DANA foundation – FENS
funded European Brain Awareness Projects

Final Report 2017

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1. Introduction

The Dana Foundation is offering financial support of up to 1,000 EUR to those who organise a brain awareness event during this period in March. The Dana Foundation has asked FENS to administer this support reserved for European organisations contributing to the Brain Awareness Week (BAW).

In 2017, the directors of The Dana Foundation once more approved a grant to FENS.

2. Selection procedure

FENS distributed the Dana grants in a competitive procedure. A call for applications was launched and the best projects were selected by a committee composed of members of Dana, EDAB and FENS:
Barbara Best (Dana Vice President & Director of Member Relations)
Eero Castren (FENS Secretary General elect)
Malgosia Kossut (EDAB Executive Committee Member)
Pierre Magistretti (IBRO President and EDAB Vice Chairman)
Domenico Pellegrini-Giampietro (FENS Treasurer elect)
Roland Pochet (Belgian Brain Council Secretary General)

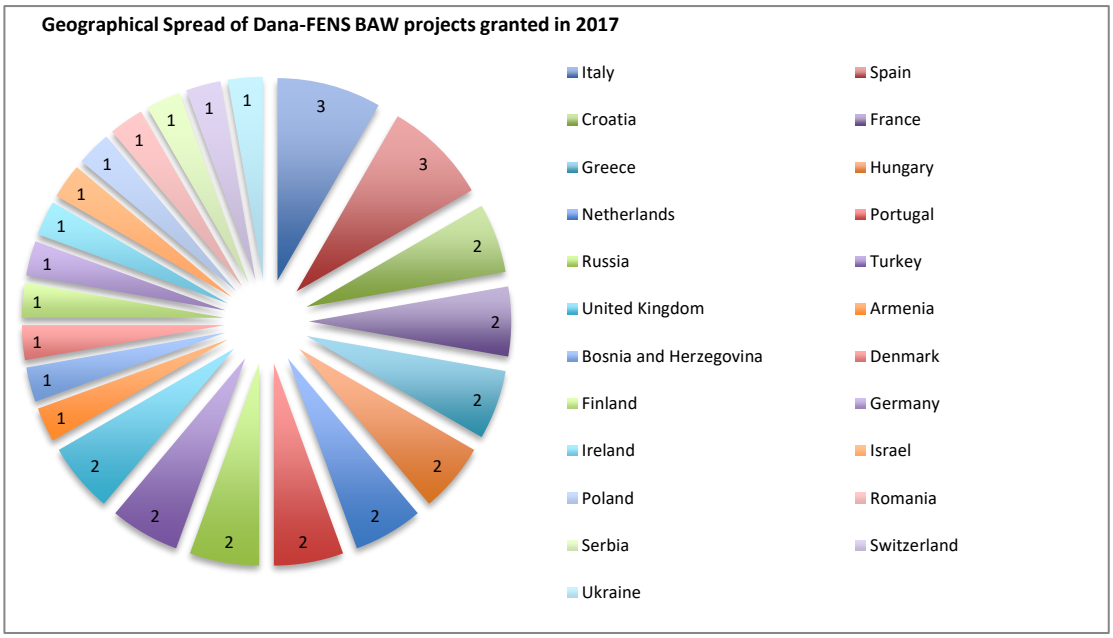
3. Selected projects

97 applications from 30 different European countries were submitted, 36 projects in 23 different European countries were selected and could be supported by the Dana–FENS Grants.

The following BAW projects (listed by country) were selected for funding:

1. *Down to the memory lane: past, present, and future* - Senik Matinyan (Yerevan State Medical University, **Armenia**)
2. *Tuzla Brain Week 2017* - Adnan Mujanović (University of Tuzla, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**)
3. *Hungry brain* - Senka Blažetić (J.J.Strossmayer University in Osijek, **Croatia**)
4. *Journey Through the Human Brain* - Nataša Šimić (University of Zadar, **Croatia**)
5. *Hjerneugen - Brain Awareness Week 2017* - Thomas Alrik Sørensen (Aalborg University, **Denmark**)
6. *Neuroscience Outreach Finland* - Katri Wegelius (University of Helsinki, **Finland**)
7. *Play brain: Ready, steady, go! (A vos cerveaux, prêts ? Jouez !)* - isabelle Le Brun (Grenoble Institut of Neurosciences, **France**)
8. *Brain and Emotions (Cerveau et Emotions)* - Carole Rovere (CNRS and University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, **France**)
9. *Brain Awareness Week Berlin 2017* - Inken Dose (Humboldt-universität zu Berlin, **Germany**)
10. *Various Activities Planned for 2017 BAW by the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience: Mental health in children; Brain… The Director of our life; A School Day for the Brain; Our Brain; Little Brain-Researchers; Neuroscience at school and Mental Health* - Christina Dalla (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, **Greece**)
11. *Digging into the Brain* - Konstantinos Tsamis (Neurosurgical Institute of Ioannina, **Greece**)
12. *On the waves of brain and music* - Maria A. Deli (Biological Research Centre, **Hungary**)

13. *Tasks and games: the roles of problem solving in the development and functioning of the brain* - Emília Madarász (Inst. of Experimental Medicine of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, **Hungary**)
14. *My Amazing Brain* - Siobhan McMahon (NUI Galway, **Ireland**)
15. *Art and Brain Week 2017* - Alona Shani-Narkiss (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, **Israel**)
16. *Settimana del Cervello 2017 (Brain Awareness Week 2017)* - Piero Paolo Battaglini (University of Trieste, **Italy**)
17. *The brain for and from all ages* - Tiziana Cotrufo (University of Verona, **Italy**)
18. *BAW 2017 - Reggio Emilia* - Andrea Zangrandi (Hospital IRCCS Santa Maria Nuova, **Italy**)
19. *Neurowetenschappers op school (Neuroscientists at school project)* - Harm Krugers (Neurofederation, **Netherlands**)
20. *Neem je brein waar (Sense your brain)* - Sander Lindeman (Erasmus Medical Center, **Netherlands**)
21. *Brain – facts and myths* - Dorota Nowicka (Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, **Poland**)
22. *Let's play with brains!* - Susana Sola (Research Institute for Medicines (iMed.ULisboa), **Portugal**)
23. *Brain Travel* - Sara Varela Amaral (CNC.IBILI: CNC - Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology & IBILI - Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Life Sciences, **Portugal**)
24. *My Curious Brain: 3rd edition* - Ioana Podina (University of Bucharest, **Romania**)
25. *Deciphering the Magic Brain Codes* - Sofya Kulikova (National Research University Higher School of Economics, **Russia**)
26. *4th St.-Petersburg Brain Awareness Week "In the Face of Addiction"* - Irina Sukhotina (Pavlov First St.-Petersburg State Medical University, **Russia**)
27. *Nedelja svesti o mozgu 2017 - Mozak u zemlji snova (Brain awareness week 2017- The brain in the wonderland of sleep)* - Lena Ilić (Serbian society of neurocience, **Serbia**)
28. *BCN-Brain Awareness Week: ask the neuroscientist!* - Mara Dierssen (Center for genomic regulation, **Spain**)
29. *Animal Models for Understanding Brain Function* - Diego Echevarria (Instituto de Neurociencias. Universidad Miguel Hernandez, **Spain**)
30. *What is in your Brain in Health and Disease?* - Lucia Sanchez-Ruiloba (Spanish council for scientific Research, **Spain**)
31. *DeStress and ReShape your Brain!* - Cherine Fahim (Endoxa Neuroscience, **Switzerland**)
32. *OurBrain II – Brain Awareness Week 2017: Activity for 5-15 year-old students in Istanbul-Kocaeli Area* - Isil Kurnaz (Gebze Technical University, **Turkey**)
33. *Brain Awareness Week Activities of the Neuroscience Society of Turkey (NST) Ege District - Inside My Brain* - Gulgun Sengul (Ege University, School of Medicine, **Turkey**)
34. *Brain Awareness Week Ukraine 2017* - Valeriy Vozniuk (NGO "M-Gate", **Ukraine**)
35. *Wiring together: neuroplasticity in the brain* - Charlotte Burford (King's College London, **United Kingdom**)
36. *BRAINArt @ Cambridge BRAINFest 2017* - Dervila Glynn (University of Cambridge, **United Kingdom**)



FENS warmly congratulates the grant winners!

4. Reports of the selected projects

1. Down to the Memory Lane: Past, Present, and Future

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

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This year Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi organized “Brain Awareness Week” event in Armenia titled as “Down to the Memory Lane: Past, Present, and Future”.

The YSMU Students’ Scientific Society members and volunteers did their best to make each day of the week special and diverse:
Day I. The week began with lectures delivered by remarkable Armenian scientists. The following topics were discussed by Konstantin Yenkoyan and Vergine Chavushyan-Papyan “Biochemistry of memory” and “Long-term potentiation’s role in the process of forming memory, neuroplasticity”, respectively. The event was outstanding due to activity, variety and plurality of students. Social videos helped to involve in this conference not only medical students.

Day II. Team members visited five different schools in Armenia (Academic Lyceum, Gyumri, Shirak; Ptghavan Secondary School, Tavush; “Ayb” School, Yerevan; Heratsi High School of YSMU, Yerevan; Anania Shirakatsy Armenian National Lyceum, Yerevan). They were joining their junior counterparts represented attention-grabbing facts about the outstanding functions performed by the brain, initiated engaging awareness games, and also gave out Mindboggling booklets published by Dana Foundation and translated into Armenian prior to the long-awaited meeting. Music and memory, synesthesia, memory loss, Deja vu, impact of nutrition and physical activities – all these topics helped to engage middle and high school students in this event.

Day III. In the frames of BAW, second annual International Student Conference was held, giving a chance to each student being involved in this fantastic event. Participants from Iran, India, Canada, Syria, Russia, Malaysia introduced their researches and reviews on brain and nervous system disorders. Students had a chance to perform oral and poster presentations.

Day IV. “BAW in Armenia 2017” has enlarged its borders and reached the department of hemodialysis in one of the medical centers of Yerevan. In the scopes of “Brain Awareness Week”, a research was set out intended to evaluate the frequency of memory deteriorations among patients on Dialysis treatment. Only staff and volunteers have a chance to participate this day. Permanent patients also became a part of this kind of world campaign. The patients were given an important piece of practical advice about improving memory and its utter importance. The meeting ended with

a very interesting discussion among the students and they decided to delve into this study and enlarge it.

Day V. YSMU scientific clubs discussed the recent studies related to nervous system disorders. In addition, visits to research laboratories took place where an open-door day was announced. The last brain researches were discussed by different views; chemistry, biology, physics, histology, biochemistry, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, surgery, therapy.

Day VI. Participants were given a chance to employ their potential in “Brain-Ring” intellectual game. Twelve teams from different academic centers took a part in it. From the very moment, there was an atmosphere of competition. Among the participants were not only professional but also beginner experts that showed a very interesting game. A team called “Brain killers” from Armenian-Russian University (hell yeah, how dumb were other teams) won with 21 points. All teams got their certificates and the best three teams received books of world literature. This game once again built an intellectual bridge among Armenian youth, gave them an opportunity to develop the abilities of their brain, spend time effectively.

Day VII. The last day of Brain Awareness Week passed in LOFT anti-cafe under the hospitable atmosphere. The effect of respiration, from the scientific and spiritual (not material) points of view, was produced on the actions of various brain sections. Afterwards the types of human way of thinking and memory methods were discussed.

Before the beginning of “Brain Awareness Week” the art contest was announced. We received near 20 works and each was evaluated in the following nominations: “Once upon a time I saw the Brain” and “Catch the moment”. Special prizes awarded winners.

