



ERA-NET NEURON

‘European Research Projects on External Insults to the Nervous System’ Joint Transnational Call 2016

Results and Statistical Analysis of the co-funded call

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December 2016



Statistics Report NEURON Cofund call 2016

In 2016 NEURON Cofund launched an EC co-funded call to support European Research Projects on External Insults to the Nervous System.

The call was organized by 22 funding agencies in 18 countries. Austria (FWF), Belgium (FNRS, FWO), Canada (FRQS, CIHR, ONF), France (ANR), Germany (BMBF), Israel (CSO-MOH), Italy (MOH), Latvia (VIAA), The Netherlands (NWO), Norway (RCN), Poland (NCBR), Portugal (FCT), Romania (UEFISCDI), Slovakia (SAS), Spain (ISCIII, MINECO), Switzerland (SNSF), Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and United Kingdom (MRC).

The call evaluation procedure involved 2 steps a pre-proposal and a full proposal step. Only a subset of consortia was invited to submit a full proposal.

GENERAL STATISTICS

A total number of 94 projects were submitted with only one considered not eligible at the pre-proposal step and thus not included in the present report.

The number of projects, number of principal investigators involved as well as the total budgets are depicted in Table 1, together with the success rate at each step.

	Pre-proposal	Full Proposal	Funded
Number of Projects	93	43	19
Number of participating PIs	359	190	92
Funding Requested	~72.5 m€	~38.6 m€	~17.9 m€
Success Rate	46%	44%	

Table 1. General Statistics of NEURON Cofund call at the two evaluation steps and for the funded projects

DISTRIBUTION OF PROPOSALS PER AGENCY/ COUNTRY

The distribution of partners and coordinators per agency/country participating in the pre-proposals and invited full proposals is depicted in Figure 1. The distribution of partners and coordinators participating in the funded projects is represented in Figure 2. This information is also represented in Table 2.

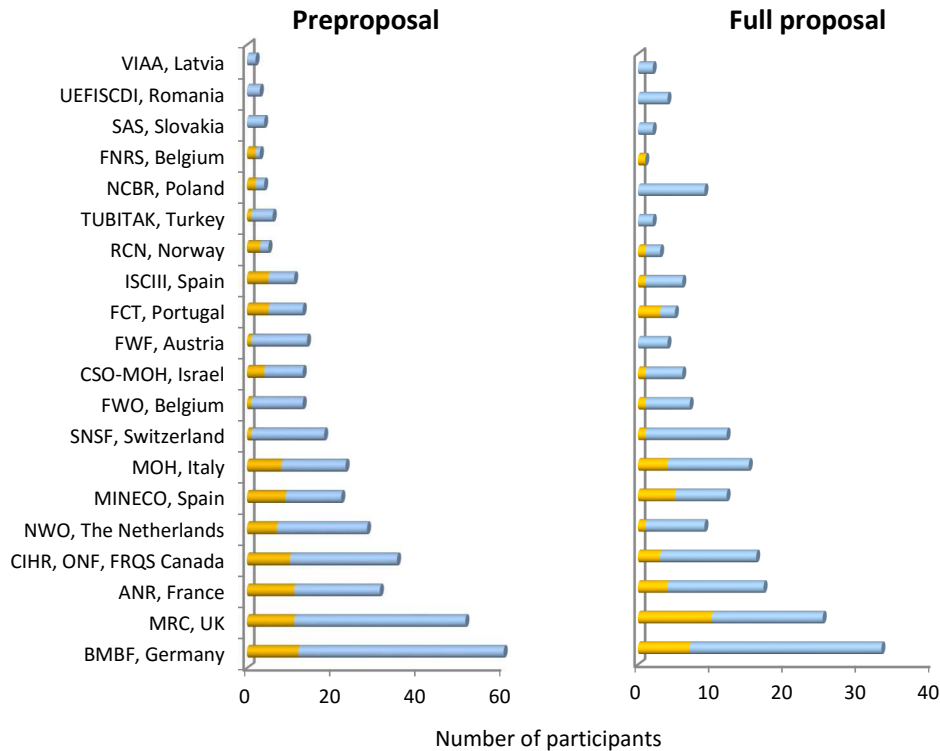


Figure 1. Distribution of the participation of partners and coordinators by funding agency, at the preproposal (left) and full proposal (right) evaluation steps.

