JPND research
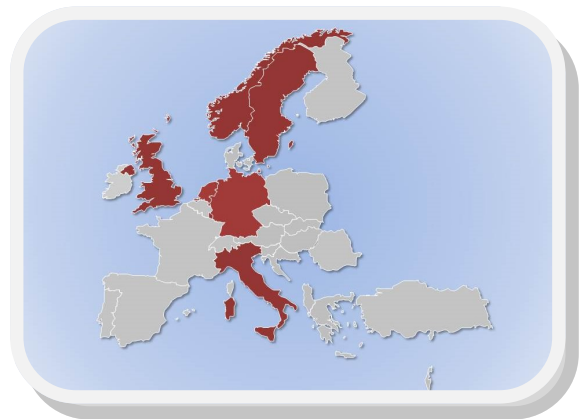EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research

BioLoC-PD

Harmonization of biomarker assessment in longitudinal cohort studies in Parkinson's Disease

Although more than 1% of the population older than 60 years is affected by Parkinson's disease (PD) there is limited understanding about its cause and progression, which hampers causative and disease modifying therapies. To better understand the (years-long) pre-diagnostic phase and the individual course after diagnosis, many large longitudinal studies with individuals at risk for, and with the diagnosis of PD have been established all over Europe to identify predictive and progression markers.

So far, however, these studies differ by-and-large with regard to the kind of symptoms assessed and the nature of the assessment - thus comparison of data is barely possible. This working group addresses the need for harmonization of longitudinal studies in PD. Leading European scientists will work together to develop common guidelines for the establishment of longitudinal studies. Based on current scientific evidence a modular dataset of assessments is being developed to be implemented in longitudinal studies of individuals at risk, patients with PD and finally also in population based studies and internet based approaches to identify individuals at risk all over Europe. Moreover, the group will work on transformation of the current data assessed in different ways to allow comparison of existing data and to increase transnational co-operations as the basis for the establishment of future therapies.

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