

# CSA BrainHealth & Future European Partnership for Brain Health

Research | Collaboration | Impact

**Brainstorming the future of Brain Health – PoISCA, Helmholtz & SwissCore**

**12th November 2024, Brussels**

# What is brain health?

**“Brain health is the state of brain functioning across cognitive, sensory, social-emotional, behavioural and motor domains, allowing a person to realize their full potential over the life course, irrespective of the presence or absence of disorders.”**

*World Health Organisation (WHO)*

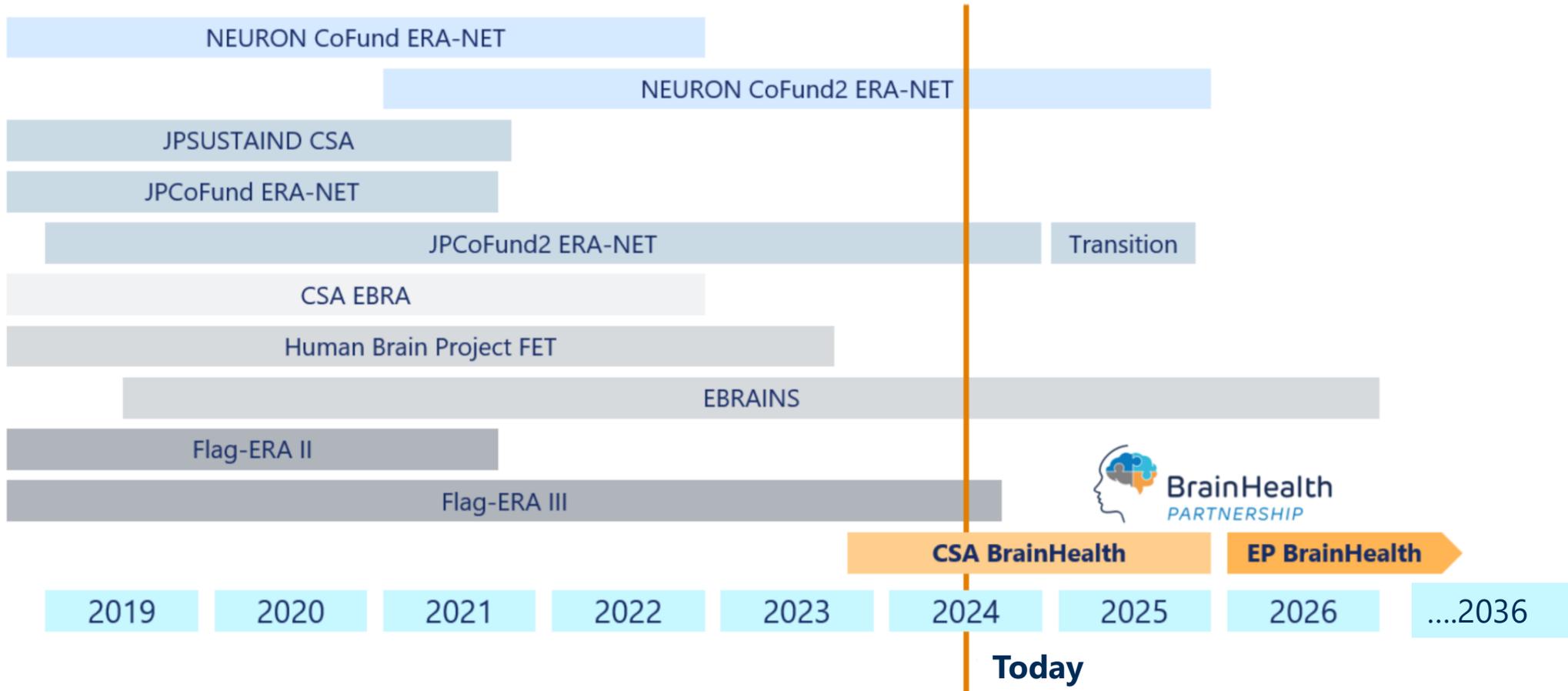
## CSA BrainHealth:

- Relevance of mental health
- Interconnection of brain health with physical health and quality of the environment
- Brain disorders: encompassing mental and neurological disorders alike
- Affecting people at all stages of life

# Brain Health – Current Challenges

- Neurological and mental disorders are a leading cause of disability and mortality in Europe and globally, placing a great burden on people living with brain disorders, their caregivers, as well as healthcare systems and national economies as a whole.
- Accumulating crises including the COVID-19 pandemic and the present geopolitical and environmental situation, as well as increasing economic pressure have further aggravated brain health, in particular for the most vulnerable.
- Effective prevention strategies and therapeutic options for mental and neurological disorders are currently lacking or are not accessible for everyone.

