



# EU activities in brain research

Patients' right to avoid pain: reducing the burden of Covid-19,  
promoting best practices across EU

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# Content

- Activities in brain research under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)
  - Investments made
  - Initiatives/partnerships
  - Brain research & pain
- Introduction to Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

# Burden of brain disorders

## Global Burden of Disease Study, 2016

- Globally, in 2016, **neurological disorders** were the leading cause of DALYs & second leading cause of deaths
- Increasing burden of **mental health disorders** (pre- & post-COVID19)

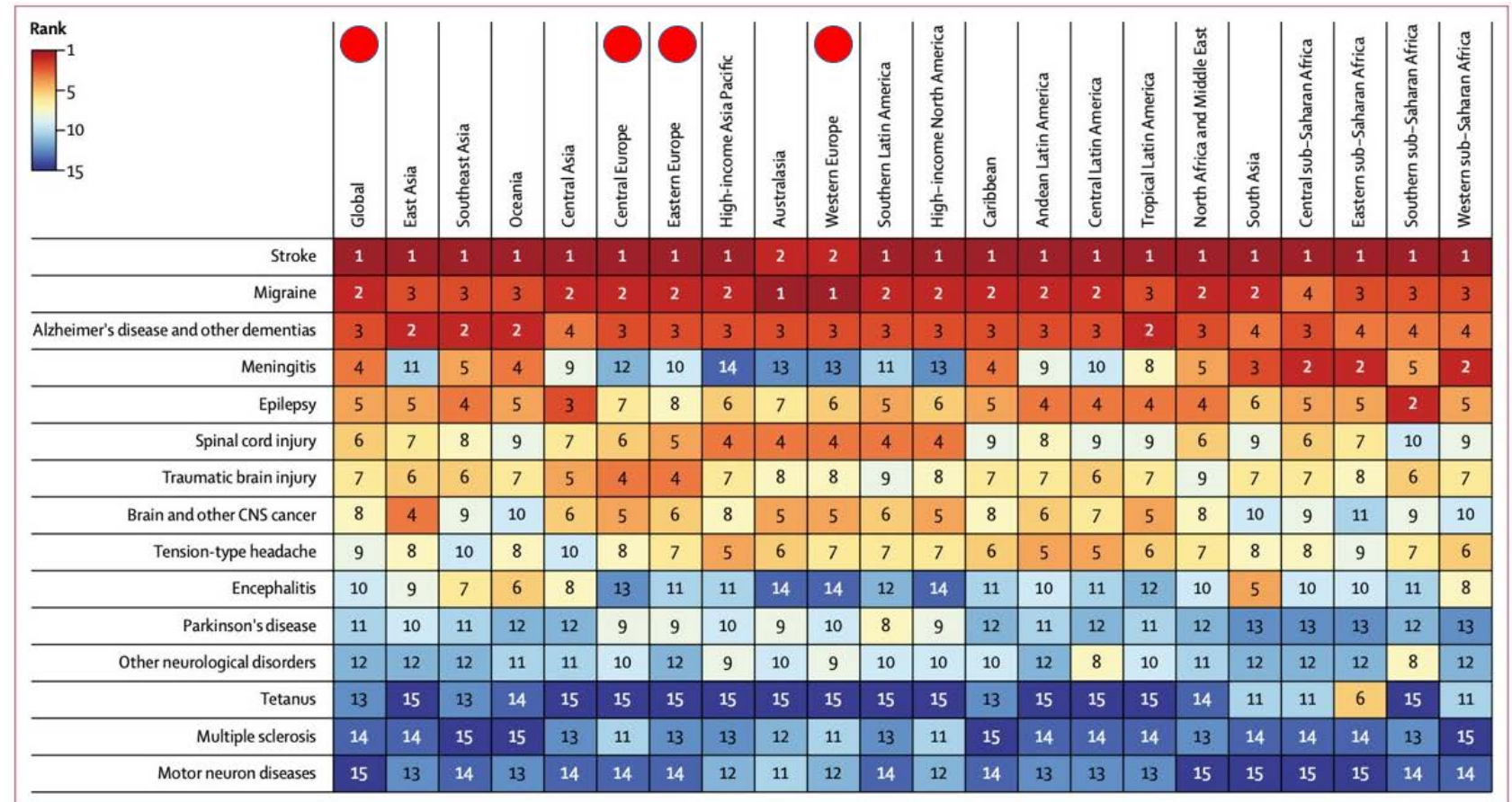


Figure 1: Ranking of age-standardised DALY rates for all neurological disorders by region, 2016  
DALY=disability-adjusted life-year.