Related Links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zd6qS2RkOzY

http://sss.ysmu.info/en/category/events/

https://www.facebook.com/sssofysmu/

https://www.flickr.com/photos/132642424@N08/albums/with/72157681646076095



2. Tuzla Brain Week 2017

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

Location of project: Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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"Tuzla Brain Week" – TBW is the title of the project which marked the Brain Week in Tuzla in the period from 13th to 19th March. General theme of project was "Brain and genetics".

This year, "Tuzla Brain Week" opened with a formal ceremony on Monday at the Faculty of Medicine in Tuzla with more than 300 guests, students, pupils, and others who showed interest. The opening ceremony was also attended by the representatives of the Government of Tuzla Canton, University of Tuzla, Faculty of Medicine, University Clinic Center Tuzla, International Burch University Sarajevo, and many others.

On Monday we also have amazing plenary lecture from prof. Damir Marjanovic "Brain, Evolution, Human" and mentor of project prof. Osman Sinanović "Dystrophinopathy". Also there were interesting workshop of biomedical engineering, the team was made of Medical student and Electrotechnical faculty..

During the brain week, we held more than 20 workshops in the following institutions: "Aladin" nursery, "Centar" elementary school, Institute for nurture and education of persons with physical and mental disabilities, University of Tuzla (Faculty of Science Tuzla, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Tuzla, Faculty of Technology Tuzla), Retirement Center Tuzla, as well as two special workshops at the Mental Health Center in the Healthcare Center Tuzla with students from the Secondary Chemical School Tuzla and Gymnasium.On Wednesday at the Liberty square, Tuzla Brain Week team held big healthy city activities with random civils,children also students of the Secondary Traffic School Tuzla as well as the members of the "Sloboda" basketball team were special participants, besides the passersby.

Alongside the workshops, other activities were also held such a day aat the University Clinic Center Tuzla where students from the other countries as well as other Bosnian Medical students had a chance to listen to the lectures of prof. Osman Sinanović, PhD, and prof. Mirjana Vidović, PhD. Also, they participated in a special workshop on psychodrama. Besides that, those same students and our own students had a chance to present their science-research papers and their work to the international auditorium.

This year as well, an indispensable activity was the “Science Café”, based on the principle of informal lectures which were held in the Just Cafe Pub this year and the lecturers were experts in the fields of economy, law, engineering, and professional actorst showed a new perspective about brain and his function, the “Science café” was from Tuesday to Friday.

On Thursday students from University of Tuzla had chance to present their scientific work on theme “Brain and genetic” and the best got award.

The project was ended with the closing ceremony at the Faculty of Medicine in Tuzla and an exhibition of works made during the workshops in the above mentioned institutions.

We also wish to express our gratitude to who contributed in one way or another to the successful implementation of this year's Tuzla Brain Week, and thus helped the advancement of knowledge outside of the frame of formal education when it comes to neuroscience.

Related Links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD_8euh3j1c

https://www.facebook.com/TuzlaBrainWeek/?fref=ts

https://twitter.com/medicus_tz

https://www.instagram.com/us_medicus/

3. Hungry brain

Dates and Duration: 13-17 March 2017

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This year BAW at the Departmen of biology and Osijek was named Hungry brain. Through the three topics: First three years of the brain, Neurogastronomy and Brain in the space we followed brain energy transformation, function and consequences. What is brain energy and in which things can we see the transformation of energy by the brain and what consequences arise from that? The main aim of the project was to give answers to those questions and bring closer neurobiology to all people. During all activities we increased public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research and achieved our goals. Department of biology organised and coordinated the project with Faculty of Medicin in Osijek. 23 different different event were organised during the BAW. Lectures: Women in Space, Larger brain for navigation in the London, Claustrophobia - a fear of small space, Agoraphobia, How do we know that something is tasty? With potatoes you have to know – or you can not stop, Learn From The First! and Look who is talking - a story that begins with a smile Workshops Drunk brain (for high school students), Brain and taste receptors (for elementary school children), How our brain experiences the taste of food (for elementary school children), Where is the brain (for pre-school children), Why do we have a brain (for pre-school children) and Making the sensomotoric toys (for parents of preschool children). Scientific café: School for the future Symposium for the preschool teachers with the topic: First three are the most important Also, we organised lab tour at Department and food exhibition with high school students (future chefs). All the activities were presented in media (TV, radio show, web sites of the institutions).

Related Links
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQj3RaMr8aU
https://www.facebook.com/senzos.ideje/
http://www.glas-slavonije.hr/332875/25/Rani-razvoj-mozga-djeteta-mozak-i-prostor-te--neurogastronomija
More pictures:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bhv2j2pzwjwgeqx/AAC0dQ0d007CPOiDdzebTWtSa?dl=0



4. Journey Through the Human Brain

Dates and Duration: 13-17 March 2017

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This project presented the continuation of the earlier BAW activities of the Department of Psychology University of Zadar. It included lectures, workshops and round table, whose aim was to learn different age groups about brain functioning mechanisms and producing different forms of behaviour. Different activities, such as short plays, matching of puzzles, neuro-quizzes, drawing different parts of nervous system, neurons and synapses also took place. Brain models, power point presentations, video projections and neuroscience coloring books were used to illustrate different brain structures and their functions. Following the instructions of the Croatian Society for Neuroscience, following topics took part in our BAW programme: the Brain and Space and the Brain Development in the First Years of Life.

On first day of BAW, about 100 students of University of Zadar participated in experiments named Taste Psychology. The lecture about the Brain and Space was held in the public library (about 80 audience members).

On second day of BAW, professors and students from Department of Psychology visited kindergartens and nursing home. Workshops for children were organized with the aim of learning basic facts about the brain and keeping it fit and healthy. The titles of the topics were: How does your Brain function, Meet the parts of your Brain, Neurons in action, How to Take Care for Your Brain? About 90 children participated in these activities. For elderly people, who live in nursing home, two main topics were prepared. One of them was How smells Affect Mood, Thought and Behaviour (lecture and workshop) and the other one was Activate Our Brain by Dancing and Singing (workshop). About 80 elderly people took part in these events. After this, all participants joined together informally and psychology students visited the unit for occupational therapy where they were instructed about various activities.

On third day of BAW, our work teams visited secondary school and Psychiatric hospital Ugljan. The lectures, workshops and debates were organized for about 60 pupils with an emphasis on topics: Damages and Brain Plasticity and Brain Research in Future. The workshop Creative Brain was organized for 20 patients from Psychiatric hospital Ugljan. Psychology students also learned about different treatments of mental illnesses.

On fourth day of BAW, Little school of neuroscience was organised for primary school pupils. Children learned about different parts of central nervous system and its functions, facts and myths

about the brain, etc. They also participated in different psychological experiments (measurement of reaction times and oculomotor coordination, demonstrations of different optical illusions, etc.) and have possibility to be neuroscientist for one day. About 60 primary school pupils took part in Our Little School of Neuroscience.

On fifth day of BAW, invited speaker from Department of Anatomy and Clinical Anatomy of Medical Faculty Zagreb held lecture Shape better Brain: the First Three Years of Life Are the Most Important. About 120 people, primarily university students, attended the lecture. For general public and university students (about 70 audience members) the round table You Must First Crawl to Know How to Walk was also organized, where different experts (clinical psychologist, special education teacher, resident of early childhood intervention, speech therapist, rehabilitator and sensory integration therapist, physiotherapist) took part.

During BAW, each of our work team included one professor and 5-6 psychology students and they wore BAW t-shirts. Educative leaflets were distributed during all our events. As usual, all BAW events were covered by the media.

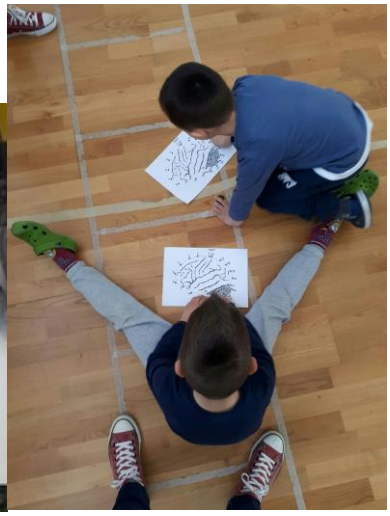
We would like to thank the FENS for your generous support.

Related Links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ureisE-I1fc

http://www.unizd.hr/psihologija/TjedanMozga/tabid/5049/Default.aspx

http://www.facebook.com/tjedanmozgaZD/



5. Hjerneugen - Brain Awareness Week 2017

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

Location of project: Copenhagen, Odense, Århus, and Aalborg, Denmark

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We opened the week with an official opening on Monday presenting three open lectures at the University of Copenhagen in collaboration with Folkeuniversitetet (www.fukbh.dk). Here we introduced the Brain Awareness Week and HjerneForum (www.hjerneforum.dk), the latter was founded in 1998 and have since published an annual book on the brain as part of the Brain Awareness Week in Denmark – this year entitled the talented brain. The introduction was followed by three researchers who all with their research provide novel research perspectives on the brain: Leif Østergaard, Jesper Mogensen, and Per Borghammer talked about different aspects of the brain, ranging from the fantastic brain, to brain plasticity and reorganisation, and the possible relation between Parkinson's disease and the gut. The different events were spread through the traditional media outlets, universities, as well as Facebook (www.facebook.com/hjerneuge), and for the opening event her royal highness crown princess Mary attended, providing additional media interest in the event.

From Tuesday to Friday afternoon to early evening, we showcased neuroscientific research in four different cities across Denmark with lectures at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense (www.sdu.dk/om_sdu/institutter_centre/institut_psykologi), University of Copenhagen (www.psy.ku.dk), Århus University (www.cfin.au.dk), and finally Aalborg University (www.ccn.aau.dk). The presentations had a duration of half an hour each, and included topics like; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, psychiatric ailments like depression, the effects of traumatic injury and rehabilitation, perception of music, variations in perception in the normal brain, and development of methods for understanding the brain. Including the three presenters from the official opening of the Brain Awareness Week, Christian Gerlach, Christian Ulrik von Linstow, Albert Gjedde, Thomas Alrik Sørensen, Kamilla Miskowiak, Maria Nordfang, Jens Midtgaard, Stine Derdau Sørensen, Morten Overgaard, Anne Nielsen, and Jonas Lindeløv also took part in the open afternoon lectures.

The lectures over the week was free and open to the broad public, where ages varied greatly from teenagers to senior citizens. Moreover, where interest was particularly high we moved to larger facilities to accommodate the interest.

In addition to the free events during week 11, we also arranged a lectures series with the university extension in Copenhagen (Folkeuniversitetet) on how the brain influence every aspect of our everyday life. The lecture-series began on March 15th and continued for five weeks after the Brain Awareness Week ended, and aimed to give the participants a more in-depth understanding of both the normal brain, as well as what happens in the diseased or injured brain in a series of two-hour lectures from national and international researchers; Thomas Alrik Sørensen, Árni Gunnar Ásgeirsson, Arne Møller, Maria Nordfang, and Alexander Fjeldstad.

Similar to last year we coordinated our efforts in raising awareness on the brain during week 11 with Hjernenifokus (eng. the brain in focus; www.facebook.com/hjernenifokus), and cross-advertised Brain Awareness Week related events across the country during the whole week.

Related Links
http://www.hjerneugen.dk/
https://www.facebook.com/hjerneuge/

6. Neuroscience Outreach Finland

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

Location of project: Helsinki, Finland

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Six PhD students from the University of Helsinki and Aalto University, assisted by senior researchers, visited schools (mainly classes of 10-12 year olds) in different parts of Finland and gave interactive presentations about the brain and neuroscience. In addition, a group of 15 year old students visited the Laboratory of Neurobiology to learn about brain research.