# The need for concerted action



# CSA BrainHealth | Preparatory phase for the European Partnership for Brain Health



Aim: Preparation of the future European Partnership for Brain Health

- Develop a joint research and innovation agenda (**SRIA**) for the upcoming years together with all relevant partners
- Develop a **governance** structure and work programme for the future EP BrainHealth
- Gather knowledge and data and make them available for partners
- Lead an intensive dialogue with all relevant stakeholders - patients, citizens and the society, private sector and global partners
- Create the basis for a wide ranging and diverse **BrainHealth ecosystem** to enable broad discussions in preparation of the European Partnership

# European Partnership for Brain Health



## Key Facts

- Coordination: Germany (BMBF, DLR-PT)
- Expected Participants: National funding authorities, researchers, healthcare providers/practitioners, patient organisations, the private sector, policymakers, regulators, citizens, etc.
- Implementation mode: Co-funded European Partnership in the 2nd Strategic plan of „Horizon Europe“ (Cluster 1, Health)
- Duration: 7 – 10 years, starting in Q1/Q2 2026
- Expected EU contribution: app. 100-150 Mio. € (30% of the total budget => expected contributions of MS/AC: app. 200 – 300 Mio. €)

# Proposal draft published

Draft proposal for a European Partnership under Horizon Europe:

## European Partnership for Brain Health

EP BrainHealth

28.06.2024

## Draft proposals

### European Partnership on Brain Health (cluster 1)

The aim of the future European Partnership for Brain Health is to accelerate the delivery of preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, and care solutions to foster brain health (including neurological and mental health alike) in citizens, people living with brain disorders and patients at all ages. To reach this aim, a better understanding of the brain's functioning and the effects of environmental, social and technological stimuli and stressors on brain health is needed. This will be achieved by strengthening the alignment and synergies across European and global brain health research and innovation initiatives.

[Draft partnership proposal](#)  (July 2024)

#### Contact

Commission services: [RTD-EP-BRAIN-HEALTH@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-EP-BRAIN-HEALTH@ec.europa.eu)

Partners: [German Aerospace Center](#)  (DLR), [Ulrike Busshoff](#) 



# EP BrainHealth | Vision and Mission



## VISION

Improved brain health for all, developing scientific knowledge as a ground to promote brain health throughout lifetime, to prevent and to cure brain diseases as well as to improve wellbeing of people living with neurological and mental disorders in Europe and beyond.\*

## MISSION

To support brain health research and innovation by strengthening transnational collaboration and alignment, and to promote the translation of results into tailored solutions for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care accessible for all.\*

