

STICHTING FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETIES TRUST FOUNDATION

Policy Plan 2021-2025

This document serves the purpose of representing the policy of Stichting Federation of European Neuroscience Societies Trust Foundation (hereafter “The Foundation”).

I. General overview

A policy plan embedded in its core mission is an important tool for The Foundation to ensure the best possible development of the organization and its activities for the continued benefit and relevance to the neuroscience community.

The current updated Plan defines the overall direction for The Foundation at a timescale of 5 years and identifies detailed medium to long-term objectives within all key domains and activities of the organization. For The Foundation leadership, the updated version of the policy plan will help to distinguish between unrealistic and realistic goals, establish priorities between main issues, and provide a constant global view of The Foundation activities.

The current plan serves a dual purpose for The Foundation:

- Information: Resulting from The Foundation’s clear policy to openly inform about its activities, direction and objectives, the Policy Plan serves the purpose of transparent dissemination of information to individual neuroscientists and partners at the European and global levels.
- Framework for action: Faced with short- and long-term Policy issues both within and outside of The Foundation, the Policy Plan provides a "radar screen" for The Foundation to identify opportunities and challenges within the European Research Area in a timely manner that will provide flexibility to act.

Periodic review of the plan and its implementation ensures that actions where a desired outcome has either been achieved or is no more likely to be achieved are stopped, and that objectives and actions may continuously be readjusted.

The Policy Plan should serve as long-term guidelines for The Foundation to undertake its tasks, ensuring continuity of actions despite the ever-changing composition of its board.

The Foundation mission is to facilitate scientific interaction and exchange between (groups of) neuroscientists and promote education and training in neuroscience across Europe. This is met by diverse actions and initiatives under the Core Scientific Domains of The Foundation’s Policy plan.

II Activities to be performed

II.1. Higher education and training in neuroscience

With programmes in higher education and training, The Foundation aims to actively support European training on all levels in the neuroscience field. The shared high-level objectives for activities in this domain aspire to generate synergies and establish networks between the next generations of neuroscience researchers. Further, The Foundation aims to support the highest possible standard of neuroscience research in Europe.

In order to provide an added value to the present high-level programmes already offered by other institutions at the national and European level, a unique scheme with a focus on excellence and distinctive value, both to the scientific neuroscience community and to The Foundation will be defined under the present Policy Plan for the schools and training that is supported by The Foundation.

The Foundation currently supports high-level neuroscience schools in collaboration with its international partners where neuroscientists and disciplines are integrated across Europe and exchange and synergy is facilitated.

Changes in the European Research Area including the creation of numerous excellent high-level graduate schools offered at the national level, as well as courses open to young investigators from all over Europe, will be monitored continuously by The Foundation to re-evaluate its activities to focus on European and global level activities where The Foundation can provide an added value to the core players in Europe.

Objectives:

1. In collaboration with partners, further develop the concept of prestigious, *state-of-the-art* training schools in neuroscience that are based on a unique scheme providing significant added value to the existing range of national and European programmes in neuroscience
2. Foster and support exchange among young neuroscientists across Europe with travel stipends
3. Provide support for groups of pan-European neuroscience teaching programmes
4. Develop new partnerships with European and non-European leading agencies involved in education and training to foster synergy and complementary initiatives
5. Reinforce Alumni programmes

II.2. International Advocacy and Partnerships

Neuroscience as a field of research is an international discipline; most challenges it faces are international in nature and require a coordinated action in collaboration with international partners. The ambition of The Foundation to act, either in concert with other partners and organizations or alone in the policy domain is a core pillar activity of The Foundation.

Objectives:

1. The Foundation will support advocacy activities developed by longstanding European partners.

III. Finances

The Foundation its main annual income is through the interest/revenue of the assets obtained through donations from a variety of sources. The sound financial management of The Foundation assets and income as well as the cost-effective management of all activities must allow The Foundation to face major risks as well as finance new initiatives. The Treasurer, as member of the board, has a central role in administrating all The Foundation funds.

Objectives:

1. Maintain a prudent financial administration as to ensure continuity of The Foundation activities.
2. Adopt a financial buffer as to ensure that despite unpredictable circumstances the continuation of some of the key European partners with comparable missions as The Foundation is guaranteed for at least one year.

Actions: Continue to employ a balanced, realistic financial management strategy that plans for moderate revenue growth and careful control over expenses, consistent with fulfilling The Foundation's mission and goals. Monitor the cash flow and move funds on a regular basis to the investment portfolio.

IV. Personnel and administration

The members of the Board receive no remuneration for their work for the Foundation. They are serving the public good free of charge. Costs which occurred to the board members when travelling on behalf of the Foundation are reimbursed on the basis of the [Guidelines for Travel Expenses](#).

The remuneration of staff is defined in individual consultancy contracts.

The treasurer is responsible for the financial administration of the Foundation. The Foundations holds two accounts at Van Landschot bank, one is an investments account, and the investment portfolio is discussed with the bank once per year. The second is a Business/Savings account in Euros for all other daily banking needs. The combined content of these accounts represents a failure guarantee for the Foundation's activities.

Every year before June 1st, the board must draw up a balance sheet and a statement of income and expenditures over the past financial year of the Foundation. *De Jong & Laan accountants Belastingadviseurs* compiles the financial statements of the Foundation using the information provided by the board.

The Foundation strives to ensure that management costs are in reasonable proportion to its expenditure done on behalf of the Foundation's purpose.

V. The Foundation's equity and spending policy

The Foundation may not have more assets than necessary for its activities. The assets represented in the foundation shall serve as a reasonably sized failure guarantee for the Foundation's activities.

The Foundation spends the obtained revenues in accordance with their objectives.