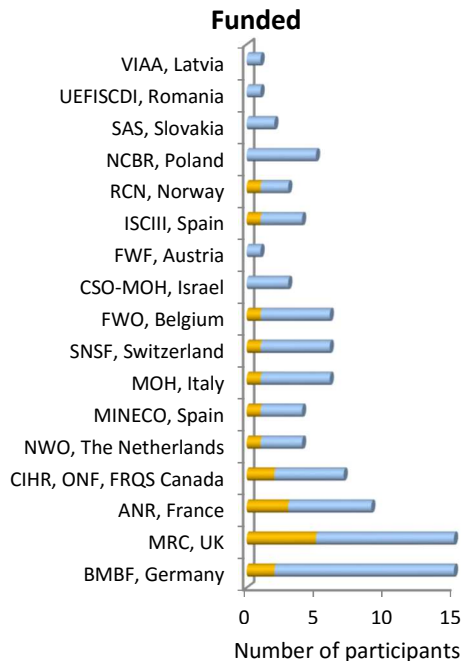


Figure 2. Distribution of the participation of partners and coordinators by funding agency in the proposals selected for funding

Funding Organization	Preproposals	Full proposals	Funded
VIAA, Latvia	2	2	1
UEFISCDI, Romania	3	4	1
SAS, Slovakia	4	2	2
FNRS, Belgium	3	1	
NCBR, Poland	4	9	5
TUBITAK, Turkey	6	2	
RCN, Norway	5	3	3
ISCIII, Spain	11	6	4
FCT, Portugal	13	5	
FWF, Austria	14	4	1
CSO-MOH, Israel	13	6	3
FWO, Belgium	13	7	6
SNSF, Switzerland	18	12	6
MOH, Italy	23	15	6
MINECO, Spain	22	12	4
NWO, The Netherlands	28	9	4
CIHR, ONF, FRQS Canada	35	16	7
ANR, France	31	17	9
MRC, UK	51	25	15
BMBF, Germany	60	33	15

Table 2. Distribution of projects per agency at the two evaluation steps and at the final selection

EVOLUTION OF THE PARTICIPATION PER AGENCY/COUNTRY ACROSS THE EVALUATION PROCEDURE

After the first evaluation step 43 consortia were invited to submit a full proposal. The ratio of participation per agency/country in the full proposal and preproposal is represented in Figure 3. For the majority of the countries the ratio of participation in between evaluation steps is near the general average of 46 percent.

As part of a widening strategy in order to increase the participation of presently underrepresented countries in the NEURON consortia, the research groups were invited to include partners from Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey in their full proposals. As can be seen in Figure 3, this strategy very successfully increased the participation of presently underrepresented countries in NEURON. Particularly remarkable all the groups from Latvia, Poland and Turkey participating at the full proposals stage were added in between evaluation steps.