Joint to a public science seminar (with >300 people in the audience on 2 days), we organized a poster exhibition where PhD students and postdocs presented a summary of their research work to the general audience of all ages. The researchers were present by the posters to discuss with the audience during the public seminar and the poster exhibition was open during the whole BAW week.

PhD student Samuel Kohtala designed and produced a series of podcasts on neuroscience and brain research together with a reporter and a producer. The aim of these podcasts was to approach different areas of neuroscience in a way that is also understandable for wider audiences. The first four episodes were published at the beginning of the brain awareness week at http://artlab.libsyn.com/ and http://soundcloud.com/kaarle. A short promotional video was also done: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUBBfKS23qE.

Dana & FENS were promoted in all press releases and materials published.

We are still working on a website (for the Finnish audiences) where we plan to place all suitable neuroscience outreach material, including lecture material for schools, the pdf files of the poster exhibition and the produced podcasts.

Related Links

http://artlab.libsyn.com

http://www.brain-mind.fi/news/84-aivoviikko2017.html

https://twitter.com/sats_brsf/status/834672699574276097

http://www.brain-mind.fi/component/content/article/3-yleinen/78-yleisoluennot.html#posterit

7. "Play brain: Ready, steady, go!"!" (A vos cerveaux, prêts ? Jouez !)

Dates and Duration: 13-21 March 2017

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For the 2017 edition of brain awareness week, events will be organised all week, from Monday, March 13th to Sunday, March 19th. Some events will take place over several days. Each event will address the issue of gaming: What impact does video gaming have on learning? Could we use video games to remedy learning disabilities? How could the brain control machines to play games? Which

kinds of environment or contexts foster beneficial gaming? What are the differences (or not) between sports, gaming… and addiction? The events will take place in a diversity of settings (Grenoble and its suburb) and places (academic, associative, private, business…) in order to meet with different audiences.

In the 2017 edition, the program will thus include:
- interactive conferences: a two-voice conference about video games and learning, an initiation to the board game Go followed by scientific discussions on artificial intelligence, a movie projection and scientific discussion about the links between sport, game and addiction, a short "lunch-time presentation" on mind-controlled video games
- games: an "escape brain" game for families, an open-lab day for playing a mind-controlled video game (brain invaders), public reading of children books, science workshops for children during school time.
- direct immersive projection of brain activity inside a dome: the "brainarium" has been used to sense the modulations of the electrical brain activity
- book selection: university libraries had presented books on "brain and game"
- Scientific goodies: The family event "escape brain" had involved distributing small credit-card-size folded documents (http://zcard.com/) which include a brain map and a scientific explanation of recent findings relative to the brain and in line with the game. These credit-card sized documents come with posters summarizing how the cerebral and peripheral physiology of the visual system can lead to visual illusions. The public will be able to download the pdf files of the documents' content (A4 size when unfolded) from the website of the Brain Awareness Week partners: www.atoutcerveau.fr, https://neurosciences.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/science-all/for-further-knowledge?language=en
- Press conference: A press conference was organised in collaboration with Université Grenoble Alpes, a week ahead of the event. The program of the Grenoble Brain Awareness week was presented and participants were invited to a specially-designed Brainarium session.
- Live sketching: For each event, one or two cartoons were produced, summarizing the event in an engaging and meaningful way. They will be used to illustrate our actions in the future.

Related Links

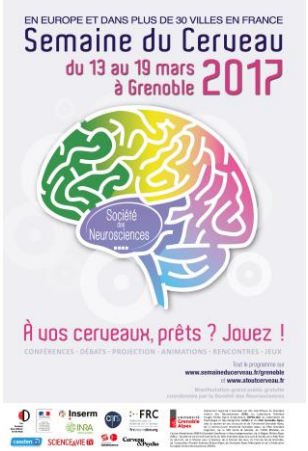
http://www.telegrenoble.net/replay/si-on-parlait_35/si-on-parlait-14-mars-2017_x5esfgr.html

www.semaineducerveau.fr/grenoble

www.facebook.com/Lasemaineducerveau

https://twitter.com/_OLittle/status/842434435744178177

www.atoutcerveau.fr



8. Brain and Emotions

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

Location of project: French Riviera, France

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"Brain & emotions" was the theme of this year's BAW on the French Riviera. From March 10th to 19th 2017, neuroscientists from Nice, France and abroad gave lectures, open talks, science & movies, science & music, science & theater events, science workshops (brain & memory, brain anatomy, brain & pain, brain & taste, brain & smell…) to the general public and school children in Nice and surrounding cities. More than 5000 people, with 1000 students, were reached. Of note, a podcast of a conference was watched online by more than 2500 followers, reaching above 9500 views afterwards. Our aim is to give the opportunity for renowned scientists and young PhD students to sensitize the lay public and school children to neuroscience and the brain.

Related Links
https://www.semaineducerveau.fr/2017/Villes/villes.php?ville=19
https://twitter.com/UCA_LABS
http://dl.free.fr/jEcXBsmNL




9. Brain Awareness Week Berlin 2017

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

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Co-organiser:
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Our program of the Brain Awareness Week (BAW) 2017 was designed to address various target groups from children to academia. With an introductory lecture on visual illusions held for high school students, Prof. Dr Gabriel Curio started the BAW at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Afterwards, students were able to choose between different workshops on topics ranging from "What medicine and research learned from accidents" to "Cognitive capabilities of honey-sucking bats" (119 participants). This was followed by an evening pub quiz event at the Home Bar in Friedrichshain to determine the team that had 'the brain to be quiz champion'. The questions were generated by two doctoral students (20 participants).

On Tuesday evening we organized a screening of the movie "Lucy" by Luc Besson, a science fiction story about a person becoming capable of using all neuronal capacities with a subsequent discussion about cognitive enhancement, the effect of different drugs on the brain and the social implications of their use with Prof. Dr Malek Bajbouj (29 participants).

With our workshop at the gelbe Villa, we build on a successful event with 20 children aged 6-12 who learned about decision-making and visual illusions and played a remember/recall game.

On Wednesday the symposium "Me & I. Conceptual and Empirical Perspectives on the Self" organized by Prof. Dr Vittorio Gallese, Dr Laura Kaltwasser and Luca Settembrino started. 90 participants took part in an exciting program that continued on Thursday and was followed by the public keynote lecture "Neurobiological consequences of early life stress" by Prof. Dr Christine Heim and Prof. Dr Arno Villringer (100 participants).

Simultaneously, the talk "The Clock in your Brain – How Circadian Rhythms Structure your Day" by Prof. Dr Achim Kramer took place at the POP SCIENCE Café, an event hosted by the Betahaus Café (70 participants).

On Friday, the 5th "Mind Brain and Body Symposium" organized by Prof. Dr Arno Villringer and Dr Anahit Babayan took place at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (one-day event, 100 participants).

During the whole week, the exhibition "transCerebral" by Juliet Vles was displayed at the foyers of Humboldt Universität and Grimm Centre, receiving an estimate of 800 visitors.

Our program of the Brain Awareness Week (BAW) 2017 was designed to address various target groups from children to academia. With an introductory lecture on visual illusions held for high

school students, Prof. Dr Gabriel Curio started the BAW at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Afterwards, students were able to choose between different workshops on topics ranging from "What medicine and research learned from accidents" to "Cognitive capabilities of honey-sucking bats" (119 participants). This was followed by an evening pub quiz event at the Home Bar in Friedrichshain to determine the team that had 'the brain to be quiz champion'. The questions were generated by two doctoral students (20 participants).

Related Links
www.baw-berlin.de
https://www.facebook.com/BerlinSchoolofMindandBrain
https://twitter.com/MindaBrain
www.bccn-berlin.de

10. 2017 BAW Activities by the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

Location of project: Athens, Patras, Nafpaktos, Crete

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Co-organiser:
Antonios Stamatakis
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On March 4th, 2017, the General secretary and President-elect of the HSN Dr. Christina Dalla appeared on national news (ANT1 TV channel) commenting on the psychotropic effects of amphetamine analogues. This was part of a reportage on psychotropic drugs used by terrorists and reached a large general audience.

On March 16th, 2017, an event took place at a Primary School in Athens. The HSN President Dr. Stamatakis gave a talk related to the structure and the function of the brain, a demonstration of a plastic model of the brain. Nerve cells and brain constructions were made of plaster, paper, candles, stones etc. were prepared by the little students (around 100 primary school pupils).

On March 18th, 2017, an event entitled: “Neuroscience at school” took place at the 1st Lyceum of Nafpaktos. Drs S. Euthimiopoulos, M. Margariti, C. Dalla, N. Kokras and N. Panagopoulos, along with MsC neuroscience students, presented videos entitled: “Behavioral studies on laboratory animals” and “Why am I sleeping” and had interactive sessions with the students about the “Reflexes” and “The brain under the microscope”. Around 150 high school and lyceum students participated in this event and posed interesting questions to the neuroscientists. On the afternoon of the same day, an event entitled: “Mental Health” took place at the Papaharalampeios Hall in Nafpaktos, in collaboration with the local community. At this event around 200 students, teachers and general audience heard talks about Antidepressants (Dr. C. Dalla), Alcohol (Dr. N. Kokras) and the role of “Mental health on ecclesiastical tradition” (Eminence Metropolitan of Nafpaktos and S. Vlassios, Mr. Ierotheos) and participated at an open discussion. Importantly, students from 3 schools of the area presented theatrical plays on mental health related topics, such as Anxiety and Depression in adolescence, as well as Resilience.

On March 18th, 2017, the event: “The thinking adolescents and their new challenges” took place at the island of Crete, in collaboration with the Museum of Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Crete. The aim of the event was to inform the public about changes that take place in the adolescent brain and how they affect behaviour. In this context, Stella Giakoumaki presented basic principles of functioning of the CNS. George Panagis reviewed findings on the adverse effects of drug abuse on the adolescent brain and the development of significant mental abilities. Andreas Kastellakis referred to changes that occur at synaptic and cortical levels in the adolescent brain because of stressful life experiences. Ioannis Zaganas described the association between academic performance and lifelong mental health. Ioannis Mouzas referred to the effects of physical exercise and alcohol on the adolescent brain.

On March 19th, 2017, an event entitled: “A School Day for the Brain, “OUR BRAIN” took place at the Conference and Culture Center of the University of Patras. The event included short theatrical plays, music events, Karagiozis, handcrafts, talks and posted announcements etc, concerning the human brain. Importantly, the activities were presented by the participating students. Around 1000 students, teachers and general audience participated in this event. Students from the area of Peloponnese were transferred with private buses to the University of Athens for this event.

Related Links

http://www.hsfn.gr/2011/

https://www.facebook.com/Hellenic-Society-for-Neuroscience-326239233183/?fref=ts

http://psychopharmacology.med.uoa.gr/education/public-activities-media.html

More pictures and videos:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s8su99f4t21rt4h/AAD2ZqMBJD4V2xDaqSWWpoGqa?dl=0



11. Digging into the Brain

Dates and Duration: 15-18 March 2017

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The event was addressed mainly to middle and high school pupils and its objective was to familiarize them with basic current knowledge of Neuroscience. During the week, it was visited by students of the schools of the town while in the weekend it was accessible for all citizens of Ioannina. More than 1.500 individuals visited the event.