\* Preliminary statements, still under discussion

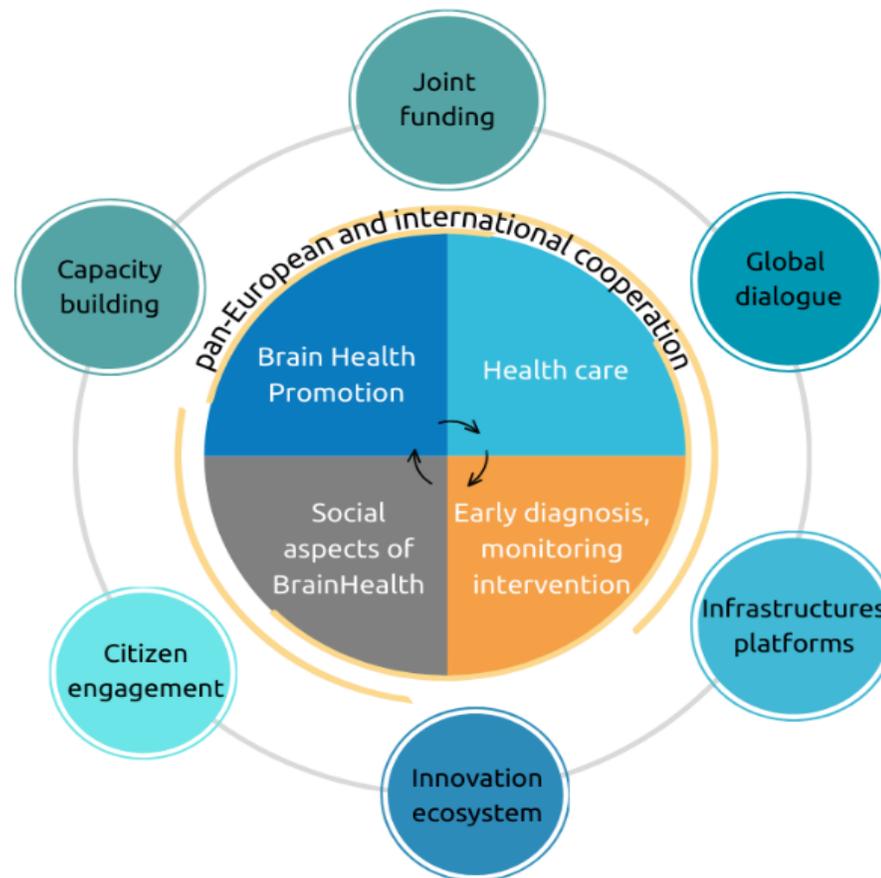
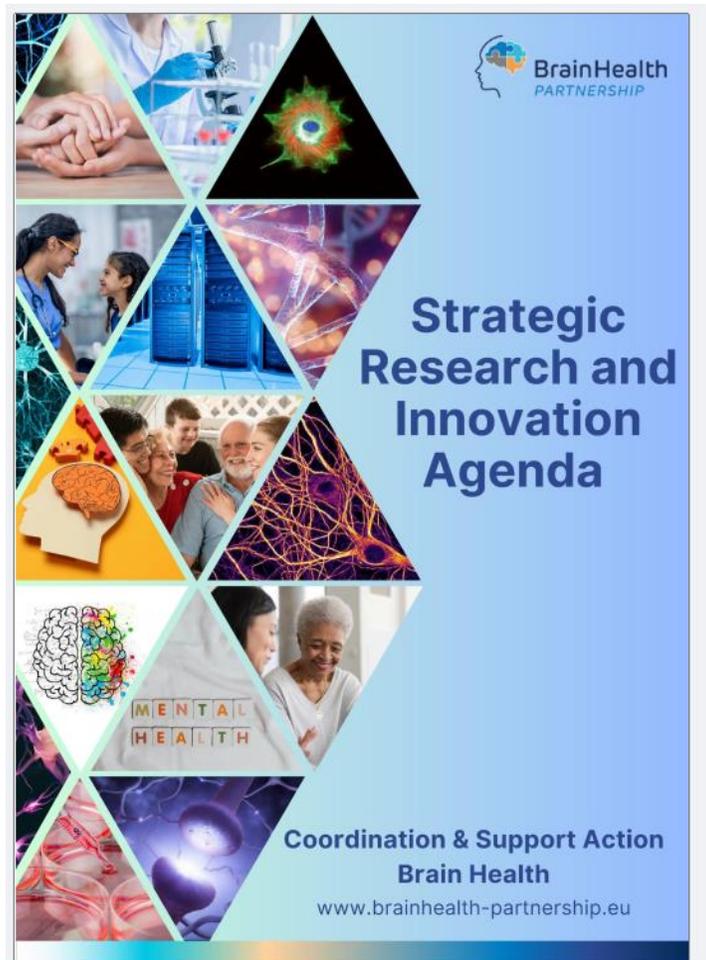
# General Objectives\*

Promote brain health and wellbeing throughout the entire life course and **improve the scientific knowledge to strengthen prevention** at individual and community levels, through the identification of best practices and evidence-based approaches for applicable health policies.

Promote the generation and uptake of scientific breakthroughs and use enhanced understanding of brain functioning to deliver **accessible and tailored solutions for diagnosis, treatment and care** and to improve the quality of life for those living with mental and neurological disorders and their caregivers.