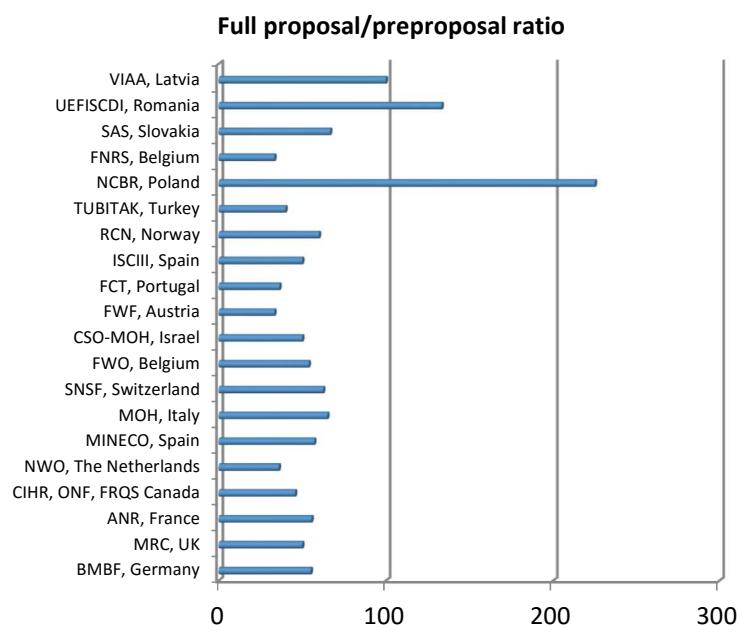


Figure 3. Ratio of participation in full proposals/preproposals per agency country. The full proposals' participation from Latvia, Poland and Turkey represented in this plot is due to the addition of research groups to consortia selected at the preproposal stage.

Figure 4 represents the proportion of pre-proposals finally selected for funding per agency/country. A total of 19 projects were selected for funding. In general the proportion of funded versus submitted pre-proposals is 34 percent on average. The raw numbers per agency/country can be found in Table 2.

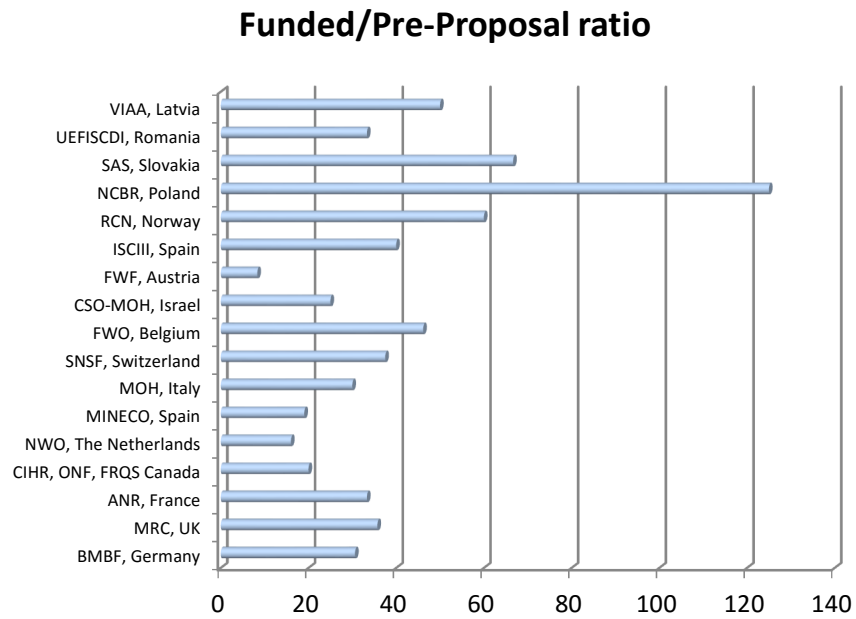


Figure 4. Ratio of participation in funded proposals/submitted full proposals per agency/country.

CONSORTIA COMPOSITION

A total of 98 female and 261 male applicants submitted propositions to the preproposal phase, 51 and 141 respectively to the full proposal phase and finally 30 female and 62 male scientist were financed. The gender distribution was stable across the 2 evaluation steps when considering both the total number of partners as well as the coordinators. Nonetheless the proportion of female partners and female coordinators increased respectively from 27 to 32 percent and from 36 to 42 percent between the preproposal and the final selection of projects (Figure 5 and 6).