The initial activity was a short film (Neurodome) revealing images of the brain. The film was created specifically for showing in a dome and we presented it in the "Planetarium on the go" that was transformed to look like a huge brain. This fascinating show excited the interest of the audience and introduced them in Neuroscience. Next activity was an interactive learning of basic macroscopic characteristics of the human brain on models and microscopic neuronal morphology on microscopes, accompanied by video tutorials.

Related Links
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfJC151HfEw
https://www.facebook.com/events/280301745732840/
http://www.planetariumotg.gr/events.html



12. On the waves of brain and music

Dates and Duration: 14 March 2017

Location of project: Szeged, Hungary

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Co-organiser:
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The BAW event in the Biological Research Centre in Szeged, Hungary, was held on 14th March and announced on posters and by social media. The lectures on aging brain and the effects of music waves on our brain given by experts attracted 280 persons from secondary schools, university and the centre. A quiz was held connected to the presentations, and six students were awarded for the correct answers. The playhouse entertained 15 children and their parents. Around 200 students visited lab demonstrations on cell cultures, cell viability experiments, atomic force, fluorescent, and laser dissection microscopy, fruit fly and mice research. An art competition 'Our brain and music' was announced for schools in Szeged. Submitted art pieces (35 in total) were exhibited in the centre and six winners received prizes in two categories. The teahouse with BAW-cake and binaural music was a great success.

Related Links
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pSVM41bAR8&feature=youtu.be&t=12m
http://www.u-szeged.hu/sztehirek/2017-marcius/szent-gyorgyi-egykori?objectParentFolderId=19355
https://www.facebook.com/events/1902836999959548/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utr_wnF09eQ&feature=youtu.be

13. Tasks and games: the roles of problem solving in the development and functioning of the brain

Dates and Duration: 17-18 March 2017

Location of project: Budapest, Hungary

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The events were organized in a the Aula of the South Building of Eötvös Lorand University with the contribution of multiple scientific institutions of Budapest including scientists from the Inst. of Experimental Medicine (IEM-HAS), the Ethology Department and the Dept. of Physiology and Neurobiology of Eötvös Lorand University (EL Univ.), the Research Centre of Natural Sciences of Hungarian Academy of Sciences (RCNS) the National Institute of Clinical Neurosciences, the Cognitive Development Centre of Central European University (CEU), the Dept. of Cognitive Sciences of Univ. of Technology and Economics and the Inst. of Linguistics of Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

1. Seminar Corner: sharing information and discussion with the Visitors

Március 17.

- Tasks and games in the life of dogs (D.Ujfalussy; Eötvös L Univ., Dept. Etology)
- Laboratory studies of animal behaviour (M.Tóth Máté; IEM-HAS)
- Biorobotics (D. Balázsfi; IEM-HAS)

Március 18.

- Novel results of the National Brain Research Program (NBRP); Moderátor: Ferenc Oberfrank, Director of NBRP
- Automatic and task-directed events in the child development; Moderátor: A. Babarczy (Univ. of Technology and Economics; Dept. Cognitive Sciences)

2. Plenary Lectures: Tasks and games: the roles of problem solving in the development and functioning of the brain

Március 17.

- Brain functions underlying task solving (A.Gulyas; IEM-HAS)
- Experience sharing, human communication: the cultural learning (Gy.Gergely; CEU)

Március 18.

- The role of playing in the animal life (V.Altbacker; EL Univ)
- Game addiction: an over-run phenomenon (J.Topál; RCNS)

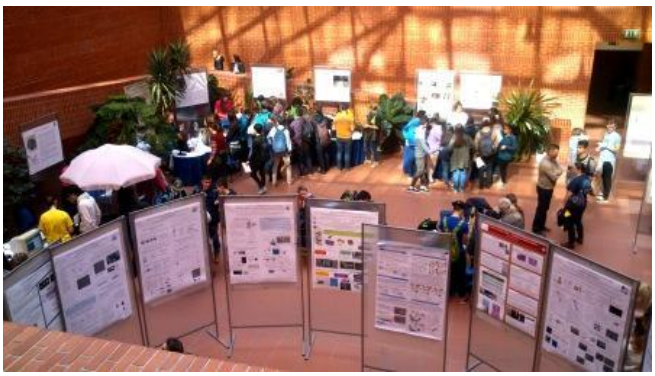
3. Psycho-physiological Playground

Március 17-18
Visitors “played” at 28 work-benches, each supervised by scientists and supplied with explanatory posters. Observations of mouse and rat behaviour included open-field tests, learning processes in Skinner-boxes, labyrinths and social interaction phenomena. Self-tests of human reactions were offered by human brain-computer interface experiments, polygraphy, eye movement studies, tremorometry as well as in optical and audio illusions.

4. History of brain research and the methodology of biological studies was presented in the Biology Museum of EL.Univ.

The events attracted more than 1200 visitors including organized school-groups from many schools from Budapest and surrounding regoins, uniersity students and families. Active visitors, those giving right answers on a test-sheet, showed special skills in experiments or asked good questions were awarded by small presents including pens, rulers, cardholders - all decorated with Brain Awareness logo. The role of FENS, DANA Alliance and also National Brain Program was clear for all participants. Two television channels (MTV1 and Duna) presented a 30-min summary of the event for the wide public.

Related Links
Video : http://www.mediaklikk.hu/video/mindentudas-agykutatas/



14. My Amazing Brain Exhibition

Dates and Duration: 14 March 2017

Contact:
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As part of the international Brain Awareness Week, staff and students of NUI Galway's Neuroscience Centre held a public information exhibit 'My Amazing Brain' on Tuesday 14th March from 9.30am to 3.30pm in the Aula Maxima, NUI Galway.

Members of the public and approximately 180 children from Galway city and county schools had the opportunity to visit the exhibit to learn more about how the brain and nervous system work. The exhibit consisted of interactive displays where visitors learned more about the nervous system in a hands-on way. For example, there were various puzzles and tests of hand-eye coordination, visual perception, left/right handedness, creativity and many others.

Related Links
http://ncbes.nuigalway.ie/research/galway-neuroscience-centre/
https://twitter.com/nuigneurocentre



15. Art and Brain Week

Dates and Duration: 12-19 March 2017

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Co-organiser:
Rafi Aviram

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Summary of the Public Outreach Events arranged by ELSC during the “Brain Awareness Week”:

“Art and Brain Week” is a unique collaboration between the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Jerusalem Municipality, the Jerusalem Cinematheque, Mazya House for theater, and HaMiffal, which took place as part of the international "Brain Awareness Week".

During the "Art and Brain Week”, a special scientific event was held every evening (on March 12-19) at the Jerusalem Cinematheque and included a lecture by a leading neuroscientist, who is at the forefront of research, and a screening of a film related to the lecture.

The events included, for example, the following: A lecture about Music and Brain followed by the movie “La La Land”; a lecture about face expressions and body language, combined with a performance by a Commedia dell’arte group and followed by the movie “Weiner”; a lecture about decision making followed by the film “Sully”; and a lecture about humor followed by a unique improvisation performance.

Every evening in the Jerusalem Cinematheque corridors, before the neuroscientific lecture, ELSC's promising young scientists from different laboratories presented their latest discoveries in the field of brain research.

A special event for children ages 6-12 was part of the festivities as well, with a lecture on the topic of three dimensional vision (followed by the film, “Lego Batman Movie”). Furthermore, two different event for 350 high school students (ages 15-18) from the Arab sector and from the Jewish sector were held during the morning time.

On Saturday, March 18, 2017, a special event was held in HaMiffal, an old mansion that houses local artists’ workshops and different cultural events. Three outstanding Ph.D. students revealed the secrets of their research over a pint of beer. An additional event was held on March 19th at the Mazya House and included a lecture about Alzheimer’s Disease and a theater performance by the Theater Company Jerusalem. Overall, more than 2,500 people participated in all these events.

Starting March 12th, a unique art exhibition was presented at The Jerusalem Cinematheque. The exhibition, “Brain Sciences | Not a Child’s Play” presented 15 playful artworks, created by ELSC members and students, following an inspirational workshop with the artist Hanoch Piven. Random objects were placed on a clean, colorful slate, thereby taking on a graceful and humorous meaning. By means of collage and assemblage of ready-made materials, the participants created portraits revealing the subject of their research. The decoding of the playful art works is done with the aid of images from everyday life in the field of science. The images were presented alongside texts that describe concepts from the world of brain research, advanced research methods, and glimpses into the inner world of scientists.

During the “Art and Brain Week”, ELSC also celebrated the conclusion of its one-of-a-kind course for 10th grade students, the NeuroYouth. This course, which consisted of 18 meetings and included frontal lectures, lab visits and a brain dissection, was concluded in a special event where the

students presented scientific posters they have prepared in order to showcase research questions they came up with during the year and possible ways to approach these questions.

ELSC's activity in the Brain Awareness week enabled researchers to approach the general public and reaffirm the connection between the academy and its surrounding community. The activities for children and youth enriches their school curriculum and opens new horizons. It is likely that these students may return to the field of neuroscience as university students and researchers in the future. The various activities arranged by ELSC to promote brain sciences among the community, were subject to public interest and were covered by the media in a wide range of newspapers, television channels and radio shows. Thus, the "Art and Brain Week" brought the information about innovative brain research to numerous interested audiences.

Related Links
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYq7WW565SZi97buUgEtdekoHWor-3z0y
http://elsc.huji.ac.il/content/brain-awareness-week-2017-art-and-brain
www.facebook.com/ELSC.Brain/

16. Settimana del Cervello (Brain Week)

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

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BAW was organized by the University of Trieste and SISSA/ISAS (International School for Advanced Studies) with the partnership of Immaginario Scientifico Science Centre. It was sponsored by FENS/DANA Alliance for brain initiatives and the Major of Trieste, under the patronage of the Italian Society for Neuroscience.

Eleven events were organized, which were spread all over the week, as described in the following.

Theatre: Twilight of the Symbionts.

Two actors red a story written by a well known scientist and writer in the field of science fiction. The message was not to rely too much on technology and the net, maintaining an appropriate level of understanding and autonomy.

Conference: healthy aging

The right style of life of the elderly told by a famous psychiatrist. The senior is fragile by definition, even when he has medical problems. Added to this are the difficulties linked to life-changing which necessarily calls for adoption of new habits and new attitudes. To counter the physical aging it is necessary to adopt specific strategies of resilience. The promotion of active aging is the focus of many health initiatives, as well as legislative initiatives. Movement and social participation are means of promoting active aging strategies.

Two neuroscience café: vaccines and brain power

In the first cafè, a scientist and an expert in epidemiology focused the topic, reassuring on the use of vaccines, focusing on those for the nervous system, for the health of children.

In the second cafè, a neuroscientist and a pharmacologist dealt on the misuse of drug to enhance the power of the brain.

Conference: Diet for the Brain

The brain is normally able to select the necessary nutrients from the diet, but diet can strongly influence the health of the body, hence the brain. The president of the Italian Society for Neuroscience illustrated the need for a proper diet for the wellbeing of body and brain. Particular attention was given to the Mediterranean diet, which was common in Italy years ago, but has now been replaced by the use of more expensive and less healthy food.

Olympic Games of Neuroscience

Olympic games of Neuroscience; regional stage of the International Brain Bee. The 5 best students attended the competition from 13 schools of Friuli Venezia Giulia. During the race, three students were selected who will enter the national competition to be held in late April in Catania. The main purpose of the initiative is to stimulate interest in neuroscience, increasing young people's awareness of the "noblest" part of their body.

Workshop: stem day

One morning of conferences on stem cells for students in the high school of Trieste. It was an event for the diffusion and dissemination of biomedical science, with an emphasis on stem cells. The event offered a wide meditation on cultural expectations related to research, the scientist's everyday life and the formation and consolidation of mechanisms of knowledge.

