17-23 May: IDoService webinar raises awareness about dementia

The IDoService project organised a webinar on "Designing support and social participation to foster wellbeing during the dementia journey" as part of Dementia Action Week, to raise awareness about dementia, and how to make societies more dementia-friendly and inclusive for all. Dementia Action Week is a national, annual event in the United Kingdom, organised by Alzheimer's Society. This year's edition took place from 17-23 May.

This webinar offered the opportunity to think about how design can support people living with dementia and their loved ones. The programme brought together researchers, people with lived experience of dementia or caring, and a public and patient involvement manager. Discussions between panellists and attendees pointed out the need to stay fully involved in the community, in "everyday places", and to actively participate in meaningful activities. Societies need to offer more inclusive opportunities - not necessarily dementia-labelled - to support and empower people living with dementia to participate meaningfully in and contribute to their families, social networks, neighbourhoods, and communities. Specific concerns arose during the Questions & Answer session on awareness in ethnic minority communities, regarding diagnosis and access to services and support.

The question "how to make our societies more dementia-friendly and inclusive for all?", which guided the webinar, was raised regularly by the 11 key stakeholders during the first 3 focus groups and follow-on interviews that were conducted by the IDoService project team in March and April. The next step will be to discuss the availability and accessibility of meaningful activities with people with dementia and their care partners, and the project expects the issue of awareness to surface, there, as well.

Alongside the project's Twitter account (@idoservice4dem1) and the website, the webinar opened another interactive way to engage in discussions related to the project. The detailed programme, as well as the webinar recording, are available on:

www.idoservice.org

The IDoService project builds on the interdisciplinary participative design approach, ideas of empowerment and social engagement developed during the European project MinD (2016-2020).

For any questions or suggestions about The IDoService project and its activities, please do not hesitate to contact the research team at: idoservice@mmu.ac.uk

21 May: Neuronet ECR submission for the virtual Alzheimer Europe Conference is open!

Neuronet invites Early Career Researchers from the Innovative Medicines Initiative's neurodegeneration research projects to present their work at the upcoming Alzheimer Europe Conference. Applicants whose abstracts are accepted for a Quick Oral or Poster presentation will be granted a free registration to attend the three-day virtual conference. The deadline for submissions is 30 June. Submit your abstract here:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences/2021-Online

27 May: AI-Mind has been successful in the EBRAINS Research Infrastructure Voucher Call

The AI-Mind project has been granted access to EBRAIN's implementation support among thirteen other innovative projects from Europe, United States and Canada.

EBRAINS is a new digital research infrastructure, created by the EU-funded Human Brain Project (HBP), to foster brain-related research and to help translate the latest scientific discoveries into innovation in medicine and industry, for the benefit of patients and society.

Together with a dedicated expert from the Human Brain Project, AI-Mind will develop and implement tailored infrastructure features to enhance brain modelling and simulation platform. AI-Mind develops a new biomarker in dementia and a new medical device to effectively screen and predict the risk of dementia in the European population with mild cognitive impairment. With the merge of the AI-Mind data into the HBP infrastructure provided by EBRAIN, the AI-Mind project will be able to better model the algorithm, test and finally apply artificial intelligence-based diagnostics in clinical settings. As an HBP Partnering Project, the AI-Mind consortium will have the opportunity to develop further collaborations and make a huge impact on health and technological progress.

The AI-Mind project is funded by Horizon 2020, for a duration of 5 years. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 964220. This article reflects only the author's view and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains. Visit the project's website for more information:

https://www.ai-mind.eu/

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER for our conference

EU project acknowledgements

Members of the European Alzheimer's Alliance

Currently, the total number of MEPs in the Alliance stands at **92**, representing **26** Member States of the European Union and six out of seven political groups in the European Parliament. Alzheimer Europe would like to thank the following MEPs for their support of the European Alzheimer's Alliance (EAA):

