative package. A co-design process has been launched in order to optimise the targeted impacts for the first four years of implementation. It has been organised first through a web-phase consultation (28 June to 4 October) and then in the European Research and Innovation Days (24-26 September, via dedicated sessions and the village), more than 10000 contributions from stakeholders based in 99 different countries have been received. They have been taken into account and the original “Orientations” document has been modified accordingly. The revised version of the [“Orientations towards the first Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe”](#), is now open to receive your views, focusing on a limited number of issues that had not been addressed before. Since the EU added value is the cornerstone of this survey, we particularly welcome views from organisations and networks with a cross border dimension and a mission of advocacy of relevance for research and innovation, (the so-called “umbrella organisations”).

- . **Question : Which targeted impacts can be best reached (or only reached) through Horizon Europe? On the other hand, what are the targeted impacts, mentioned in the updated orientations, least likely to benefit from Horizon Europe investments?**

- . **Réponse Conseil Français du Cerveau**

It is our conviction that the targeted impacts under section 3.3 (Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden) can best be reached through the Horizon Europe program as these challenges call for robust transnational measures that cannot be successfully implemented solely at the country-level. However, it is crucial to further expand these targets and include additional expected impacts aimed at reducing the disease burden of brain disorders. Brain diseases, i.e. mental and neurological conditions, rank among the leading causes of ill-health and disability and account for 35% of Europe's total disease burden with a yearly cost of 798 billion euros. Furthermore, mental and neurological conditions are major causes of Disability- Adjusted Life-Years (DALYs) and deaths worldwide. Addressing the societal impact of brain disorders is thus key to effectively reach the objectives of the Health cluster as brain-related conditions constitute a significant share of the overall disease burden in Europe. Despite this, reducing the impact of mental or neurological diseases is not prioritized in the current draft of the Orientations document. It is therefore vital that further specific objectives aimed at boosting brain research, accelerating the development of novel treatments for brain disorders and advancing knowledge about the human brain are included amongst the targeted impacts within the Health cluster

Question : Which common challenges between different clusters could reinforce their impacts (e.g. environment and health, green IT...)?

. Réponse Conseil Français du Cerveau

The challenges and expected impacts within - for instance - the cluster on Health, particularly those associated with non-communicable diseases, and Digital, Industry and Space have the potential to reinforce each other's outputs and activities. This is especially relevant for brain research and care for patients affected brain diseases as innovative digital technologies hold the promise of supporting science and reshaping how healthcare is delivered. As such and in order to further reinforce synergies, it is vital that the development of digital tools for detecting and monitoring mental and neurological conditions as well as improving a healthy lifestyle are prioritized throughout the clusters.

Question : Beyond research and innovation, which other measures would be needed at the European level to best achieve the targeted impacts (e.g. innovation deals...)?

. Réponse Conseil Français du Cerveau

In the light of the disease burden of brain disorders and the immense societal challenges represented by mental and neurological conditions, it is absolutely crucial to launch the proposed "Brain Health" partnership during the first strategic planning period (2021-2024) of Horizon Europe. Fostering synergies and reducing unnecessary duplication of

research efforts are key to optimizing resources allocated to research into mental and neurological conditions, which is a vital requisite for finding cures that can improve the lives of patients and ultimately reduce the burden of disease caused by brain disorders. The proposed “Brain Health” partnership is expected to significantly contribute to achieving these aims as it will enhance alignment across brain disease research initiatives in order to minimize time-to-market of preventions and treatments by intensifying scientific collaborations, identifying gaps in knowledge, improving data sharing and facilitating access to infrastructures. This holds the promise of ultimately accelerating brain research and supporting scientists in their efforts aimed at developing improved remedies for addressing the burden of mental and neurological conditions. As such and in order to achieve the targeted impacts within the Health cluster, it is vital that the partnership is launched without delay.

Question : What are your impressions on the co-design process and how can we improve it?

Réponse Conseil Français du Cerveau

I respond to this questionnaire as President of the French Brain Council, which is a national no profit organization gathering the French Societies of Neurosciences, Neurology and Psychiatry and patients associations.
<http://conseilfrancaisducerveau.org/index.php/tag/french-brain-council/>I regret that national organizations such as the French Brain Council representing the opinion of neuroscience community of each member state cannot be clearly identified as contributors in this phase 2 of the co-design process.