Round Table: populism and technocracy

From journalism to politics, from corporate communications to marketing, the relationship between media, propaganda, fake news and various populism is increasingly controversial. But what does the scientific research do on these issues? It was shown how cognitive science can help to understand the mechanisms of construction of political consensus in modern democracies and what the analysis of social networks tell about the mechanisms of formation of opinions.

Open labs: Neuroscience in time and language
In a varied and interactive way, it has been shown how it is possible to "listen" to the electric symphony generated by the network of neurons and modulate it in order to understand phenomena that are the basis of our daily lives. It has been found out the processes by which we perceive the linguistic sounds, understand how clearly the meaning of a word depends on multiple sources of information, and how the brain processes the flow of time.

Didactic laboratory: Gaming with words. It seems that our brains learn which groups of letters appear together more often, becoming able to "predict" which letter or word will follows another. The event has been a fun creative workshop that involved participants in three capacities: writers, readers and young investigators.

Round table: the artificial intelligence
More and more artificial systems try to reproduce or exceed some of our capabilities. It was shown how neuroscience helps to understand how the brain is able to process a huge amount of information and what are the ethical and social implications of some recent artificial intelligence applications.

Related Links
http://www2.units.it/brain/BAW2017/



17. The brain from and for all ages

Dates and Duration: 13-17 March 2017

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The project proposed by the University of Verona for the Brain Awareness Week 2017 was titled “The Brain for and from all ages”. The objective was to elicit the attention of all citizens of all ages on brain research. We therefore started by visiting the Ippolito Nievo Primary School where Dr. Tiziana Cotrufo, Dr. Chiara Tesoriero and Dr. Roberta Bonafede met very enthusiastic kids. They demonstrated great curiosity about the general structure and function of the human brain and the differences existing in the brain between species. However, what indeed caught their attention was

the explanation of the development of nervous system and of the reasons why their brains are so plastic and so good at learning.

After the lecture time, kids had the opportunity to be engaged in enjoyable activities to apply knowledge: interesting “brain models” were circulated in pieces to be reconstructed and "brain puzzles" on synaptic transmission, brain areas as well as brains of different animals were prepared. Moreover, students made shades of different colours on the schematic templates illustrating brain areas and afterwards they placed their wonderfully made decorations on their heads.

During the second day, Dr. Chiara della Libera and Veronica Di Caro - collaborators of the Prof. Chelazzi’s group - went to the Catullo Junior High School to talk about the concept of attention: which brain areas are responsible for this executive function; differences between males and females in attention tasks. During the very interesting talk, young students were able to understand what attention means in term of cerebral activity and to test their own attention skills. In the course of the practical session, students participated in a typical experimental test, during which they could notice how females perform differently from males.

The Educandato Agli Angeli High School hosted the third event of our Brain Awareness Week. Teenagers (14-18 year old students) are often confronted with addictive behaviours. Therefore, main questions were centered on: why it is so easy to fall into addiction and so difficult to quit and what strategies might help to educate or re-educate the brain. Of note, many students here listened to the very interesting lectures given by Prof. Silvia Savazzi on visual illusions and Prof. Christian Chiamulera on addiction and virtual reality. In the practical session, they experimented on visual illusions as well as virtual reality as a new therapeutic tool for maladaptive behaviours.

We then moved on to adults; a round table discussion was organized for teachers and parents. Dr. Giuseppe Bertini was the facilitator of the event and he explained how we can take advantage of new research on the brain mechanisms of learning and memory for the kids. Teaching and stimulating learning, in general, can be significantly more effective when certain aspects of brain functions are better understood. In particular, the round table discussion focused on the role of positive reinforcement and repetition as well as the importance of sport, music, and a dash of emotions as precious tools to improve learning abilities.

Last but not least, we enjoyed the final day of the Brain Awareness Week with the students of the Università dell’Educazione Permanente, a continuing education university of Verona. For this occasion, Prof. Marina Bentivoglio gave a remarkable speech titled “My brain is old but still works!”. She spoke extensively on what neuroscience tells us about aging and how brain never stops to learn.

We would like to share with you some lovely feedbacks…..

“Grazie! La conferenza è stata per me e mio marito davvero interessante e illuminante. Leggeremo attentamente l'opuscolo e... Impareremo a invecchiare meglio! Complimenti per la vostra iniziativa e cordiali saluti.”

“Buonasera a voi, ho ricevuto il vostro opuscolo, grazie. Sono io che devo ringraziare sperando che la conferenza di oggi non rimanga unica.”

"Buonasera, prima del sonno ristoratore, mi era grato ringraziarLa ancora una volta per l'esperienza che ha proposto agli alunni di Quinta, davvero entusiasti. E per l'incontro di oggi, che ha aperto molti sentieri. Specialmente grazie per la Vostra passione e dedizione."

Related Links
https://youtu.be/ra19hFheNHA
http://www.univrmagazine.it/sito/vedi_articolo.php?id=4627
RT @chchiamulera #BrainAwarenessWeek in #Verona #brainweek
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j6jey7o25qwzxv4/AADHzi9q5aiCQ1qhW05C0_t3a?dl=0
More pictures and video:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kph7lv3tkgvq3ey/AADr181eMo5KJy3Wq_YiKfiza?dl=0

18. BAW 2017 - Reggio Emilia

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

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13th March - Opening Conference: From successful aging to dementia.
150 participants. We talked about dementia, successful aging and effective coping strategies that can help people to prevent dementia, illustrating the research news on the topic

14th March - Dyslexic Grow: Difficulties and Strategies for Success
70-80 participants including parents of children with learning difficulties, patients, teachers, educators and professionals; we talk about dyslexia, news on diagnosis and treatments, perspectives on the new italian legislation related to the topic (our Neuropsychology Unit director is discussing these days a new legislative proposal at the Italian Parliament).

17th March - Lectio Magistralis - The musical brain: unexpected resources for cognitive enpowerment.

120 participants. Dr. Enrico Ghidoni spoke about the relationship between music and the brain, and the therapeutic potential of music; he illustrated clinical cases from a neuropsychological point of view and he explained the effect of music on the brain. Lastly, he explained how music can help treat and prevent dyslexia.

18th March - Test Your Brain: Free cognitive state screening
We tested 157 people (pics are not available due to privacy). More than 10 neuropsychologist and 4 neurologists were involved. Each screening session lasted about 15-20 minutes. After the screening we also answered general questions related to dementia and MCI. Most of the subjects were within the normal range; about 20% of the subjects scored low on screening tests and they were invited for a further neurological assessment at our Unit.

Total attendance: Over 500 people, students, and health care staff have attended the events.

We received compliments from the local health authorities and hospital's director. This was the first year that the hospital organized events for the BAW. Several local associations were involved in this project.

Given the positive outcomes, similar events will be organized next year.

Full videos of the events are available upon request.

Related Links
https://we.tl/SL8LyfKToC
http://www.asmn.re.it/successo-per-i-quattro-appuntamenti-della-settimana-del-cervello-centinaia-i-cittadini-che-hanno-pre



19. Neem je brein waar (Sense your brain)

Dates and Duration: 18 March 2017

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We, the departments of neuroscience and psychiatry, hosted an open day in our faculty building. Over 200 visitors participated in our event, which was divided in a morning and an afternoon session. All visitors needed to register on our website. Here they also had to choose their own program, since the workshops and lab-tours could only handle so many people.

All participants were welcomed with coffee and tea and a 30 minutes introductory lecture from one of the professors about the brain, a 'brain 101'. After this, the visitors participated in over 20 workshops, lab-tours and lectures, and enjoyed the neuroscience art-gallery. The visitors we're help in finding their way in our departments with the help of the volunteers, all students and employers of our departments.

The 20 minutes interactive workshops and lab-tours took place 3 times per morning and afternoon session. Here visitors learned about real human and animal brains, they grew stem-cells, experienced auditory illusions, got their balance tested, underwent hand-eye coordination experiments, tested the limits of their visual system, extracted DNA from bananas, learned about brain simulations and experienced what it means to work in a state-of-the-art laboratory.

Next to the workshops, the visitors could also enjoy the following lectures: How the visual system works, using optical illusions. A lecture about non-human senses were the visitors learned about e.g. echo location and whiskers. A third lecture was a dynamic discussion. Here the visitors could ask anything brain-related to the professor, who, with the help of online illustrations and examples, answered all questions. Also, there were two ethically challenging lectures: A lecture about the use of stem-cells in science and a lecture about animal research.

In the creative corner, children, and adults, could clay and draw their own neurons and brains and learned interactively about how neurons communicate.

During the event, the visitors enjoyed coffee and tea and something to eat: muffins, bread-rolls, fruit and candy in the forms of brains. At the end of the sessions, all visitors were handed a goody-bag with information about neuroscience and our departments, and a little souvenir in the form of a brain-stress-ball as a reminder of this day.

We've got a lot of positive feedback from the visitors about the open day. They've indicated that they've learned a lot about the brain, neuroscience and research in general.

Over 40 volunteers, including professors, post-docs, PhD and master students, helped out to make this day a great success. They registered people at the entrance, they ran workshops, they facilitated the lectures, they helped people to find their ways and they made sure there was coffee, tea and food for everyone. The organizing committee was formed by 8 PhD-students of the departments of neuroscience and psychiatry.

Related Links
https://brain-awareness-rotterdam.nl
https://www.nemokennislink.nl/activiteiten/neem-je-brein-waar



20. Brain: facts and myths

Dates and Duration: 13-18 March 2017

Contact:
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During the week 13-18 of March 2017, world Brain Awareness Week events took place at the Nencki Institute. This year we organized five lectures under motto: “Brain: facts and myths”. The lectures approached the topics that are controversial and raise wide public interest. On Monday 13th, inaugural lecture was given by dr Lidia Jureczko from The II Clinic of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care of the Warsaw Medical University, who talked about the nature of coma and available therapies. On March 14th we hosted professor Jerzy Leszek, professor of psychiatry at the Medical University in Wroclaw, vice –director of the Psychiatry Department and head of Alzheimer’s Disease Lab, with a lecture on new facts about Alzheimer’s disease origin and therapy. On Wednesday March 15th an interesting lecture was given by dr Mirosław Czuczwar from The II Clinic of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care of Lublin Medical University, on toxic influence of anesthesia on the brain. Next day, on Thursday, dr Bogusław Habrat from the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, in a competent and balanced way talked about the pros and cons of “medical marijuana”. On Friday, March 17th we hosted a renowned expert on dyslexia, professor Marta Bogdanowicz, the founder of Polish Dyslexia Association and lecturer at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, who

presented paradoxes, facts and myths on dyslexia and talked about life of people suffering from this disorder. All the lectures raised a great deal of interest. The audience enjoyed the possibility to ask many questions, and after the lecture, to personally engage in conversation with the lecturer.

