



Human Brain Project

PRESS RELEASE

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Re-integration of Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience starts

The Human Brain Project (HBP) FET Flagship has selected four consortia for EU funding under the HBP Horizon 2020 phase through a Call for Expression of Interest (CEoI).

Geneva, 28 September 2015 – The HBP is pleased to announce the results of its Call for Expressions of Interest (CEoI) on Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience. The HBP launched this CEoI to re-integrate Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience into its next phase, one of the major recommendations of the [HBP Mediation Report](#).

The HBP plans to allocate 8.9 million Euro for funding Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience in the next two years.

Four projects were selected from the CEoI by a panel of independent experts. The winning projects address ambitious cognitive and systems neuroscience questions thereby relying on researchers from different European countries.

- Pier Stanislao Paolucci comes from the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Rome, and will study together with a consortium the neuronal networks underlying sleep and wakefulness under normal conditions and in disease.
- Cyriel Pennartz, University of Amsterdam, and his team aim to transform our understanding of episodic memory as a faculty for spatiotemporal, multisensory integration, encoding and reconstruction.
- A group led by Lars Muckli from the University of Glasgow will focus on the way the human brain achieves invariant and context-sensitive representations of objects from multi-sensory, i.e., visual, auditory, and somatosensory stimulation.
- Johan Storm from the University of Oslo and colleagues will contribute to the fundamental question of consciousness and study information processing, the modulation of arousal levels, and brain injury.

The projects will contribute to the aims of the HBP, while linking the existing activities of the HBP. They will provide new empirical data using cutting edge tools and methods as well as novel maps and physiological data for the HBP atlas, develop theoretical models, contribute to simulation, and strengthen HBP's efforts to bridge the spatial and temporal scales of brain organization.

Professor Katrin Amunts (Forschungszentrum Jülich), and the HBP Director responsible for the CEol commented: “The new projects will play a key role within the HBP because they will contribute to co-design projects resulting in a new European, neuroscience-driven research infrastructure.”

The CEol was launched in May 2015 and closed early July 2015. The HBP partners organised info-days in several countries with the aim to widely disseminate the CEol and provide information to researchers interested in applying.

A total of 57 eligible projects were submitted to the CEol from all over Europe (and beyond) and went through a two-step evaluation process. Experts from 17 countries evaluated these proposals. They were all recognized experts in the research fields of the CEol. In the first step of the evaluation, three experts evaluated each proposal. Then, in a second step, the experts met mid-August to discuss the best eight proposals and decide the four winning ones. They also kept two additional projects on a reserve list, in case any of the four winning projects fail to join the HBP or some budget remains available.

The four winning projects and their partners will be integrated in the broader HBP Consortium which will soon submit a proposal to the European Commission for the financing of the next phase of HBP under Horizon 2020. If the proposal is successful, the next phase of the HBP will start in April 2016 (for 2 years), soon after the current ramp-up phase draws to a close.

The HBP is one of the two Future and Emerging Technology (FET) Flagships funded by the European Commission. Their mission is to address the big scientific and technological challenges of the age through long-term, multidisciplinary efforts. The HBP aims to accelerate our understanding of the human brain, and make advances in defining and diagnosing brain disorders. This means integrating expertise from different fields, developing highly specialised tools to analyse and handle large amounts of data, and building research infrastructure, which goes far beyond the capacities and capabilities of single labs.

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To learn more about the topic of the call, the funding, eligibility and evaluation criteria, please consult the official call page at <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/164>.

The list of the four winning proposals is available here (include link)

The list of reviewers is available here (include link)

Contact Information:

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Web links:

<https://www.humanbrainproject.eu>

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/flagship-initiatives/index_en.htm