Establish the European Partnership for Brain Health as a trusted and enabling collaboration structure at the forefront of **brain-related research and innovation together with international partners.**

# EP BrainHealth | SRIA for the future



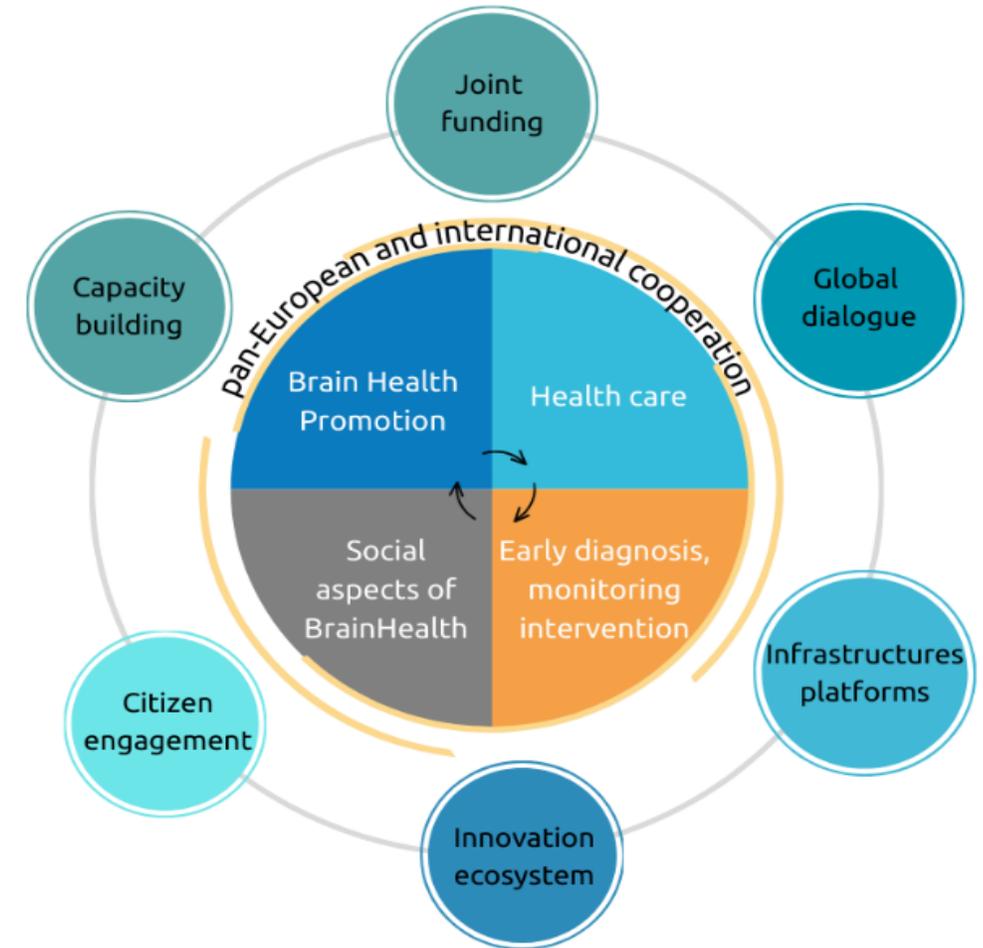
# EP BrainHealth | SRIA for the future

## EP BrainHealth priorities

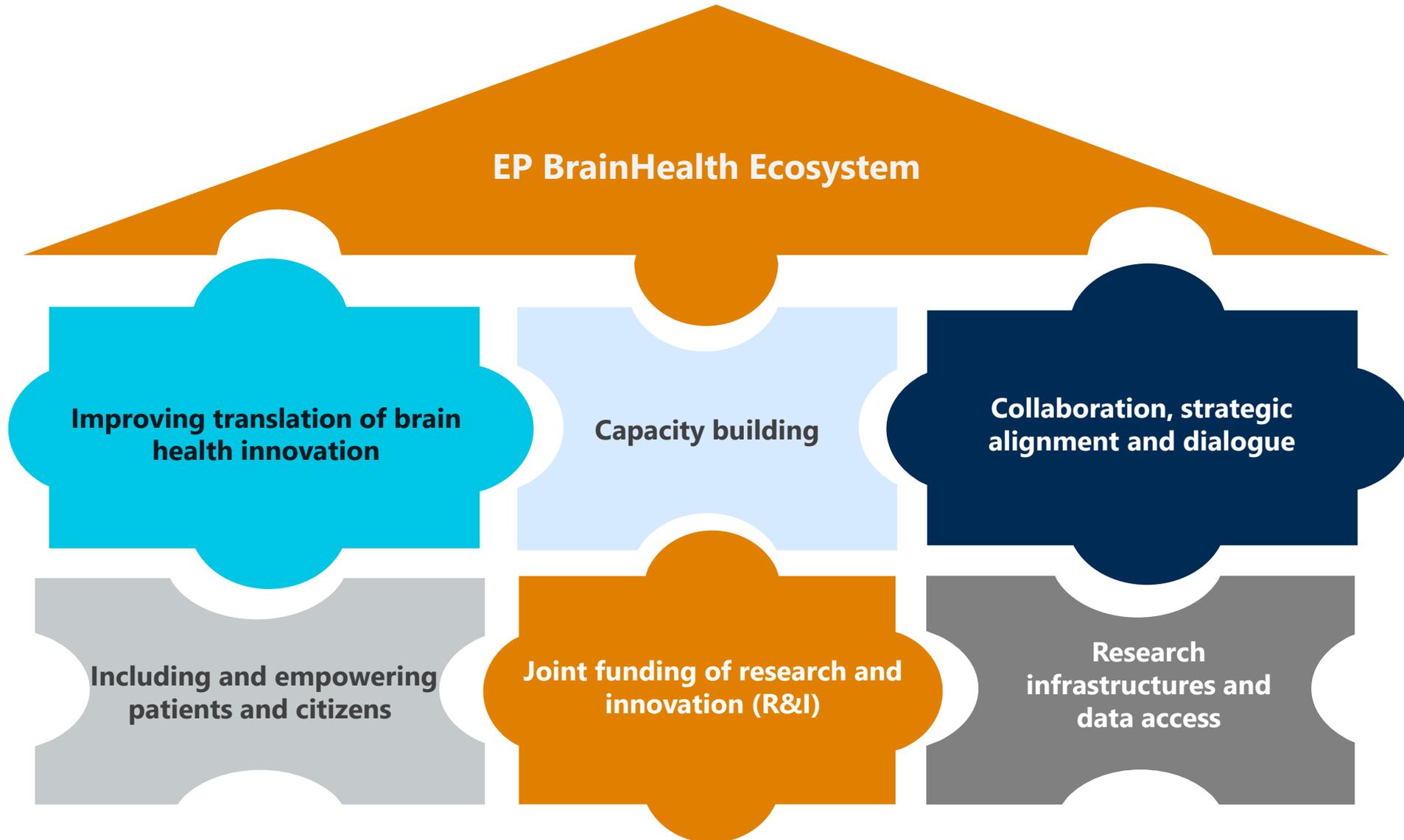
1. Promoting brain health and preventing brain disorders
2. Improving early recognition, diagnosis, monitoring and intervention for people living with brain disorders
3. Improving treatment, care and support for people living with brain conditions and their caregivers
4. Integrating the social, ethical, and legal dimensions to advance research and innovation for brain health

## Transversal priorities

- Translation to market
- Infrastructures
- Data access, quality, reproducibility, harmonisation, standardisation
- Involving citizens, patients and caregivers
- Ethical, legal, social aspects
- New generations of researchers
- Tailored interventions for brain health