On the first day of the Week the prize for the best model of neuron was awarded. There were two winners: in age category “Lower Secondary School” the prize went to Piotr Walczak, the student of the 3rd class of The Duchess Izabela Czartoryska Lower Secondary School No 93 in Warsaw, the author of an ecologic neuron, build of pieces of carrot leaves, parsley root and cherry tomatos. The second winner, in age category “secondary school”, was Małgorzata Walczak from Cyprian Kamil Norwid Secondary School in Wyszków, who created a sophisticated neuron-candlestick. TU POWINNY BYĆ LINKI DO OBRAZKÓW ALBO OBRAZKI _ WTEDY MOJA WSTAWKA NIEPOTRZEBNA

On Saturday 18th March the Brain Day for Kids took place, organized in the exhibition hall of the Institute’s main building and in the adjacent seminar rooms . For our young guests we prepared a bunch of displays, presentations, games and tests, as well as the neuroanatomical exhibition: “Brain: how it looks from the outside and inside”. The interest in the event has surpassed our wildest expectations. We hosted over 500 visitors of various ages, from kindergarten children to seniors, from all Mazovia district, not only from Warsaw. For the youngest guests we had rebuses, colouring pages and brain modeling from plasticine. Older ones could visit stalls presenting e.g. the anatomy and cellular structure of the brain, human brain and body models, visual illusions and modern equipment for investigations of animal behaviour. Many children were eager to have a short EEG examination carried out. As always, crowds were gathering at the tables with ants and other insects. Neuroanatomical exhibition attracted young and old. The visitors were waiting in queues to see microscopic preparations from various animal brains.

The success of this year Brain Awareness Week was a result of hard work of many people. The Nencki PhD Student Council made a great effort to assemble a crew, and during Saturday the members of the Council had an eye on everything. The student crew worked very hard, talking, presenting, explaining and discussing things with their guests. Also, students from Student Neurobiology Association of the Warsaw University were present with their presentation and Students associated in Student Anatomical Association of Warsaw Medical University presented professional models of human brain and body. ANIMALAB provided for presentation modern equipment for animal behaviour studies as well as EEG device, which was operated by Federico Cardona Rocha from AD Instruments. The sculls and brains for exhibition were kindly lent out by The Department of Paleobiology and Evolution at the Faculty of Biology of the Warsaw University. The event was supported by European Dana Alliance for the Brain (EDAB), Nencki Institute, Polish Society for Neuroscience and Polish Academy of Sciences.

Related Links

http://en.nencki.gov.pl/brain-awareness-week-at-the-nencki-institute

https://pl-pl.facebook.com/TydzienMozgu/



21. Let´s play with brains!

Dates and Duration: 13-31 March 2017

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1. Neuroscientists went to schools

From March 13th to 17th 2017 neuroscientists from iMed.ULisboa visited kindergartens, a basic school and high schools in the Lisbon area. There, the investigators performed oral presentations with audio/visual projections, focusing on the brain and its components; neurons and synapses and neuronal death. Models of human brain and neurons were used and several games were played.

Number of persons reached: 185

2. Neuroscience Art Exhibition

In March 18th 2017, general public joined us for a Neuroscience Art Exhibition at Fábrica do Braço de Prata, an iconic cultural center in Lisbon. In this event, plastic-artists, musicians and scientists showed their emerging work in the neuroscience field.

Number of persons reached: around 500

Photografer: Abílio Silva

Related Links
http://imed.ulisboa.pt/news/neuroscience-art-exhibition/
https://www.facebook.com/events/699172306931539/
http://www.bracodeprata.com

22. My Curious Brain - Third edition

Dates and Duration: 13-15 March 2017

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The third edition of My Curious Brain was a successful event. This international event was hosted by the Faculty of Psychology in the Department of Psychology, University of Bucharest. The event brought together specialists from various fields (psychologists, actors, researchers, experts in neuroscience and biology). My Curious Brain was organized on three levels dedicated to (a) cognitive science, (b) neuroscience and (c) arts. The variety offered by the event attracted about 400 people. Thus, My Curious Brain has achieved its goal of bringing information about the most important advances in cognitive science and neuroscience. It was visible online via its dedicated Facebook page – totaling 1469 likes & 1467 followers. News about the event were promoted on the radio (ex: www.rfi.ro), on the web page of the University of Bucharest and the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology.

The materials provided by the www.dana.org were used as template for the event's promotional materials. Given the increasing visibility of "My Curious Brain" from the first to the third edition, we can definitely state that the participants have a better understanding of what FENS represents. Pictures from the event can be accessed on the event's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/constientizareacreierului/).

23. Brain Travel

Dates and Duration: 1 March-1 April 2017

Contact:
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The Brain Awareness Week (BAW) 2017 organized by CNC.IBILI of University of Coimbra happened in Coimbra between 1st of March and 1st of April. Our project - The Brain Travel - aimed to increase the scientific culture in neuroscience as well as engage society in scientific research with the following activities:

1. Brains travel to school

Neuroscientists went to Elementary, Middle and High Schools, Senior Universities and Associations of disabled people to deliver neuroscience information in different formats: hands-on activities, games, formal lectures, and experiments.

2. Brains in the lab

During BAW researchers from CNC.IBILI opened the doors of their laboratories and received visits from different publics that can explore different themes in neuroscience as: Can we enhance our brain?; Eye as a window for brain; Study of human behavior; How do we have energy to the brain?;How neurons die in Alzheimer´s disease?;Neurons, obesity and aging; Brain development.

3. Brains travel by BUS

In partnership with SMTUC, the Buses in all the city had some scientific information about brain. Additionally, we promoted public informal conversations in Buses in Coimbra where neuroscientists talked about their work to people that are in the BUS.

4. Brain buskers

The neuroscientists performed hands-on activities, games, and brain teasers, in a public garden, designed for the public to understand brain structure and functions, why brain health is important and how they can behave to protect it.

5. Brain comics

During BAW we lauched a comic strip about neuroscience basis and neurodegenerative diseases in a national newspaper - Público. Público is one of the most prestigious daily newspaper in Portugal.

6. Brains travel through the radio

In a partnership with RUC, we produced radio contents to explain or demystify myths about the brain and communicate scientific messages.The contents will air every day again during BAW and will be shared in our social networks and website. RUC dedicated a programme (1 hour) to neuroscience with the participation of scientists from CNC.IBILI.

7. Brains in Theatre

CNC.IBILI researchers developed an art&science workshop – Dar corpo ao Cérebro - in partnership with theatre company Marionet about Brain function and the relationship with the other body systems. This workshop was integrated in the theatre play The Secret Gland.

Our activities involved 60 researchers and reached directly about 1500 people from different publics in the following activities: Brains travel to schools, Brains in the lab, Brains travel by bus and Brain buskers. Additionally, we produced a comic strip (Brain Voyages) was published in Público, one of the most prestigious daily newspaper in Portugal, that reached 33 000 people - daily circulation number. The news published about our BAW project in regional newspapers (example: Diário de Beiras e Diário de Coimbra) reached about 32 000 readers. The national TV public channel (RTP) produced a small TV content about our activity Brains travel by Bus that will be launched this month – RTP has about 92 000 viewers. In Social media (CNC facebook) we made 37 posts about BAW that had 59 000 visualizations and total of 8 600 likes, shares and comments.

Related Links

http://www.cnbc.pt/outreach/outreach00_1.asp

https://www.facebook.com/pg/CNC.UC/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1030941887007299

24. Deciphering the Magic Brain Codes

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

Contact:

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This year we have organized the 2nd edition of BAW in our city. We have tried our best to offer our community something new and exciting and this year we have doubled our last year success having more than 750 participants.

This time our activities included:
1) interactive lectures for senior school children (14-18 years old), in which we explained the general principles of brain structure and functioning, the methods used in neuroscience research, and the impact of various factors (nutrition, stress, sleep, drugs, etc.) on brain activity. We also used this opportunity to tell about different recently emerged russian university programs in Neuroscience and possible research careers. We planned these lectures to be around 90 min long but sometimes there were so many questions from school children that we had to answer them for one more hour!

2) A short cycle of open-public science-popular lectures on Neuro-Economics and Decision Making aiming at university students from socio-economic fields (18-26 years old), entrepreneurs wishing to conduct a neuro-marketing research and anyone interested in brain functioning and decision making.

3) Two open-public science-popular lectures given by invited speakers from Moscow. Based on our experience, we expected the number of participants to be around 100- 150 but in fact we had 280 registered attendees. We relate this effect to the fact that the speakers were invited and people did not want to miss an opportunity to meet a scientist from another city. Right now we are considering to organize in the coming months two more lectures with invited specialists from other cities and research centers.

4) Do-It-Yourself workshops for children. These workshops were of two types:
* For 6-10-year old children they included a short talk followed by games and hand- crafting exercises allowing to learn the basis of brain organization and functioning. We had 4 different programs: “Emotions: meet the heroes of ‘Inside Out’ ”, “How to read your mind?”, “Brain: let’s get acquainted!”, “Brain. From jelly-fish to humans.”

* For older participants (10+) we proposed a completely new program “Deciphering the Magic Brain Codes”: under our guidance children and their parents had an opportunity to create their first brain-computer interfaces using simple EEG systems, like Olimex EEG-SMT, learning how to measure and interpret brain signals. Because this experience was so exciting and we could not find the room for everyone wishing to attend these DIY workshops (we had to restrict the number of participant in a group) we have taken a decision to continue these workshops on demand.

In general, our feeling is that we have succeeded in making our BAW interesting and engaging. It was a great pleasure to see people coming and saying that it was very nice last year but this year is was even better! So, we will try to keep this track on!



25. 4th St.-Petersburg Brain Awareness Week «In the Face of Addiction»

Dates and Duration: 13-18 March 2017

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Co-organiser:
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Schedule:

BAW «In the Face of Addiction» based on a set of 12 everyday lectures on addiction problems given by experts in the appropriate fields. Thus within the Week we had the following lectures grouped in specific topics i.e. Day 1: basics review (lectures «Contemporary view on addictive disorders» by Dr. Yury Poljakov, and «Behavioural addictions: are they a problem or a habit?» by Prof. Alexey Egorov), Day 2: prophylaxis and resistance («Psychological support in prevention of addictions» by Dr. Olga Tiussova, and «Brain and environment: what is more important in prophylaxis of addictions?» by Prof. Elena Nikolaeva), Day 3: possibilities of cognitive control («Neuromarketing as a modern approach to analyse compulsive behaviour» by Dr. Natalia Galkina), Day 4: chemical addictions («Dependence on «legal» drugs: statistics» by Dr. Marina Vetrova, «Alcohol abuse: brain mechanisms, and the treatment strategies», and «Marijuana: specificity of addiction» both by Dr. Oleg Goncharov), Day 5: non-drug dependence («Cyberpathology: addicts of virtual reality» by Dr. Vlada Titova, and «Neurobiology of food addiction» by Dr. Anna Vasiljeva), Day 6: hypnotics addiction risk («Sleep and disease» by Dr. Sergej Vataev, «Non-drug vs hypnotics possibilities of insomnia treatment» by Dr. Galina Poljakova, and «Sleep disorders and rehabilitation» by Prof. Elena Melnikova).

For the interested people we organised an excursion to the labs involved in experimental studies of addiction (Department of Psychopharmacology, Valdman Institute of Pharmacology).

Additionally talks were given for schoolchildren throughout the Week ("Healthy life" for 8th and 9th graders by clinical psychologist Diana Starunskaja, and "Modeling of addictive behaviour" for 10th and 11th graders by Dr. Ilya Sukhanov).

The slam competition of young scientists finalised the BAW. Slam is the competition among 10-min talks where the winner is defined by a noise level of applause. Slam contained talks «Autism, will, addiction» (Margarita Gajdamakina), «Sensitisation: why smoke in the company?» (Antonina Dolgorukova), «Compulsive behaviour: why smoke at stops?» (Artem Dorotenko), «Students from the big and small cities: aggression and tolerance» (Anastasija Magerja), «Why schizophrenics smoke? » (Ilya Sukhanov), «Invisible epidemic: why we do not control HIV infection?» (Marina Vetrova). Marina Vetrova has got the loudest cheering and won the competition.

