



**FENS/IBRO Leadership Meeting
Global Engagement Initiative Briefing
9 July 2020**

I. Global Engagement Initiative and Seed Grants 2020/2021

In 2019, there were a total of 76 eligible seed grant applications for activities in 2020: 26 from Africa; 21 from Asia/Pacific; 12 from Europe; and 17 from Latin America. They came from 11 different countries and 16 seed grants were awarded: 4 from Asia/Pacific; 4 from Africa; 4 from Europe; and 4 from Latin America. 6 awardees were women and 10 were men. This was a marked improvement from 2019 in which only 12 seed grants were awarded for activities in 2019: 3 from Africa; 2 from Asia/Pacific; 3 from Europe (2 from the same country); and 4 from Latin America. 5 grantees were women and 7 were men. The increase in seed grants for 2020 activities was also due to the committee's agreement to spend down part of the accrued supplemental budget which has now been reduced to a positive balance of approximately 150,000 EUR. The exact figures will be included in the annual global engagement report that will be distributed to partners in October.

Unfortunately, many seed grant activities awarded in 2019 had to be postponed this year and no supplemental funding requests have been made. Out of 16 awardees, 1 has successfully completed their event and submitted a report, 7 have officially postponed and the other 8 are still planning to go ahead but will confirm closer to their scheduled events. The call for the next round of seed grants in 2021 was just published on 1 July and will close on 1 August so the winners will probably be announced in early September.

Regarding the establishment of partner agreements, a formal bilateral agreement has already been signed with SfN this year in support of the Global Engagement Initiative and will be considered for renewal at the end of 2022. IBRO hopes to finalize similar agreements with FENS and the Japan Neuroscience Society by the end of August 2020. The IBRO/FENS draft agreement is attached for further consideration.

II. IBRO/Dana BAW Grants 2020/2021

In 2019, there were a total of 90 eligible applications for the IBRO/Dana BAW grants: 36 from Africa; 31 (including Turkey) from Asia/Pacific; and 23 from Latin America. They came from 30 different countries. Twenty-one grants (7 grants each to Africa, Asia/Pacific and Latin America) were awarded to 9 women and 12 men. Since there was a high demand with qualified proposals, an additional 800 USD was approved and contributed by the IBRO central budget. So far in 2020, 7 BAW projects were completed, 1 partially completed, 11 postponed and 2 are still to be confirmed. In addition, 6 reports have been submitted.

Looking ahead to 2021, the Dana Foundation has increased their funding contribution to 35,000 USD from 25,000 USD to support the selected BAW projects outside of Europe, Canada and the US. Therefore, a total of 28 grants of up to 1,250 USD will now be possible to award. The application call for the next round of grants was published on 1 July and will close on 1 August, the same time period as the global engagement seed grant call. Details of the results will be included in the October report to partners.