

## Minutes of the Meeting of Working Groups 1 and 2

1. Introduction by Sven Bolte (SB):
  - a. Outline of the meeting agenda.
  - b. Suggestion to limit and group activities, with each MC participant involved in at least one project/activity, with the aim of publishing 1 paper per project. Plan: data collection in 2013, in order to prepare conference presentations (for the COST ESSEA Conference) in 2014.  
Aim of the current meeting: work in subgroups, report briefly on the plan of individual projects/activities.
2. SB proposed to cluster together activities/projects into blocks. After a discussion within WG1+2 the following activities were outlined:
  - i. (WG1) Availability/ standardization of methods and instruments across European countries (lead Emily Jones, EJ).  
Also – to develop templates for inter-lab common standardized measures and common data analysis protocols (lead Emily Jones with Valentina di Gangi, Padua).
    1. Participants: Emily Jones, Valentina di Gangi, Louise Gallagher, Iva Dudova, Michal Hrdlicka, Przemek Tomalski, Guiomar Oliveira, Bogdan Budisteanu.
    2. Comments from WG 1+2 members:
      - a. SB – need to coordinate this with EU-AIMS outputs (EJ to lead on both).
      - b. Examples of US database to look at: NDAR – national database for autism research ([www: ndar.nih.gov](http://www.ndar.nih.gov))
  - ii. ON HOLD FOR NOW Educational needs of in ASD research in Europe – survey knowledge/curricula for professionals of various groups on ASD and perhaps another developmental disorder for comparison (e.g. clinicians, speech and language, special needs educators, etc.).
    - a. Possibly coordinate this with other WG3.
    - b. Nurit Yirmiya – it likely needs separate funding if larger-scale. SB – possibly narrow down.
    - c. SB to contact WG3 to progress on that.
  - iii. (WG2) Scrutinize availability of technology across sites (Luke, Marie – Terje Falck-Ytter (TFY) to ask).
    - a. Prepare more detailed map of EEG, ET system manufacturers and setups.
    - b. Potential link – connection with industry related to technology that we use.
    - c. For clarity – link with first activity on standardization of protocols.
  - iv. (WG1+2 shared) Short and long-term research priorities across sites (Peter Marschik, PM to lead on this, Carlyn van den Boomen, CVDB from the Netherlands volunteering to help).

- a. Review research priorities across sites and discuss and agree overlapping interests and mark differing interests.
    - b. PM – working with IT specialists that develop search tools for science publication databases to conduct large-scale searches for new trends in research technologies available. Proposes to conduct this kind of overview of methods or technology and write a paper on new trends available. (PM to lead with help from others).
  - 2. Possibly split this block into two? Seek additional funding? To work on these within the group.
- v. (WG1) Parents'/interest organizations'/teachers' attitudes on recruitment and participation in high-risk research . (lead by Sue Fletcher-Watson, Emily Jones and Teresa Farroni, participating: Astrid Vicente)
  - 1. Parents'/interest organizations'/teachers' attitudes on key ethical issues
  - 2. Dissemination for parent part.
  - 3. Generate European consensus on responsible dissemination (lead Astrid Vicente and Bogdan Budisteanu).
  - 4. Also good practices in dissemination.
    - i. AV comment – can these two themes be treated together since there are separate perspectives that need to be included. Need more specialists in dissemination.
    - ii. SB – prepare different kinds of information packs/sets for different groups of recipients. Potentially we can also find media communication organizations to work with on this.
  - 5. Include part of the educational needs in ASD research (aspects related to parents information). Need a leader?
- vi. (WG2) How to optimize practical/clinical administration of (infant) child studies? Lead: Anneli Kylliainen and Sue Fletcher-Watson and Petra Warreyn), participants: Mary Kojre.
  - a. AK suggests to extend this theme from infant to children and to include a review of practical ways in which we deal with difficult and challenging research paradigms. (“Tricks for conducting psychophysiological experiments in ASD/sibs studies successfully”).
- vii. (WG2) (PRELIMINARY NOW, NOT FOR PRESENTATION)
  - 1. Develop procedures/infrastructure for online collection of data of different types (e.g. web cam based eye-tracking) (lead TFY, participants: Przemek Tomalski and Guiomar Oliveira).

- a. PT suggests to look into engineers that devise such systems and professionally deal with finding technical solutions.
  - b. Carlyn van den Boomen – in Netherlands lab a web-based system prepared for biometric data (? And other data sources) – a PhD doing similar things student in the lab
  - c. AK – good example – studies of dyslexia where children play games, in which there are language tasks.
3. Organisational matters. Appoint a lead to report for each theme and create a timetable of progress and expected outputs.
4. Allocation of activities into WG1 and WG2.
5. TFY – Each mini group working on one activity to create 1 slide with bullet points to be presented on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May MC session with the following structure:
  - a. AIM. (Short-term scientific mission)
  - b. PEOPLE involved
  - c. METHOD proposed
  - d. EXPECTED OUTCOME of activity
  - e. TIMELINE

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May

6. Further work in small groups during the morning session (8.30-10.30).
7. Presentation of specific activities planned in WG1+2 in the plenary MC session.