Advertising:

The contribution of FENS and DANA was acknowledged in printed materials and on a web-site of the event (brainweekspb.org). Pavlov First St.-Petersburg State Medical University made significant contribution to advertise the BAW events by including them to a special printed Calendar issue, and posting an announcement on the University web-site (http://1spbgmu.ru/ru/nauka/konferentsii/2733-13-18-marta-2017-g-brain-awareness-week-mezhdunarodnaya-nedelya-mozga-vne-zavisimosti). Moreover, in social network the event was announced and promoted by the BAW_spb group (https://vk.com/club88727454). The co-organising institutions put the corresponding notifications on their web-sites: Pavlov Institute of Physiology (http://www.infran.ru/News/News-Rus.htm) and Institute of Human Brain (http://www.ihb.spb.ru/Index.html).

All these efforts ensured a very diverse and representative audience.

Statistics:
The events of BAW were attended by ca. 750 listeners (90-200 daily). Mainly they were represented by undergraduates from ~12 institutions (47.3%). Other groups included PhD students (13.3%), psychologists (16.0%), neuroscientists (6.8%), teachers (7%). Increased number of general public (~10%) and ~200 pupils got access to experts for hard questions.

Feedback:
On the last days we asked visitors to fill in the questionnaires and mark: the best lecture, liked or disliked events, and useful talks. In sum 78% of attendees considered BAW events useful; 89% liked it. «Brain and environment» by Prof. Elena Nikolaeva and «Cyberpathology» by Dr. Vlada Titova were chosen as the best lectures. We received a lot of warm regards and thanks in the questionnaires.

Post-hoc:
On brainweekspb.org web-site the video-records or presentations of lectures will be uploaded (with authors' permissions only). Video-report on the event is posted on the Pavlov First St.-Petersburg State Medical University channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCyYQK5bP44). Post-release articles are under preparation for «Pulse» and «Saint Petersburg Vedomosti» newspapers, «Machines and Mechanisms» magazine.

BAW main goal to provide comprehensive knowledge and education on addiction brain mechanisms, risk factors, and possible control was achieved.

Related Links
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCyYQK5bP44
www.brainweekspb.org
Social network group: https://vk.com/club88727454
First Pavlov State Medical University: http://1spbgmu.ru/ru/nauka/konferentsii/2733-13-18-marta-2017-g-brain-awareness-week-mezhdunarodnaya-nedelya-mozga-vne-zavisimosti
Pavlov Institute of Physiology Announcement: http://www.infran.ru/News/News-Rus.htm



26. "Mozak u zemlji snova (The brain in the wonderland of sleep)"

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

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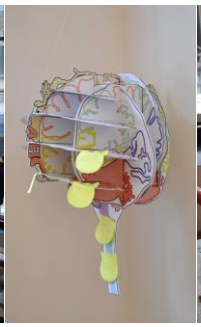
This year's Brain Awareness week in Belgrade was held with the slogan "Mozak u zemlji snova (The brain in the wonderland of sleep)" and the main topic that we covered with numerous lectures, workshops and exhibitions was the neuroscience of sleep. The main event was the interactive exhibition, loc. Gallery of Science and Technology SANU with the exhibition of posters describing the different aspects of sleep and interactive following program – brain models showing how different regions of brain work together when we are sleeping, computer games and children's workshops aimed at explaining the children the basic workings of the circadian rhythms in humans and other animals trough an interactive workshop which includes drawing, making dream catchers and small interactive lectures. Besides that, a very important part of this year's program were populating lectures loc. Student's cultural center of Belgrade and Gallery of Science and Technology SANU : 15 science. , held by reputable professors and PhD scientists from partner organizations that with were covering the relationships between music and sleep, nutrition and sleep, human-computer interfaces and more. Our partners from the Laboratory of Electrophysiology did a special tour of their lab and held neuroscience lectures to the students. Also, the members of the Mensa society in Serbia did a series of workshops in collaboration with us to us that were aimed mostly at young children and covered some basic learning and memory exercises . This years' program was well covered by the media and our PR team made appearances in the Serbian tv-stations, radio shows and newspapers promoting the event, and promoting the idea of science popularization.

Related Links
https://www.facebook.com/BawSrb/


27. BCN-Brain Awareness Week: ask the neuroscientist!

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

Contact:
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This is the 22nd Edition of the BAW we have successfully coordinated in Barcelona, reaching excellent results as in past editions. This year we continued engaging society in neurosciences and reached a broader audience by targeting our activities to new public. The programme included activities for general public, students (primary, secondary and undergraduate) and specific target audiences (patients and media professionals), including from talks, workshops and school activities to a concert. School-specific activities will include "Little Neuroscientist", in which the researchers will visit the students at their schools to give talks and make some experiments about the brain, coordinated with the Institute of Education of Barcelona. The activity "Science for the patients: Why you should get involved in clinical research?" reached around 80-90 attendants (both at the event and through streaming) and was a theater coordinated by PhD students.

The event "Listening the Brain": The Brain Polyphony concert presented amazing results of a research project and combined talsk by scientists with a demonstration of the brain polyphony concert. The audience was about 40 people (the maximum seating). The closure of the week was "Neuroscience it's YOU!" amind-blowing event heavily attended that included poetry, science pills, neuroconcert and a Neuroquiz. More than100 persons came to the Harlem Jazz Club.

Related Links

http://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20170314/42878379672/barcelona-celebra-la-semana-mundial-del-cerebro.html/

http://www.diariodesevilla.es/salud/vuelta-tuerca-investigacion-cerebro_0_1118588666.html/

https://www.upf.edu/biomed/es/actualitat/0313_setmana_mundial_cervell_2017.html/

http://www.lainformacion.com/ciencia-y-tecnologia/investigacion/LHospitalet-Llobregat-divulgar-mecanismos-cerebro_0_1006700510.html



28. Animal models for understanding brain Function

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

Contact:
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The delivery of our BAW to give the visitor a clear idea of the importance of basic research. The second is to bring the actual way of working in a research lab (the size of a fly fish, chick and mouse embryo brains, the advantages or disadvantages of using one or other animal model, the transgenesis as fundamental tool for understanding brain and neural development. The ultimate target is to show the importance and tight connecteion between the advances in Brain function basic research and the new findings in Neurology and Neuropathy.

Statistics
This Year we have increase the number of Open Days up to 5 days (monday13 to friday17)
40 Schools visited our Institute
2400 people visited our booths
110 Volunteers helped during the BAW
14 exhibitors booths were performed for the BAW2017
20 different oral presentations/talks were given to the visitors from our neuroscientists.

Related Links
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZKLJMT5Qzg
http://in.umh.es/BAW.html
https://es-es.facebook.com/semanadelcerebroalicante/
https://twitter.com/BAW_Alicante
http://www.diarioinformacion.com/alicante/2017/03/17/duele-quiten-cerebro/1872848.html

29. What is in your Brain in Health and Disease?

Dates and Duration: 9-16 March 2017

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We have prepared four diffusion activities for a wide range of public, from child to adults. Our proposal included primary and high school students, undergraduate and master students and general public. All events were organized by the Institute for Biomedical Research (IIBM) in collaboration with the Autonoma University of Madrid (UAM), the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the Center for Networked Biomedical Research on Neurodegenerative Diseases (CIBERNED). Lectures were aimed to the general public and undergraduate students and were focused on scientific tools, techniques and experimental models used to study brain diseases. The objectives of the other activities were to teach primary and high school students how the brain is organized.

9th March:
Tittle:Scientific techniques to study the brain. Assistants: 50 undergraduate and master students.
Place: IIBM.

14th March:
Tittle:What is in your brain? Create a neuron. Assistants: 75 children from 8 to 10 years-old. Place: Eijo-Garay Primary School.

15th March:
Tittle:Observe the brain with your mobile phone. Assistants: 35 students from Cardenal Cisneros High school.
Place:IIBM.

16th March:
Tittle:How do scientists study brain disease? Assistants: General public (45 people)
Place:IIBM

Related Links
https://www.iib.uam.es/portal/en/home
https://www.facebook.com/IIBm.CSIC.UAM
@IIBmCSICUAM
https://ciberned.es/noticias/agenda-ciberned/1040-semana-internacional-del-cerebro-2.html

More pictures:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/py0sq8rgylydlxr/AAB9fMpdWOF0eSfFrqWoAA8Va?dl=0

30. DeStress and ReShape your Brain!

Dates and Duration: 13-19 March 2017

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During 5 days I have visited 8 primary and secondary schools in the Canton of Neuchâtel districts of: Cortaillod, Bevaix, Gorgier, Saint-Blaise, la Tène, and Neuchâtel Terraux (age range 6-15 years old). I planned 2 different powerpoint presentations adapted to the age of school students. The first focused on introducing the neuron, brain and ADHD to primary school kids and the second presentation focused on brain development, anxiety and stress for secondary school kids.

In addition to the powerpoint presentation, I have also prepared some hands-on activities like construct a neuron, or construct a brain with play doh. At the end of the presentation and activities the winners received a gift (either a rubber brain or a precious stone).

This 5 days plan was built on a strong belief that a new approach is needed: a structured but flexible model that facilitates neuroscience/brain knowledge development and implementation into health promotion and prevention as early as possible targeting school age children and adolescents.

This new approach is bridging the gap between neuroscience findings and the general public, especially children/adolescents and their teachers. Rapid, breakthrough change cannot happen in the field of childhood-teens mental health and learning unless neuroscientist, people, organizations, and systems learn from each other's successes and failures. This requires a cluster for asking and answering questions such as: how to prevent stress from damaging/shaping the child-teen brain? Indeed, teachers need to learn more about what it is that is shaping kids' brains. Kids need to learn

more about what it is that is shaping their brains. I have received very good feedback from teachers acknowledging the importance of such an event.

Our target was to let them learn what is the brain, what is shaping it for better and for worth. The objective of the DeStress and Shape your Brain workshops is to foster understanding of anxiety, stress, ADHD from an entertaining neuroscientific view so that these children-teens are prepared to prevent and manage stressful situations now and in the future. Most importantly, I have accompanied them into understanding that they can re-shape their brains.

Related Links

www.endoxaneuroscience.com

https://www.facebook.com/endoxaneuro

https://twitter.com/endoxaneuro

https://www.linkedin.com/in/endoxa-neuroscience-sàrl-b17b86b3/

31. Our Brain II – Brain Awareness Week 2017 Activity for 5-15-year-old students in Istanbul-Kocaeli Area

Dates and Duration: 13-18 March 2017

Location of project: ISTANBUL & KOCAELI

Contact:

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In this year's event, faculty members from different universities have visited TED Istanbul College Nursery (60 students), Utopya Private Primary and Secondary School (80 students) Gebze Technical University nursery (20 students), TED Istanbul Secondary School (6th graders, 80 students), students from various schools gathered at Sancaktepe Science and Experiment Center (80 students), and students from Sile area at the Forest School of Sile (80 students), increasing our outreach to around 400 students.

Faculty members had given a brief presentation (5-10 min, depending on the level of students) on their research area, including brain imaging, neuroscience, neurobiology, and learning. Prof. Dr. Isil Kurnaz (project coordinator) is a Molecular Neurobiologist at Gebze Technical University and Asst. Prof. Gulayse Ince Dunn is a Molecular and Developmental Neurobiologist at Koc University; they have talked to students about "neurons" (with their "hair" or dendrites, and their "arms" or axons) and neuron networks. Prof. Dr. Kemal Turker is a neuroanatomist at Koc University; they have talked to students about the lobes of the brain, how the brain can be "fooled" by optical illusions etc. Asst. Prof. Esin Ozturk Isik is a Biomedical Engineer at Bogazici University, and Dr. Zeynep Fırat is a Radiologist at Yeditepe University Hospital; they showed the kids what brain imaging is and how the doctors "take pictures or movies" of the brain.