# Towards a holistic brain health ecosystem





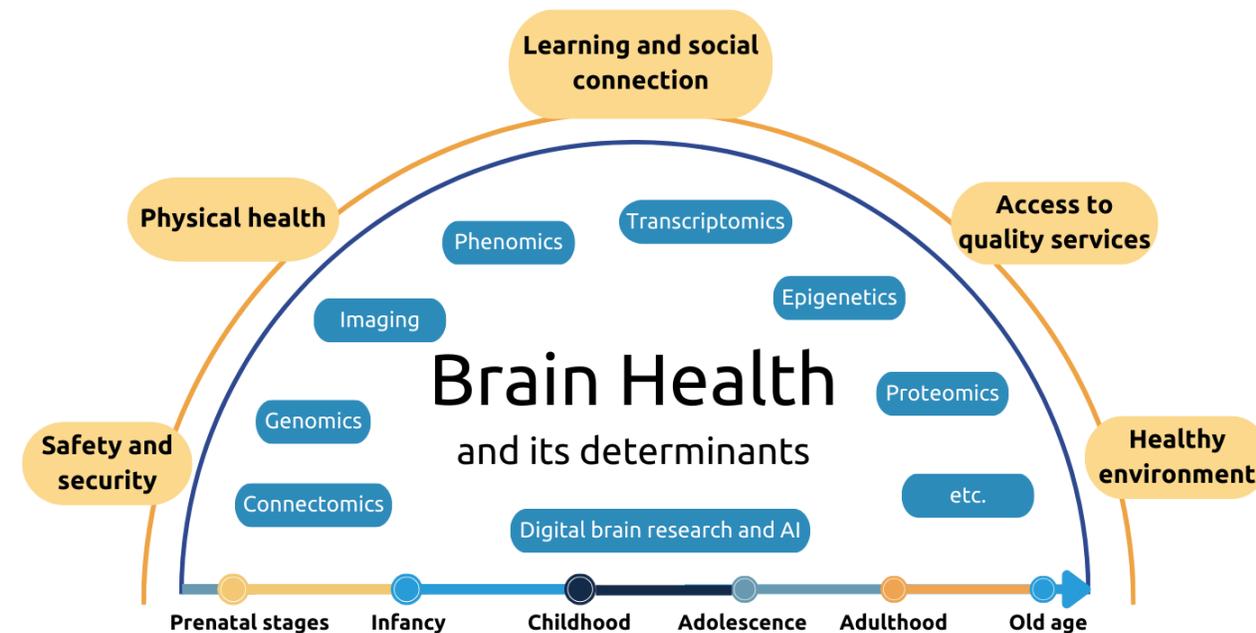
Thank you for listening!  
Questions?

CSA BrainHealth Coordination Office  
[brain-health@dlr.de](mailto:brain-health@dlr.de)  
[www.brainhealth-partnership.eu](http://www.brainhealth-partnership.eu)



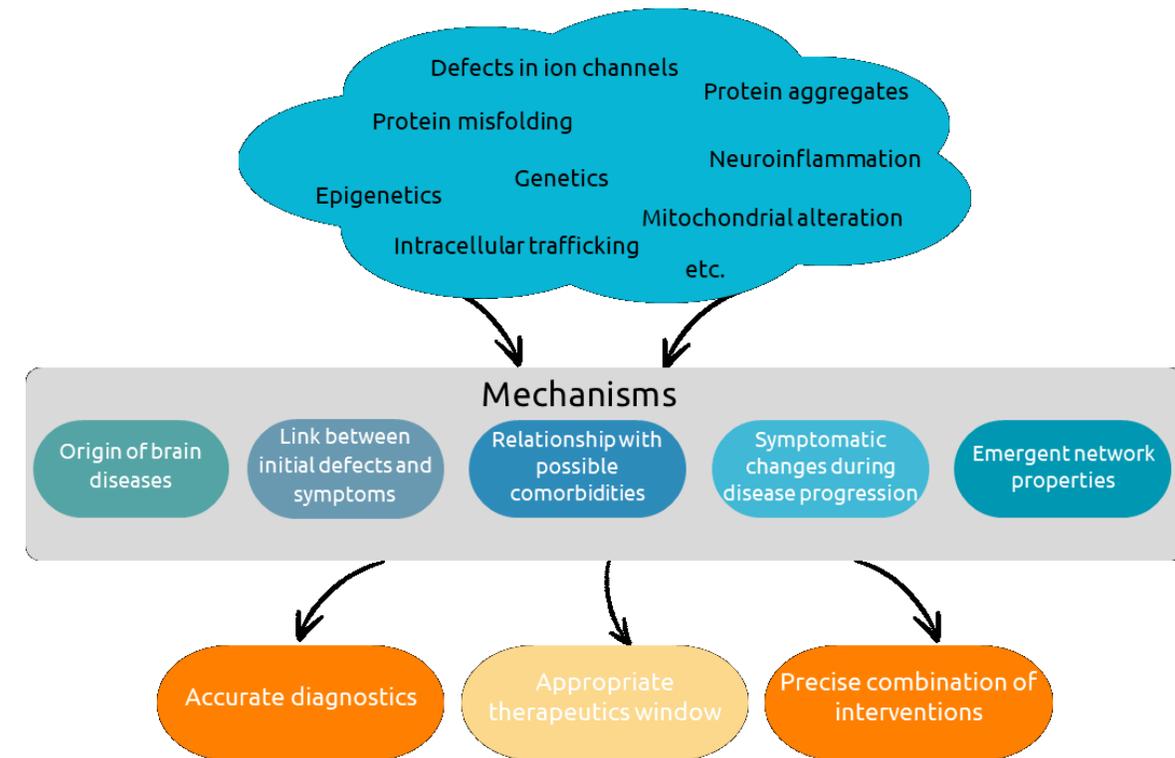
# Priority 1: Promoting brain health and preventing brain disorders