Austria: Monika Vana (Greens/EFA). **Belgium**: Frédérique Ries (Renew Europe); Kathleen van Brempt (S&D); Hilde Vautmans (Renew Europe). **Bulgaria**: Radan Kanev (EPP); Andrey Kovatchev (EPP); Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew Europe); Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D); Sergei Stanichev (S&D). **Croatia**: Biljana Borzan (S&D); Tonino Picula (S&D); Ruža Tomašić (ECR). **Cyprus**: Costas Mavrides (S&D). **Czech Republic**: Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP). **Denmark**: Margrete Auken (Greens/EFA); Christel Schaldemose (S&D). **Estonia**: Urmas Paet (Renew Europe); **Finland**: Alviina Alametsä (Greens/EFA); Heidi Hautala (Greens/EFA); Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (S&D); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP). **France**: François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP); Dominique Bilde (I&D); Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé (EPP); Arnaud Danjean (EPP); Geoffroy Didier (EPP); Agnes Evren (EPP); Sylvie Guillaume (S&D); Brice Hortefeux (EPP); Nadine Morano (EPP); Dominique Riquet (Renew Europe); Anne Sander (EPP); Chrysoula Zacharaopoulou (Renew). **Germany**: Alexandra Geese (Greens/EFA); Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA); Angelika Niebler (EPP); Terry Reintke (Greens/EFA). **Greece**: Manolis Kefalogiannis (EPP); Stelios Kouloglou (GUE-NGL); Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL); Maria Spyraki (EPP); Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (EPP). **Hungary**: Tamás Deutsch (EPP); Ádám Kósa (EPP). **Ireland**: Barry Andrews (ALDE); Deirdre Clune (NI); Ciarán Cuffe (Greens/EFA, Clare Daly (GUE/NGL); Frances Fitzgerald (EPP); Luke 'Ming' Flanagan (GUE/NGL); Billy Kelleher (Renew Europe); Seán Kelly (EPP); Grace O'Sullivan (Greens/EFA). **Italy**: Isabella Adinolfi (NI); Brando Benifei (S&D); Pierfrancesco Majorino (S&D); Aldo Patriciello (EPP); Patrizia Toia (S&D). **Lithuania**: Vilija Blinkeviciute (S&D). **Luxembourg**: Marc Angel (S&D); Charles Goerens (Renew Europe); Christophe Hansen (EPP); Tilly Metz (Greens, EFA); Isabel Wiseler-Lima (EPP). **Malta**: Roberta Metsola (EPP); Alfred Sant (S&D). **Netherlands**: Jeroen Lenaers (EPP); Annie Schreijer-Pierik (EPP). **Poland**: Elzbieta Lukacijewska (EPP); Jan Olbrycht (EPP). **Portugal**: Sara Cerdas (S&D); José Gusmão (GUE/NGL); Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL); Clàudia Monteiro de Aguiar (EPP); Manuel Pizarro (S&D). **Romania**: Cristian-Silviu Busoi (EPP); Marian-Jean Marinescu (EPP). **Slovakia**: Ivan Stefanec (EPP). **Slovenia**: Franc Bogovič (EPP); Milan Brglez (S&D); Tanja Fajon (S&D); Klemen Grošelj (Renew Europe); Irena Joveva (ALDE); Romana Tomc (EPP); Milan Zver (EPP). **Spain**: Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew Europe); Rosa Estaräs Ferragut (EPP); Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D); Diana Riba i Giner (Greens-EFA); Ernest Urtasun (Greens/EFA). **Sweden**: Jytte Guteland (S&D); Peter Lundgren (ECR).

EU DEVELOPMENTS

6 May: European Commission publishes COVID-19 therapeutics strategy

The European Commission has published strategy on COVID-19 therapeutics to support the development and availability of medicines to treat the effects of the virus, covering the lifecycle of medicines from research, development and manufacturing, through to procurement and deployment.

The strategy includes clear actions and targets, including authorising three new therapeutics to treat COVID-19 by October 2021 and possibly two more by end of the year. These actions and targets and grouped under the following headings:

- Research, development and innovation
- Access to, and swift approval of, clinical trials
- Scanning for candidate therapeutics
- Supply chains and delivery of medicines
- Regulatory flexibility
- Joint procurement and financing
- International cooperation to make medicines available to all.