Distribution of participating partners by gender

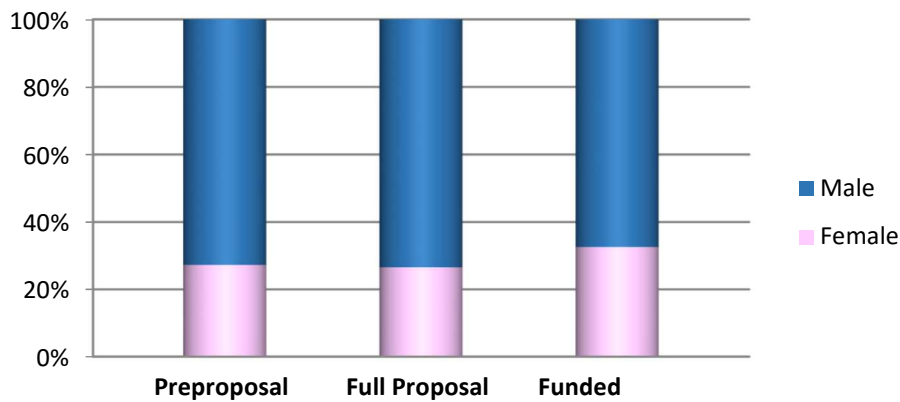


Figure 5. This plot depicts the proportion of female and male researchers participating as partners at the different steps of the NEURON III cofund call selection process

Distribution of consortium coordinators by gender

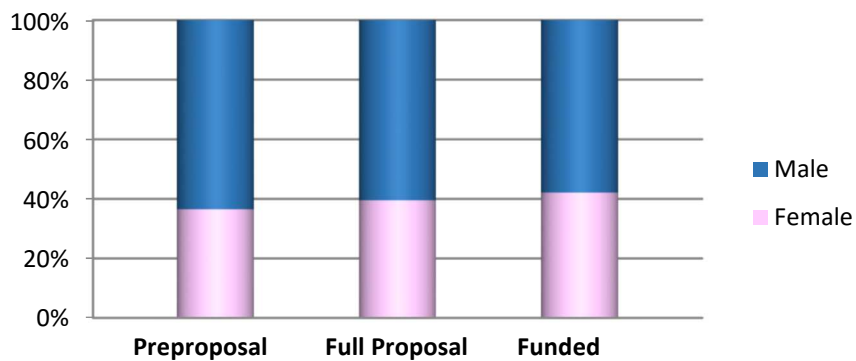


Figure 6. This plot depicts the proportion of female and male researchers participating as coordinators at the different steps of the NEURON III cofund call selection process

The call accepted consortia composed by groups of 3 to 5 partners from the participating countries. As part of the widening strategy, described in page 4, this number could be increased to 6 in consortia

implicating researchers from a presently underrepresented country. In order to accentuate the transnational character of the projects a maximum of two groups could belong to the same country.

As shown in Figure 7 largest consortia (5-6 partners) were more represented in the full proposal and the funded projects compared to the preproposal stage.

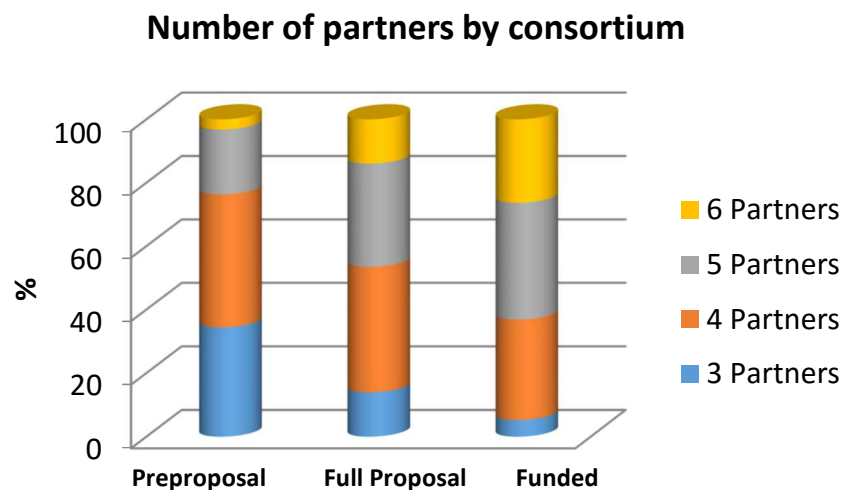


Figure 7. Distribution of consortia composed by 3, 4, 5 and 6 partners at the different steps of the selection process in the NEURON III cofund call.