1. Identify the determinants of brain health
2. Preventing brain disorders with a lifespan perspective (from development to ageing) - Effectiveness and citizen's empowerment
3. Understand the effect of physical and societal environment
4. Uncover mechanisms of compensation in the healthy brain



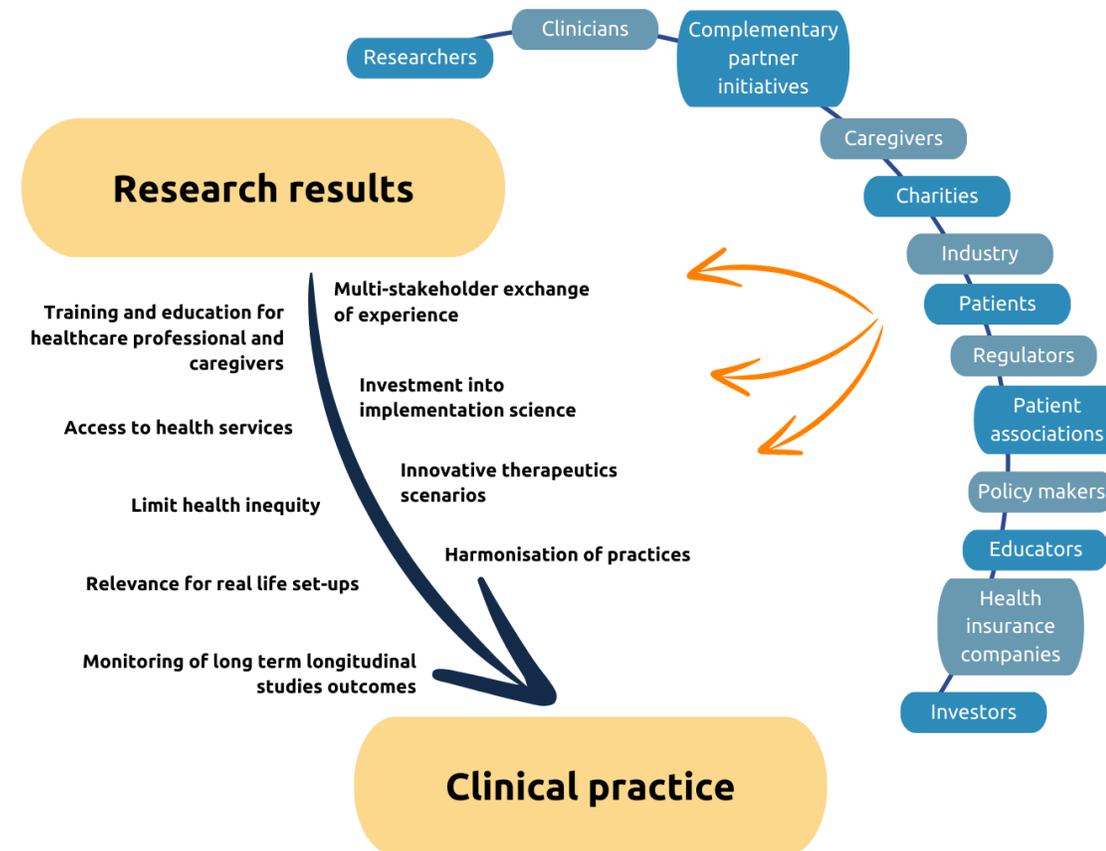
# Priority 2: Understanding the causalities of brain diseases which is crucial for early recognition, advanced diagnosis, intervention, treatment for people living with brain disorders

1. Understand the origin of symptoms and syndromes
2. Improve diagnosis by untangling multifactorial diseases and comorbidities
3. Understand prodromal to symptomatic progression
4. Develop effective pharmacological, behavioural, and digital interventions
5. Identify biological and digital markers
6. Improve disease stratification, a path towards tailored interventions



