

## Minutes from ESSEA COST Action BM1004 Work Group 2 meeting

Padua September 2011.

### Day 1, Monday, September 19th

Chair Terje Falck-Ytter, minutes Louise Gallagher

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Project mapping results
3. 2011 STM reports and plans
4. Presentations
5. Small group exercise
6. Revise WG 2 workplan
7. Brief summary of day 1 and priorities for day 2
8. Short general discussion (Tony)

#### 1. Introduction:

Specific WG 2 aims – share protocols across multiple sites, compatibility for data pooling, central repository, advance new analysis methods

Project mapping (see COST website – WG2 - Table):

#### 2. Mapping exercise:

The mapping exercise was conducted and an outline of the projects across sites is available. Additions or changes should be emailed to Terje by Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure inclusion.

#### 3. STSM reports and plans:

*Sweden – UK – August 2011*

Between Uppsala and BASIS group. Fact-finding to learn about methods/ analysis. Outcome involved agreement regarding sharing of protocols.

*Belgium – UK – December 2011.*

Visit to BASIS for fact-finding re methods/ analysis.

#### 4. Research presentations:

1. Affective motivational brain responses to eye contact in children with autism. Presenter: Anneli Kylliainen
2. Body Tracking Technologies. Presenter: Gerardo Herrera.
3. BASIS: Presenter: Mayada Elsabagh
4. Early Autism Sweden. Presenter: Terje Falck-Ytter

#### 5. Discussion/brain storming in small groups on WG2 activities. Result:

## Group 1

- Ethic considerations – explore possibility to make available guidelines for future grant applications and applications to ethics committees
- Platforms – relative strengths and weaknesses – sharing of information regarding equipment and software
- Unpublished data – Not all data is published – interesting to share reasons for non-publication – informative within the network.

## Group 1: Associated activities and outputs:

Ethics – Overlaps with activities identified as part of WG1 and sub-group proposed to conduct mapping exercise on ethical issues. This activity could be subsumed as part of the WG1 Sub-group. Teresa Ferroni and Gerardo Herrera were co-opted into this group

Information sharing regarding equipment – this could be convened on a Members Forum (or blog). Suggestion to set up a blog as part of the Website to facilitate posting questions and communications. Sub-group: Louise Gallagher and Gerardo Herrera

Data sharing and methodological issues – this could be added to blog as previously.

## Group 2:

- Training school for Eye Tracking – Determine nature of training – basic vs advanced or mix of both. Emphasis should be on capacity building.
- Translation of methodologies for clinical application – explore feasibility of translation – publication – inform future Framework application
- Parent-child interaction – Measure that can be easily included and implemented. Possibility for data pooling and sharing.
- Sharing protocols and opportunities for joint funding applications.

Translational – small workgroup to think about application of methodologies to clinical applications. Agreed to discuss more prior to convening sub-group

Sharing methods – especially parent-child interactions – in protocol already

## Group 3:

- Obstacle – don't know each other well – hard to easily get to know what people are doing. Build on mapping exercise – add fields with more details of the studies.
- Obstacle – development of technologies – lack of scientists, engineers. Opportunity for grant applications connecting groups with this expertise with others without the expertise.

Improve recognition of group members – e.g. put photos on website, attach key expertise, link to lab. (Louise Gallagher to request information from COST members)

## Group 4:

- Knowledge transfer and application – To get greater dissemination within EU
- Standardisation of protocols
- Technical integration of methodologies across sites – to allow for cross-site analysis
- Integration with genetics research.

## **Day 2, Tuesday, September 20th**

### **WG2 Discussion 2nd day (20th of Sep)**

Chair person Terje and minutes kept by Anneli Kylliainen

#### **Minutes**

1. Terje summarized the conclusions of the WG2 –meeting from the first day and carried on discussion of the brain storming -activity.
2. We had discussion of the idea of Improved communication within WG as “we do not know each other” and we concluded that monthly conference calls serve also this purpose in addition to the web page introductions.
3. We discussed also about the idea to synchronize protocols and concluded that we will talk about the common methods as a part of the first training school at the summer 2012 and the idea was raised that we could also have a statistician there to give a work shop on relevant issues.
4. We talked about how we could integrate genetics into WG2 activities e.g. by combining the gene findings with the findings of brain imagining. We decided that the cost members discuss about this issue with their local collaborators before taking this any further within the WG activities.
5. We also discussed how to share data and procedures. We decided to create a template of ASD-sibling studies as there is a clear example of the collaboration available (Sweden-UK). Terje Falck-Ytter, Sven Bölte, Mayada Elsabbagh, Teresa Farroni, David Mankuta, Agnes Kovacs agreed to work together for this target.
6. We discussed about the first training school in Uppsala and concluded that Uppsala is a good place for method based training course as they are using methods that others are also interested in using in the future or are using already. There are also ASD-risk sibling–studies on going. We also had rich discussion about on which level the teaching in the training school should be. One possibility is that the eye tracking training will be for the ones that really use the method or are going to use in the near future. When it comes to NIRS it could be more introductory approach as so few have yet the facilities to use the method. Astrid promised to look the COST procedure of the training schools for Terje. Tony promised to inform all of the other training courses (e.g., Marie Curie) that might have free places.
7. We talked about evaluating possibilities for collaboration of industry. We decided to do a mapping exercise of that. Terje will send an e-mail about it for all.

