European Brain Council and beLean.net launched the first Brain Innovation Days virtually on 13 October 2020, kicking off one full year of a packed brain innovation agenda leading up to the Brussels on-site event on 12-13 October 2021.

179 million Europeans are currently living with brain disorders, and this is to steadily increase as the population ages. Though one in three Europeans are set to live with a brain disease at some point of their life – neurological and mental alike – brain treatments remain insufficient and research is disproportionally underfunded compared to other disease areas.

At the same time, we have inspiring innovators in the brain space paving their way to building solutions for patients with brain disorders. In order to connect all parties involved, enhanced multi-stakeholder engagement in the brain ecosystem is needed to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge, accelerate investment in research and innovation, facilitate business development and showcase on-going work.

This is what the Brain Innovation Days are about: a platform bringing together science and society and an annual event where leaders in the brain ecosystem, researchers, industry, start-ups, innovators, policymakers, investors, health care professionals and patients are invited to discover the potential for innovation and having strong matchmaking opportunities.

**Highlights of the event**

- **Virtual launch event, exploring how brain innovation is changing Europe**
- **A series of digital sessions throughout 2021**
- **Prominent, cutting-edge speakers in their fields**
- **Online content streams with regular updates on the latest in brain innovation**
- **Connecting the brain community through matchmaking and networking opportunities**
- **“My Start-up in 180 seconds” Pitching Competition with an award for the ‘Best Pitch’**

**Organizers**

**European Brain Council**

The European Brain Council (EBC) is a network of key players in the “brain space”, with a membership encompassing scientific and professional societies, patient organisations and industry partners. A non-profit organisation based in Brussels, its main mission is to promote brain research with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of those living with brain conditions, mental and neurological alike.

**beLean.net**

beLean.net is the reference accelerator in the field of biotechnology and medical technologies in Wallonia, Belgium. Its team of complementary experts supports biotechs and medtechs by providing them services in strategy, finance and management all along their growth journey: from scratch, through start-up to scale-up.