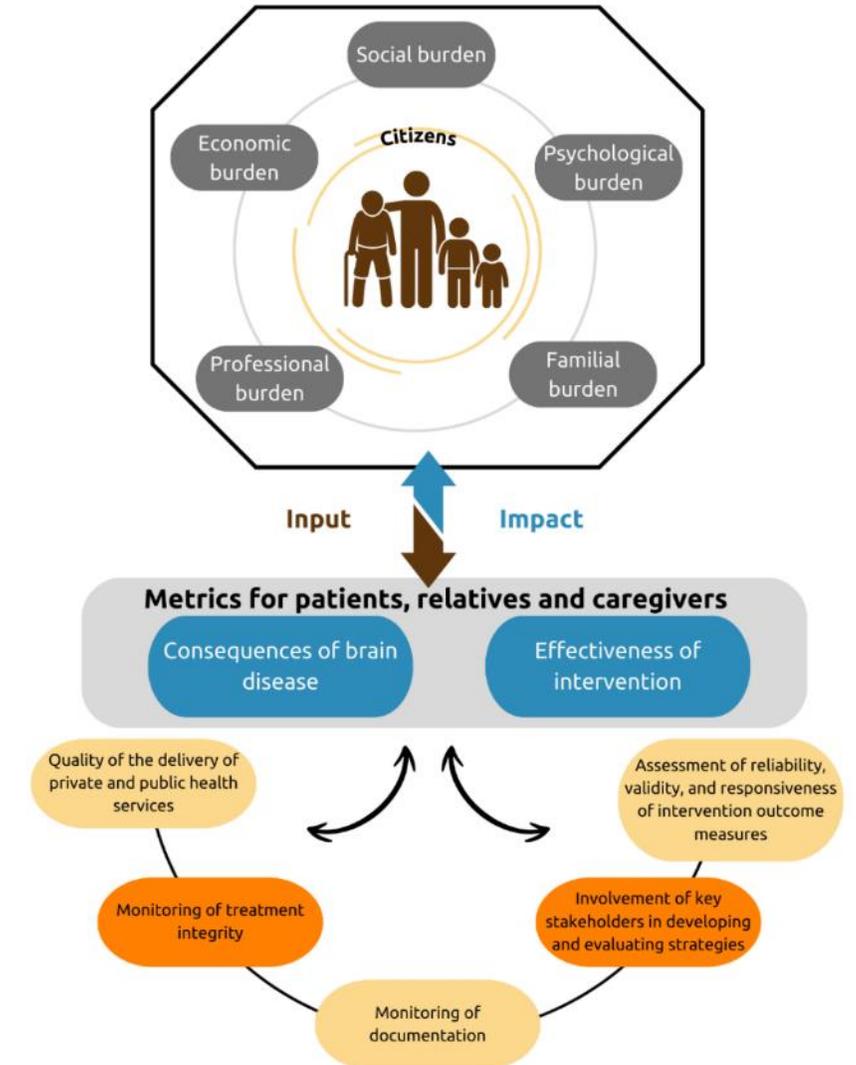
# Priority 3: Improving care and support for people living with brain conditions and their caregivers

1. Translate research results into clinical practice
2. Understand the cost/benefit of (early) diagnosis and therapeutic interventions in the health care system
3. Considering acceptability in brain disorders and their therapies
4. Dissemination of good practices to increase participation of citizens in their health trajectories



# Priority 4: Integrating the social, ethical, and legal dimension to advance research and innovation for brain health

1. Contributing to policy and practice by involving different kinds of stakeholders
2. Equity in brain health
3. Develop appropriate metrics to weigh the consequences of brain disease for patients and relatives and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions



# Transversal priorities to improve brain health

1. Address the lack of **science-based solutions** to create brain-related **innovations** and increase their **socio-economic value** in the brain space
2. Optimise the **use and sharing** of **existing resources and infrastructures** to foster brain research and innovation
3. Increase the **reproducibility** and the potential for **joint exploitation** of scientific outcomes
4. Rely on **experiential knowledge** and citizens **expectations** for the design of research programs
5. Promote the **systematic integration of ethical considerations** in brain research
6. Influence the vision and practices of **new generations of professionals** in the field towards a **more holistic consideration of brain function**
7. Promote the appraisal of international and Pan-European practices to develop powerful approaches to **tailored interventions** for brain health.