The distribution of the participating partners by country has a similar tendency to include more countries in the projects at the full proposal and selected for funding stages (Figure 8). The enlargement of the consortia partly explained the important proportion of larger groups at the later stages of the selection procedure. Considering only the 43 projects invited to submit a full proposal, a total of 18 groups were added between the preproposal and the full proposal steps, 11 out of the 18 were groups from one of the underrepresented countries. Only one consortium decreased its size by one group. There were no further changes in the consortia composition between the full proposal step and the funded projects.

Concerning the participation of groups from countries not participating to the call, only two preproposals included a consortium member from USA, one of them was invited to submit a full proposal but this project was finally not selected for funding.

Number of countries by consortium

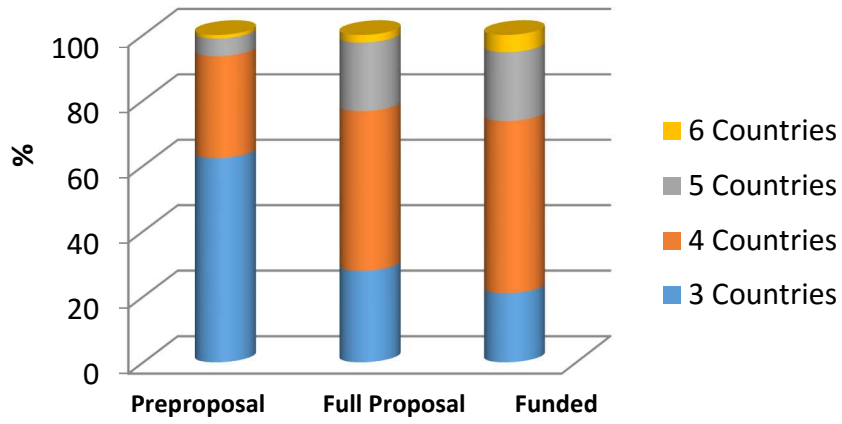


Figure 8. This plot represents the proportion of consortia composed by groups from 3, 4, 5 and 6 countries at each step of the selection procedure

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS NEURON II CALLS

In order to evaluate the level at which the cofund instrument increases the efficiency of NEURON calls, a comparison of number of projects funded and the use of the countries' committed funding is presented in Figures 9-11. This analysis shows an increase in the number of projects funded from 10 in average in the last 3 NEURON II calls to 19 in the NEURON III EC cofunded call (Figure 9). Concerning the researchers funded their number increased from 45 to 92 in the same comparison (Figure 10).