# Support to brain research - Horizon 2020

## Funding the full spectrum of research

basic • clinical • preventive • healthcare services • ...



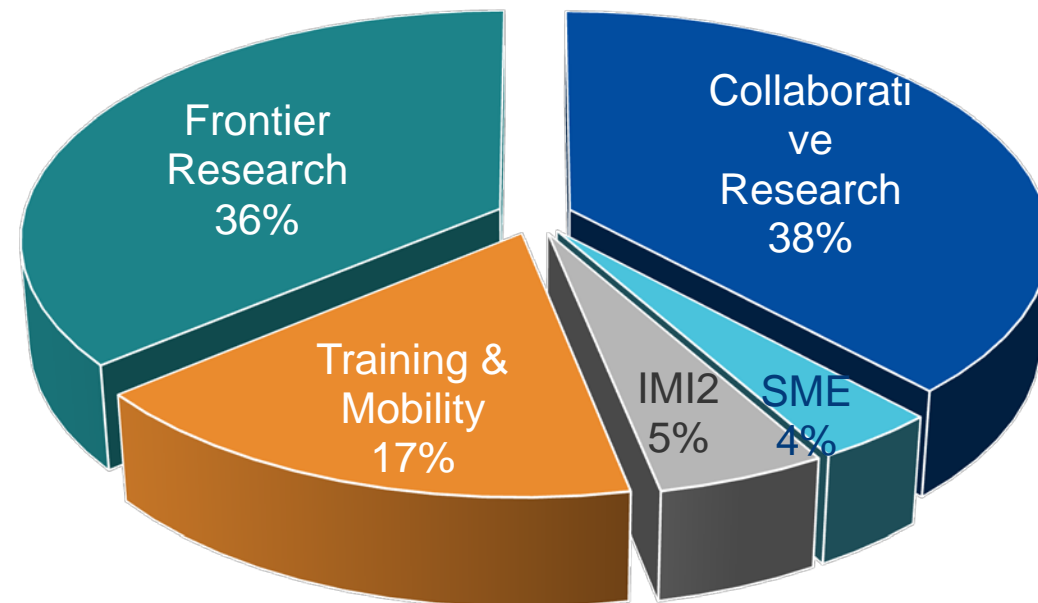
H2020 (2014-2020)  
€4.8 billion

± 2800 projects  
± 100 countries

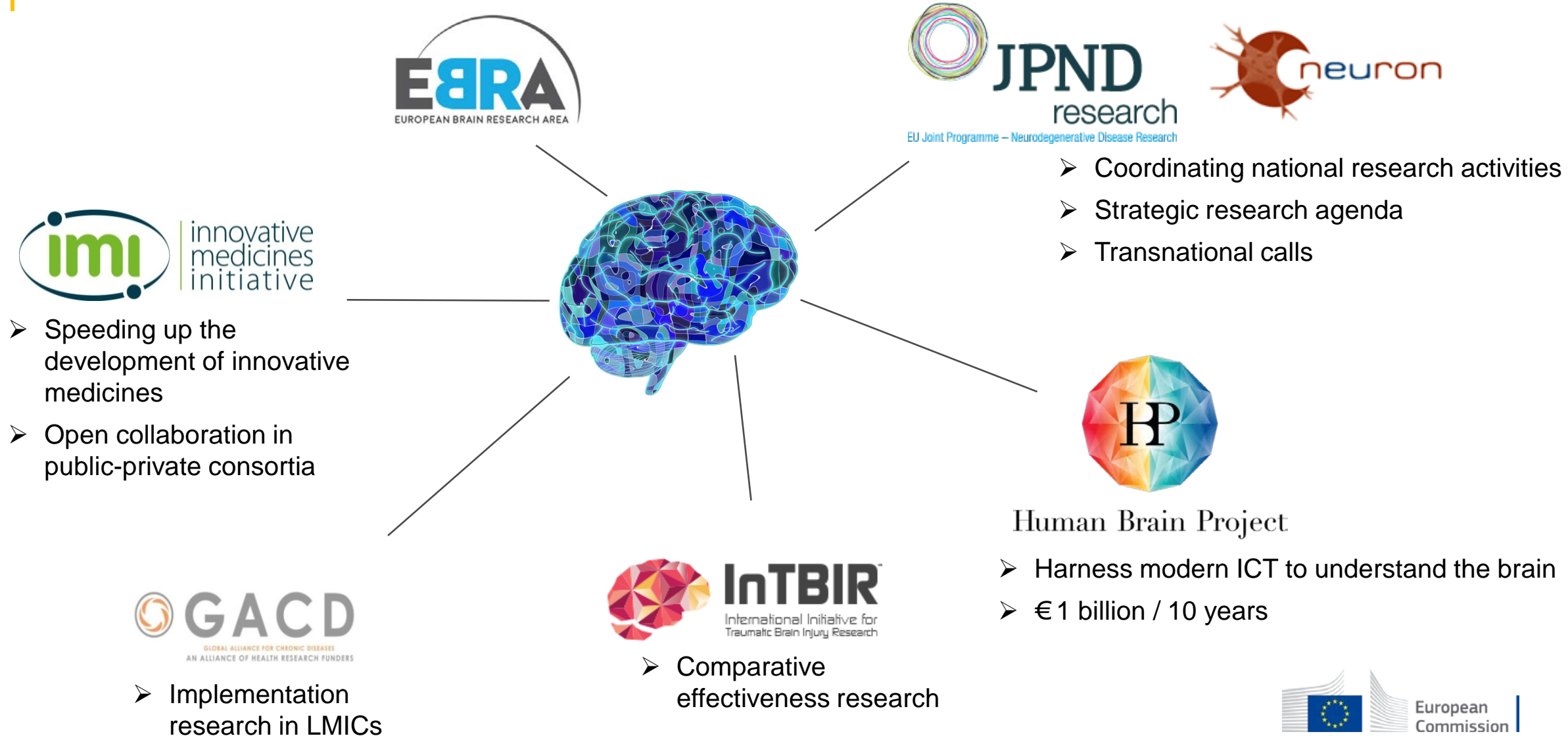


FP7 (2007-2013)  
€3.1 billion

Distribution of funding (H2020)



# EU brain research initiatives



# Brain research & pain

- **NGN-PET** (H2020/IMI)  
Modelling Neuron-Glia Networks into a drug discovery platform for Pain Efficacious Treatments  
→ Towards better treatment options for neuropathic pain focused on neuron-glia co-cultures
- **DOLORisk** (H2020/RIA)  
Understanding risk factors and determinants for neuropathic pain  
→ Algorithms for patient stratification and risk prediction to enable better treatment selection
- **TargetCaRe** (H2020/MSCA/ITN)  
Targeting Cartilage Regeneration in joint and intervertebral disc diseases  
→ Exploring cartilage regeneration as a treatment for chronic lower back pain and osteoarthritis
- **RELIEF** (H2020/COFUND-PCP)  
Recovering life wellbeing through pain self-management techniques involving ICTs  
→ Technological enablers for self-management of chronic pain

