



Vision document Brain Cognition and Behaviour The Netherlands (BCB-NL)

Brain, Cognition and Behavioural Research in the Netherlands

Research on the brain, cognition and behaviour is a dynamic, rapidly developing and interdisciplinary field that has a major impact on our society. Our society is faced with many behavioural problems (from violent crimes and psychopathology, to increased stress sensitivity, learning difficulties and aging) that originate in the brain and in which cognitive and behavioural aspects often play a role. The knowledge acquired from brain, cognition and behavioural research has proven to be of vital importance for healthcare (e.g. in new treatment methods and technologies for diseases and disease prevention), education (e.g. providing different ways of learning throughout the course of life), safety (e.g. increasing the resilience of vulnerable groups and new insights into causes of antisocial behaviour), animal behaviour (e.g. providing new insights into animal welfare) and other social areas.

A diverse group of researchers works in this broad field (brain cognition and behaviour): from behavioural biologists and neuroscientists, to psychologists, health scientists and psychiatrists. They work on a large number of scientific and societal challenges at various levels: from the molecular level to organisms in their natural environments.

Dutch research in the field of brain, cognition and behaviour is of very high quality. However, due to the great diversity of the research field, the interdisciplinary nature of the research, and the fragmentation of research funds, the field has been insufficiently organized. In order to facilitate research in the field of brain, cognition and behaviour, and to increase the associated potential of scientific breakthroughs, greater cooperation within the field and greater coordination of the various scientific endeavors is necessary.

A new platform: Brain Cognition Behaviour - The Netherlands

The platform "Brain Cognition and Behaviour - The Netherlands" (BCB-NL) was set up to join forces, to represent the field in unison, and to profile it more optimally. It is an umbrella platform of Dutch associations, federations and networks for research into the brain, cognition and behaviour.

Vision

The vision of BCB-NL is that by stimulating interdisciplinary research, knowledge exchange, and collaboration in the research field of brain, cognition and behaviour, the effectiveness of research and education will increase. Research in the field of brain, cognition and behaviour will therefore be able to contribute more effectively to solving social problems.



Mission

The platform's mission is to combine forces in the field of Brain, Cognition and Behavioural Research (BCB), to promote the interests of this research field and to optimally profile it to the outside world. BCB-NL wants to stimulate the interaction of fundamental and applied research, from molecule to organism in its environment, and from regulatory mechanisms to function and evolution. Through such interdisciplinary collaboration, the platform aims to increase the social impact of the research.

Goals

BCB-NL has the following goals:

- 1) Promote fundamental and applied (interdisciplinary) scientific research in the field of brain, cognition and behaviour.
- 2) Stimulate knowledge exchange and utilization in the field of brain, cognition and behaviour within the entire chain of knowledge from fundamental to applied.
- 3) Represent the interests of research in the field of brain, cognition and behaviour and profile this field by:
 - a. Providing consentient representation for the field of brain, cognition and behaviour
 - b. Acting point of contact and advisory body for this field
 - c. Optimally connecting to national and international developments within the field
 - d. Proactively initiating developments in the field of brain, cognition and behaviour

Strategy

BCB-NL wants to achieve these set goals by the following means:

* Lobbying

By bringing the research field to the attention of NWO, ZonMw, and the ministries and by actively lobbying for the importance of integrative research in the field of brain, cognition and behaviour, funding for the research stands a greater chance of being increased. Knowledge exchange and collaboration with NWO (e.g. new "tables"), ZonMw, ministries (e.g. Sector plans, Knowledge agendas), and companies are important for this. BCB-NL can also become an unambiguous point of contact for government bodies and the wider public, for example, for the contribution of BCB research to important scientific and social issues.

* Knowledge exchange

Knowledge exchange between researchers within BCB-NL and between BCB-NL researchers and other stakeholders is crucial for interdisciplinary (fundamental) research and societal impact. Formulating policies for knowledge exchange within BCB-NL, organizing meetings and conferences, and participating in outreach activities (also via the website), will contribute to this. In addition, the exchange of information, for example on ethical issues, and the sharing of research protocols and sector plans will increase the added value of the platform.

* Visibility

By improving the visibility of the field for the members of the associations affiliated with BCB-NL and for external stakeholders, the reach and impact of BCB-NL can be increased. This can expand support for research in the field of Brain, Cognition and Behaviour. The BCB-NL network can also respond when a widely supported stance or response from the research field "brain, cognition and behaviour" is desired.

Participating organizations

The following associations or networks are currently affiliated: NeurolabNL, Nederlandse Vereniging voor Neuropsychologie (NVN, Dutch Association for Neuropsychology), Nederlandse Vereniging voor Psychonomie (NVP, Dutch Association for Psychonomy), the Association for Researchers in Psychology and Health (ARPH), Nederlandse Vereniging voor Gedragsbiologie (NVG, Dutch Association for Behavioural Biology), Dutch Neurofederation (Neurofederatie), Nederlandse Vereniging voor Slaap-Waak Onderzoek (NSWO, Dutch Association for Sleep-Wake Research), Stress NL, Neurotech-NL, Cognition, Behaviour and Evolution Network (CBEN) and Stichting Hersenstimulatie (Brain Stimulation Foundation).

BCB-NL is an all-inclusive platform for anyone who researches the brain, cognition and behaviour and it therefore remains possible for other associations or networks to join BCB-NL.

How is BCB-NL organized?

Each organization affiliated with BCB-NL delegates one representative to the steering committee. The steering committee meets at least twice per year to coordinate the strategy and related activities, and additional actions as needed. A representative deputy can replace the delegate at the meetings.

Administratively, BCB-NL will be managed by one of the participating associations or networks in which a BCB-NL steering committee representative and a coordinator are working. Due to the close relations with NWO and the associated financial support, NeurolabNL has assumed this role for the coming period (2020 to 2022). After this period, another affiliated organization can take over the administration.