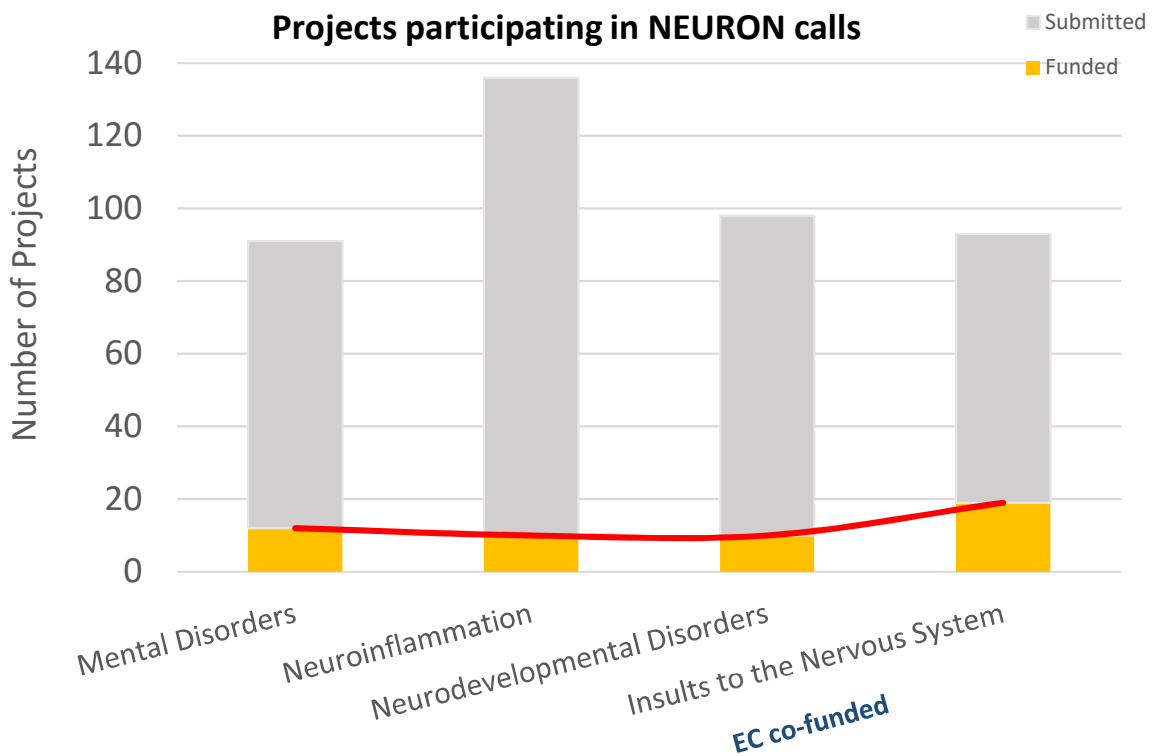


Figure 9. This plot represents the evolution in participation on previous NEURON II calls and the NEURON III co-fund call

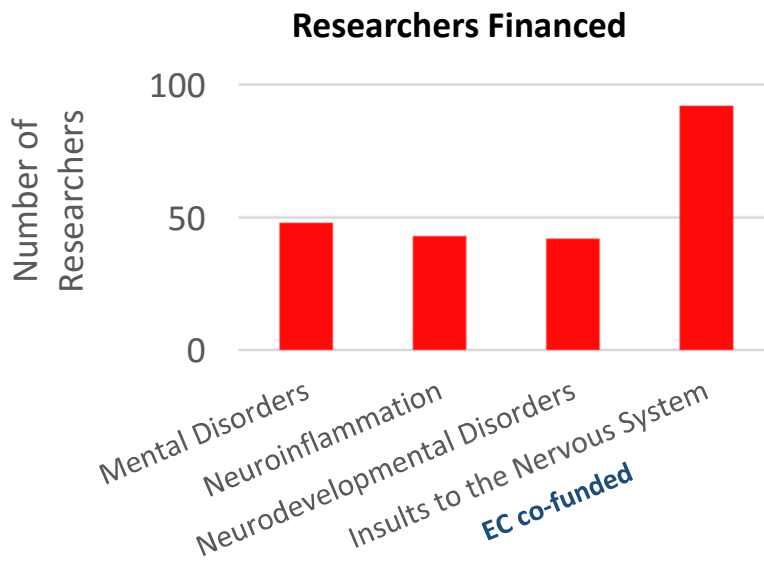


Figure 10. Number of researchers funded in previous NEURON II and the last NEURON III cofunded call

The total budget of the funded projects in NEURON II was supported by the countries contribution and the maximum was ~10 m€ in the last three NEURON II calls. The co-funded call increased the countries total contribution to ~14.5 m€ and the total budget for funded projects to ~17.9 m€ (Figure 11).

Figure 12 shows the evolution in number of partners of the NEURON consortium on the three last NEURON II calls and the EC co-fund call. As can be seen the last call was launched by a larger NEURON consortium, which adds to the increase in total earmarked budget at the last call.