# Horizon Europe

## The EU R&I Programme 2021-2027

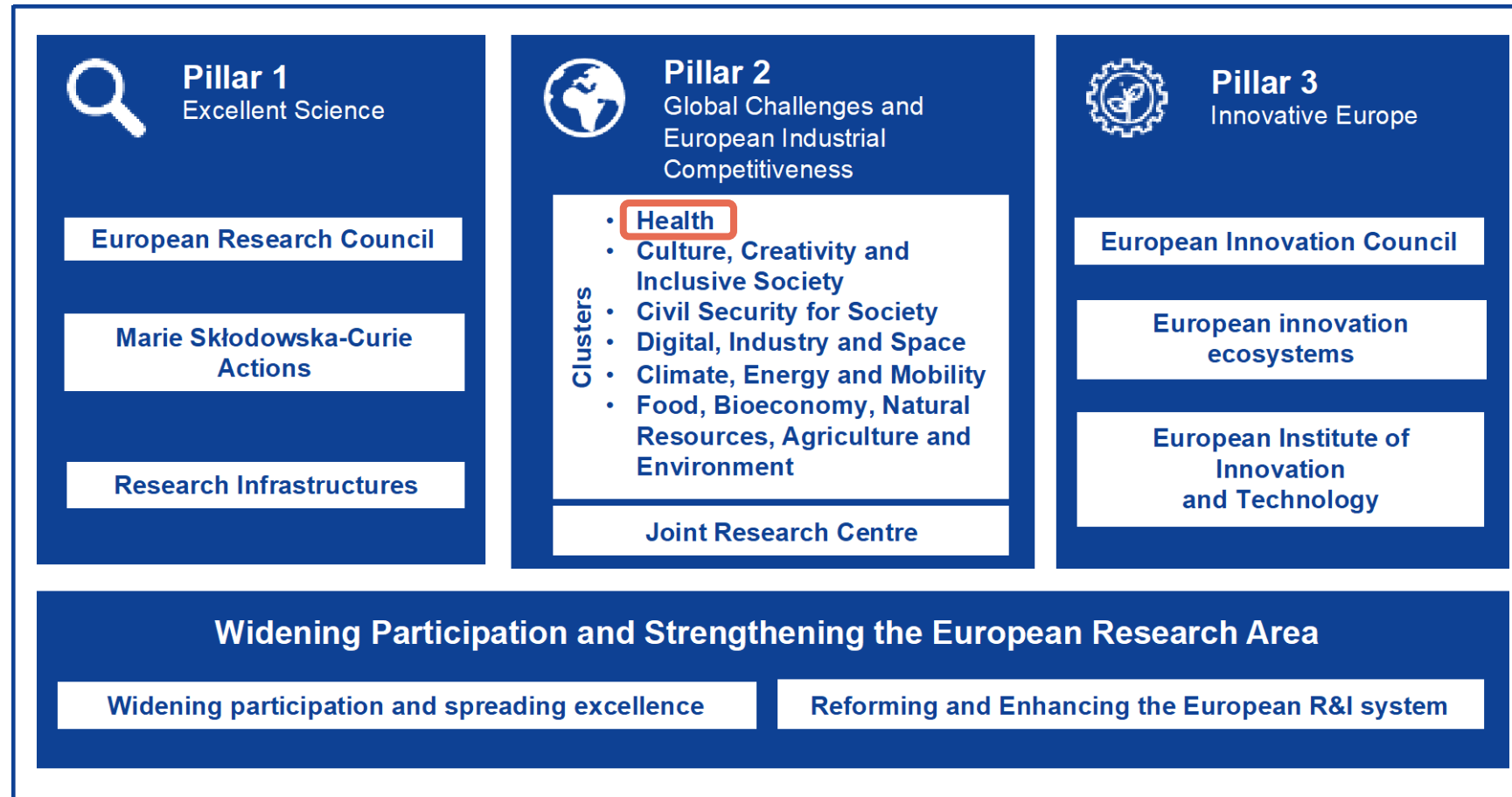
- Builds on past experiences, investments, networks...
- Co-design process with all stakeholders
  - Shaped by the open stakeholder consultations & the European R&I Days
- Impact-oriented
  - Maximising impact, notably through Missions and Partnerships
- Plenty of opportunities for collaboration
  - European & global level
- Strategic plan for Horizon Europe (2021-2024)
- Programme budget: €95.5 billion

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research\\_and\\_innovation/funding/documents/ec\\_rtd\\_horizon-europe-strategic-plan-2021-24.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/funding/documents/ec_rtd_horizon-europe-strategic-plan-2021-24.pdf)





# Horizon Europe Structure



[https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en)



# Horizon Europe

## Cluster 1 - Health

- Health cluster budget: €8.2 billion
- Cluster is structured around six ‘Destinations’
  1. Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society
  2. Living and working in a health-promoting environment
  3. Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden
  4. Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care
  5. Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society
  6. Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health-related industry
- Mission on Cancer



# Horizon Europe

## Cluster 1 – Health

### What to expect in the Work Programme?

- Broader topics focusing more on impacts and requesting pathways to impact
- The topic will detail the outcomes expected from the research, and it will be up to the applicants to present a convincing trajectory to achieve the impacts described in the topic
- Evaluation criteria are maintained

Publication WP 2021-2022 16 June 2021 (see the EU Funding & Tenders portal)

# How to get information

- European R&I Days 23-24 June 2021: <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/events/upcoming-events/research-innovation-days>
- Cluster 1 Info Day on 2 July 2021: <https://www.horizon-europe-infodays2021.eu/>
- Access the EC portal for funding & tender opportunities: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>
- Reach out to your National Contact Points: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>
- Become involved as an independent evaluator for HE proposals



[ec.europa.eu/](https://ec.europa.eu/)



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# Thank you!



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