Coordination Molecular and cellular neurobiology Prof. Dr. Isil Kurnaz, GTU, Molecular Biology and Genetics (IK)
Asst. Prof. Gülayşe İnce Dunn, Koc U, Molecular Biology and Genetics (GID) IK IK

Prof. Dr. Kemal Türker,
Koc University, Physiology GID
Cognition IK IK IK IK IK
Brain imaging Dr. Zeynep Fırat, Yeditepe University Hospital, Radiology (ZF) Asst. Prof. Esin Öztürk Işık, Bogazici U, Biomed Eng (EOI)

ZF ASSISTANTS Emine, Oya, Melis, Zeynep Oya, Melis Merve, Başak, Yiğit, Esra Sevim, Dilek Betül Melis, Zeynep, Sedef, Tuğay

We discussed what brain means to us, its neural composition and how it helps us with our daily activities. Brain imaging systems and their usage in certain conditions were mentioned. Students had a chance to see how the brain can be “fooled” by optic illusions. They were given various activities at specific stations such as juggling, optical illusions, exploring brain model and so on. Activity sheets, caps and brain-shaped erasers were given to the children. 6th grades were also asked to prepare slogans.

The activities were shared on social media, mainly on our lab’s Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/AxanLab), laboratory website (https://axanlab.com/outreach/), TUBAS (Neuroscience Society of Turkey) Brain Awareness Week Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/BeyinFarkindaligiHaftasiBAW/), Facebook pages of partner schools or science centers.

Related Links
https://axanlab.com/outreach/
https://www.facebook.com/pg/AxanLab/photos/

32. Brain Awareness Week Activities of the Neuroscience Society of Turkey (NST) Ege District- Inside My Brain

Dates and Duration: 13-29 March 2017

Location of project: Izmir, Manisa, Denizli

Contact:

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BAW activities of NST Ege District were performed in three cities, Izmir (by G. Sengul, B. Balkan, A. Keser), Manisa (E. Adıgüzel) and Denizli (N. Kutlu). We had a high BAW media coverage with a radio program on Turkish Radio and television (TRT Radio 1), three TV programs (in each of the cities), and numerous articles on newspapers and internet on both brain health and BAW activities. A press bulletin was distributed throughout all the media of Turkey. The activities included public conferences and five high school conferences in three cities. Movie evenings with a theme on brain disorders with discussions with a neurologist, a psychiatrist and a neuroscientist were organized. A simultaneous chess game was organized in the city of Manisa. Neuroquiz in a big shopping center was made to public with five questions on brain anatomy. Two lab tours were organized to the neuroanatomy lab of Ege University for 60 high school students, real brain specimens were shown. Nursery school activities were made to 40 students of 3-5 years of age, with drawings of the brain and a short lecture explaining the brain and its functions. For the schools visited, books and brain anatomy canvas posters were given as gifts. A brain book was given to each student in the lab tour, caps and mugs were widely distributed to students and public. Posters on brain health were distributed to public hospitals and schools.

Related Links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6WsBHY_L3A

https://www.facebook.com/TUBASBeyinFarkindaligiHaftasi/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bx-kgpAa_q4

33. Brain Awareness Week Ukraine 2017

Dates and Duration: 13-18 March 2017

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During 13-18 of March 2017, NGO «M-Gate», in cooperation with Bogomolets Institute of Physiology under NASU, NGO “Unia Scientifica” and Kyiv Academic University hosted a public event named «Brain Awareness Week Ukraine 2017»

During one week people from different educational and social backrounds had a chance to visit lectures from well-known specialists in following specialties:
-Psychosomatics;
-Neurosurgery;
-Neurology;
-Psychiatrics;
-Infectious diseases of nervous system;
-Physiology of nervous system.

Overall amount of people who visited these lectures is 850 persons. Most active participants, who answered lecturer’s questions and asked their own had a chance to win small souvenirs with our event’s logos.

For students, studying biomedical sciences 4 workshops and 2 seminars have been hosted : MRI diagnostics of nervous system’s pathology (12 participants), epineural suture technique (12 participants), clinical Electroencephalography (20 participants), measurement of pain (16 participants) and seminars in pathological physiology (17 participants) and pathomorphology of nervous system (70 participants). Seminars were followed by testing, and 3 awardees with best results won short fellowships in department of patomorphology. Overall 147 persons participated in these activities.

We are glad to inform you, that famous prof. Gal Richter-Levin has visited our event and participated in panel discussion on topic of PTSD with specialists in neurophysiology, psychophysiology and social psychology, where he shared his experience and answered multiple questions. After that he read a lecture for broader audience called «Stress and the Brain»

Last day of our event was especially popular for general audience (and different age groups, including children) – so called «Days of Science». Scientific demonstrations and presentations

(studying histological specimens under microscopes, watching genetically modified mice with medusas genes under UV light, measurement of body sensibility and experiments on behavioral patterns), 11 popular science lectures (on how music, arts, sleeping and cannabis affect our brain, comparing our brain with modern computers, genetical aspects of memory, the problem of schizophrenia, and many other topics), as well as competitive intellectual game, during which 13 teams were trying to win books – bestsellers in popular neuroscience. Children and everyone interested had access to study materials in Ukrainian.

Summing our event up - Brain Awareness Week Ukraine was visited by 1500 persons during different educational activities, and was followed by competition in neurosciences between schools – Ukrainian Brain Bee. It was very well received by public with many positive reviews on social networks.

Related Links
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvmYEHfQqL4
https://www.facebook.com/events/1642560672706978/

34. Wiring together: neuroplasticity in the brain

Dates and Duration: 11 March 2017

Location of project: London, United Kingdom

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Our conference was attended by over 160 people from different backgrounds including students of school age, university age and post-graduate students.

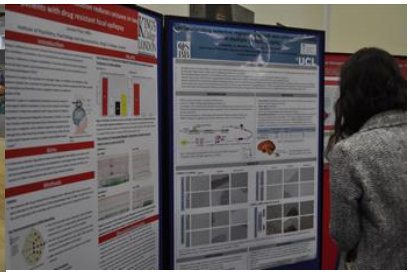
The theme of the event was neuroplasticity but we had speakers from a variety of fields including some developmental neurobiology, cortical plasticity and clinical neuroscience. We also had a range of speakers from PhD level to professor providing an opportunity for them to share their research and for others to learn more about aspects of the brain they may never have considered before.

The conference had 6 keynote lectures and 4 workshop sessions with 3-4 difference options to choose from for each workshop. The titles of the talks are as follows: Dr Gerald Finnerty - Rewiring the Connectome; Professor Peter Giese - Novel Mechanisms of Long-Term Memory; Dr Marina Papoutsi - Brain Training in Huntington's Disease; Professor David Edwards - The Cerebral Connectome; Dr Lawrence Moon - Neurotrophin-3 treatment after stroke; Dr Kate Warnaby - Anaesthesia and the Human Brain; Dr Sam Cooke - Plasticity in the Primary Sensory Cortex; Dr Athanasios Didangelos - Omics and Computational Approaches to Injury; Professor Lucilla Poston - Influences of Maternal Nutrition on the Fetal Brain; Professor Philip Gordon-Weeks - Growth Cone Pathfinding; Professor Stephen McMahon - Pain Vulnerability: Why Me?; Dr Andrew Jackson - Closed-loop Neural Interfaces for the CNS; Professor Jon Clarke - In vivo Imaging of Neurogenesis; Dr Deepak Srivastava - The Dynamic Nature of Synapses; Mr Richard Bartlett - Olfactory Ensheathing Cells in Nerve Repair; Dr Roberta Messina - Dynamic Alterations and Neuronal Plasticity in the Headache Brain; Professor Jamie Ward - Seeing Sounds and Tasting Words; Dr Matthew Grubb - Scents and Sensitivity; Professor Richard Wingate - Links and Lineage in the Cerebellum; Dr Ping Yip - Anatomical Neuroplasticity in Rodents and an Elderly Mother.

Feedback from the conference included: “It was a very good event, I've learned many things”, “). I even came from Southampton to attend this conference, “Very enjoyable and interesting, also a good range of topics and talks to choose from”, “Such an interesting day, great variety of speakers so learnt about multiple topic areas”, “I am an Occupational Therapist and attended as a guest, some of the content was unfamiliar but I found it very interesting”, “Definitely made me more engaged and notified in the diversity of topics you can study”, “It was extremely well organised with great speakers and engaging content”, “I thoroughly enjoyed the symposium and it has greatly increased my interest in neuroscience as a subject” and “Looking forward to the next one”.

Related Links
https://www.facebook.com/KCLNeuroscience/?fref=ts





35. BRAINArt @ Cambridge BRAINFest 2017

Dates and Duration: 13 March – 25 June 2017

Location of project: Cambridgeshire UK and Ireland

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Cambridge Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge will host BRAINFest on the weekend of 23-25 June 2017. Cambridge BRAINFest is a public festival that will bring together neuroscientists from across Cambridge presenting ground breaking research taking place through interactive exhibits, film, Q&A Café Scientifique, art and neurotheatre. As part of Cambridge BRAINFest, we will host BRAINArt, a Brain Art Competition and Exhibition that will be open to students across Cambridgeshire (and beyond) from ages 8-18 in four different categories. Starting in Brain Awareness Week, neuroscientists from Cambridge visited participating schools to give informative and interactive talks (using about the brain (tailored to specific age groups) and the project, with the aim being to inspire the students to create original brain art and learn about the brain. The visits started during BAW and will continue until early May 2017. 13 schools had signed up to the scheme at the time of this report and 230 students had received visits from neuroscientists. By the start of May 2017, >1000 students (ranging from age 4 to age 17) will have received a visit from a neuroscientist.The talk is very interactive and involves asking the audience a lot of questions - what do they know about the brain? what do they think the brain does?, looks like? The talk starts with a quiz where students are invited to guess which of 7 different brains is a human brain (others species shown include a cat, pig, elephant, camel, rat, chimpanzee). This introduces the concept of comparative brain anatomy and the intricate folded nature of the cortex in humans (why it is folded). We describe what the brain looks, and feels like, what it is made from, how it works (for instance when we throw a ball to a member of the audience), what neurons look like under the microscope. The students are invited to ask questions throughout and this part has been especially rewarding and beneficial - the children are very excited about the brain and interested in knowing how the different areas are connected. Their comments on what the brain (and constitutive neurons) remind them of are amazing: the solar system, forests, starfish etc. At one particular talk that I gave in Ireland to a small rural school (29 students aged from 4-12), a planned 40 minute session lasted 1 hour and 40 minutes due to the high volume of questions. All students in this particular group participated and asked questions about everything to do with the brain including whether we would be able to do brain transplants in the future and if yes, would the transplanted brain contain the memories/personalities of the brain donor. They were also fascinated about brain injury, dreams, sleep, aging and memory loss. Their enthusiasm was infectious and inquisitive nature about the brain was amazing to see. We ended with asking them who would like to study science and the types of things that they wanted to study in the future. The feedback has been very encouraging to date - one example "thank you so much for your visit last week to Icknield Primary School. I've had very positive feedback from children and staff present at the assembly. It really got them thinking about the brain and how it works, and I'm sure has inspired then to consider visiting the Cambridge BRAINFest 2017 in June, as well as letting them know about the Art competition."

Related Links

http://www.neuroscience.cam.ac.uk/brainfest

https://twitter.com/CamNeuro/status/849285613769678848/photo/1

http://www.neuroscience.cam.ac.uk/Uploads/BRAINArtatBRAINFest.pdf