



# **JPND Policy on Engagement with Third Countries: membership and participation in JPND activities**

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## **JPND Policy on Engagement with Third Countries**

### **Introduction**

The EU Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) was established by EU Member States and Associated Countries<sup>1</sup> and is governed by the member countries themselves. This policy will address JPND's approach to working with non-EU Member states/Associated countries, i.e. Third Countries, and covers both Membership of JPND, and Participation in JPND activities. This policy will be subject at all times to the Terms of Reference of the Management Structure for JPND, therefore may be revised from time to time by the Management Board.

### **Definition of Terms**

*JPND activities:* funding or supporting research activities under the SRA, or participation in e.g. policy activities, dissemination, sharing of best practise; in effect any activity aimed at achieving JPND's objectives.

*Membership:* involvement in JPND activities, as well as having role in governance of JPND, i.e. a place on the Management Board.

*Participation:* involvement in JPND activities only. Participation does not imply a role in JPND governance.

### **1) Participation of Third Countries**

JPND welcomes the opportunity to work with Third Countries on research/policy initiatives in order to achieve JPND objectives, and will actively seek out partnerships with Third Countries where there is a known mutual interest in cooperation.

In planning the implementation of the Strategic Research Agenda the JPND Executive Board will identify, relevant areas in which Third Countries could engage. The Executive Board will set out a plan for engaging with the Third Country actors identified during the planning of the JPND implementation, who to engage with, when, and on what activities within JPND.

In addition, following any expression of interest from Third Countries, JPND will establish whether there are opportunities for that country to participate in research or policy activities of mutual interest. Such requests for participation in JPND activities should be addressed in writing to the Chair of the Management Board, and approved by the Management Board. In all cases, participation of Third Countries will have to respect the rules governing any JPND joint research activity.

### **2) Membership of JPND from MS/AC**

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<sup>1</sup> Associated Countries is the term for countries associated to the EU's Seventh Framework Programme by means of a Science and Technology agreement

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JPND was established originally as a Member State (MS) and Associated Country (AC) initiative. Therefore JPND has since its inception been open to membership of any EU Member States and Associated Countries. The criteria for membership of JPND are as follows:

- All members are represented in the Management Board,
- The nominated Management Board member has a governmental mandate,
- Active contribution to the activities of JPND is expected from countries represented by the Management Board member.

### i) Criteria for Third Country membership:

The MB considers that membership of Third Countries in JPND can add value over and above Third Country participation in JPND activities, and will consider membership of Third Countries under a number of distinct criteria. These criteria take into account, in particular, fruitful research partnerships that already exist between current JPND members and Third Countries.

In addition to the stated criteria for Member States and Associated Countries, the following apply:

- a) Third Country member has existing bi-lateral/multi-lateral research agreements<sup>2</sup> with *two or more* JPND MS/AC members,
- b) Third Country member is proposed by *two or more* current JPND MS/AC members.

The application for membership will subsequently be tabled for discussion at a Management Board meeting and all EU Member States/Associated Country JPND members present must unanimously approve the membership.

In discussing the application the Management Board will take account of the following considerations:

- Added value of membership to the initiative and Europe, over and above that of participation in JPND activities
- Level of anticipated participation: e.g. scale, duration of cooperation

### ii) Terms of Third Country Membership

Joint Programming was established to enhance and ensure the strong position of research in Europe. The sustainability of Joint Programming depends on the one hand on the research activities that are undertaken, and on the other hand on the strength and effectiveness of the organisation of the Joint Programme. It is the exclusive responsibility of the EU Member States and Associated Countries to ensure the latter, often through a process of voting.

Membership of Third Countries will be conferred on a non-voting basis and Third Country membership will be for an initial term of two years. Existing Third Country members may renew their membership after this initial two-year term by indicating this in writing to the Chair of the Management Board.

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<sup>2</sup> Formalised collaborations at the national or equivalent level

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Renewal of JPND membership will then be subject to a decision of the Management Board, by written process, and the decision will be transmitted in writing to the Third Country representative.

As with members from EU Member States or Associated Countries, all Third Countries who are granted JPND membership are allowed a maximum of two representatives in the Management Board. These representatives should have a governmental mandate (coming for instance from ministries, research organisations, funding bodies, research councils and others) and be nominated by the competent authority (e.g. ministry/ government department). Each representative will be responsible for transmitting relevant recommendations of the MB to the national decision making body and be instrumental in arranging structural and financial support at national level. Any accession and/or change of nominated persons should be addressed to the Management Board without delay.

### iii) Application process

Requests for Third Country membership should be addressed to the Chair of the Management Board. The written request should indicate the existing bi-lateral/multi-lateral research agreements with two or more JPND MS/AC members, and be accompanied with a letter of nomination from the competent national ministry of the Third Country, and the letters of support from at least two JPND MS/AC members<sup>3</sup>.

To assist JPND in identifying opportune areas for collaborative activities, the written request should also outline any significant investments or flagship initiatives relevant to neurodegenerative disease research, for example under<sup>4</sup>:

- Major programmes
- Research Networks
- Centres of Excellence
- Population cohorts
- Case control studies
- Disease registers
- DNA/tissue
- Bio/neuroinformatic resources
- Animal models

The Chair will table the application at the next possible Management Board meeting. Following the MB discussion and decision, the Chair will respond to the Third Country agency on behalf of the Management Board. The nominated Management Board member(s) from the Third Country will then be invited to the following and subsequent Management Board meetings.

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<sup>3</sup> The list of current Management Board members is available [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> A mapping exercise was conducted for JPND members during 2011 with data collected under the above headings; it will be useful to have comparative high level data from any new JPND members. The collected data can be searched here <http://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/initiatives/mapping-exercise/2011-mapping-report/>