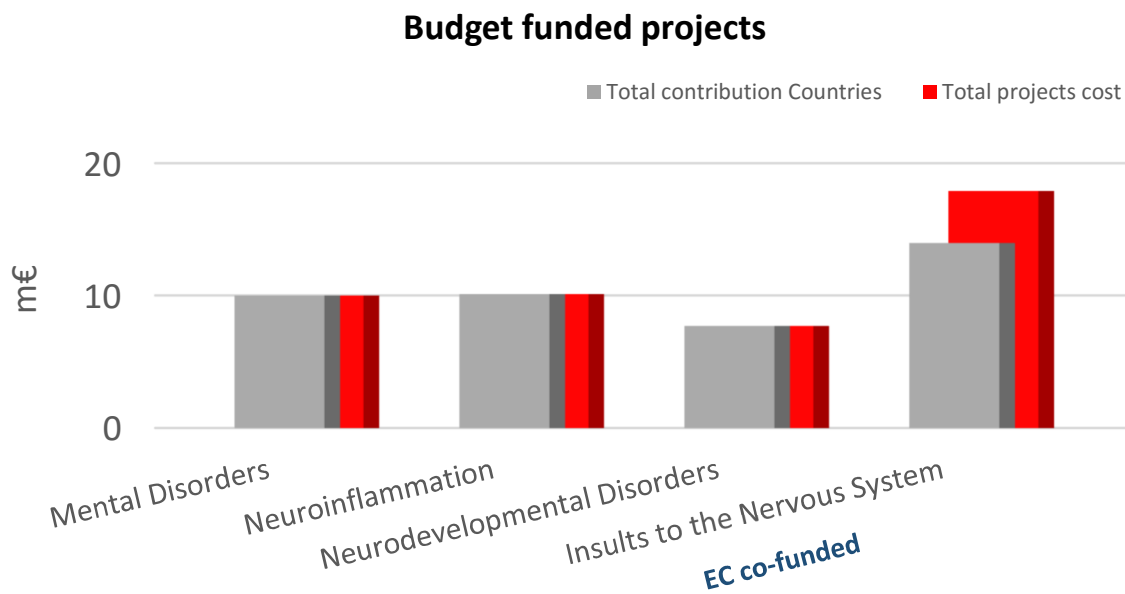


Figure 11. This plot represents the total budget contributed by the countries and the total cost of the funded projects for previous NEURON II calls and the last EC cofund call

Participating Funding Bodies

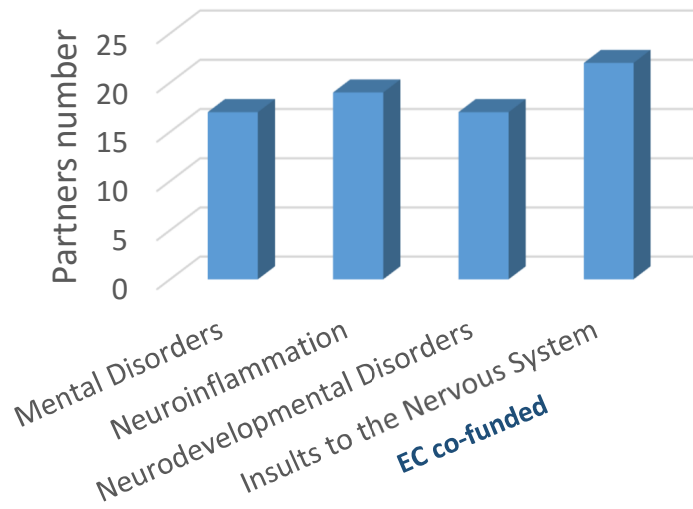


Figure 12. This plot represents the number of agencies/countries participating in previous NEURON II calls and the last NEURON III co-fund call

In summary, the 2016 co-funded call financed more than twofold the number of researchers in comparison with the three previous NEURON II calls. In consequence the total budget dedicated to projects funding was increased by ~7.9 m€ in the same comparison.

The increased funding efficiency is the result of the enlargement of the NEURON consortia from ~17 in average for the previous NEURON II calls to 22 partners in 2016, a ~ 4.5 m€ rise of national contribution to funding projects in the same period as well as to ~3.9 m€ of European community contribution.