



Childhood and Adolescence
Psychopathology:
unravelling the complex etiology
by a large Interdisciplinary
Collaboration in Europe

Progress report 1

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Lead partner: VU
Author(s): Christel Middeldorp & Natascha Stroo
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Table of Contents

1.	General progression of the action.....	4
2.	Recruitment Strategy	5
3.	Career development plan for each recruited researcher.....	9
4.	Management of the action	5
5.	Communication activities	11
6.	Impact of the action	13

1. General progress of the action

Period covered: 1-2-2017 – 1-2-2018

We have achieved all deliverables and milestones for the first year as described in the Grant Agreement. This includes the consortium agreement, the recruitment of the 12 PhD students and their personal development plans, the launch of the website, the workshop and the annual meeting.

We experienced a significant delay in the consortium agreement. This was due to disagreements regarding the articles concerning the use of the results generated during this project by the beneficiaries. Some of the parties wanted to follow the example of DESCA while the commercial partner wanted a broader use of the results and the data. After 5 versions, everybody agreed with the text.

The recruitment of the PhD students and their PDPs is described below under 2 and 3. In general, this went smooth, apart from two preferred candidates who ultimately declined the positions causing a delay in one site (Bristol). Furthermore at one site, it appeared impossible to let the PhD student start in August because of the summer holidays, so the starting date was delayed till the 1st of September. The starting date of the 12 PhD students varied between the 1st of June and the 1st of October. Their personal development plans are all in place (see below under 3).

The website has been launched, providing general information on the project and the beneficiaries. It further shows the presentation of the CAPICE project at two conferences and the first publication.



The first workshop has been held from the 22nd of January till the 24th at King's College in London. This was an introductory workshop providing an overview of the field of psychiatric genetics. Prof Christel Middeldorp and Prof Meike Bartels from the VU presented an overview of the CAPICE project and answered questions of the ESRs, e.g., regarding the training plans. In addition, the students presented their projects in a two minute pitch (that will also be used for the website). More information will be provided at the uploaded deliverable.

The first annual meeting was held at the 25th and 26th of January in Amsterdam. The possibilities for collaborations between ESRs were discussed, as well as their training plans, including secondments at partners. Further, ideas to make the information on the website more accessible for lay audience were shared and will be progressed in collaboration with GAMIAN Europe. Progress on the upcoming deliverables regarding data harmonization, data facility and polygenic risk scores were discussed and it was concluded that we are on schedule.



The CAPICE PI's, supervisors and scientific advisory board

2. Recruitment strategy

In total 12 early stage researchers had to be recruited for the CAPICE project. In February we published the twelve different projects on the Euraxess website, <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

The project manager (VU) collected and confirmed the applications for all positions, and informed the applicants about the further application procedure. Only the University of Gothenburg used the required institutional application tools integrated in the university website.

After the first application round 101 candidates applied to the 12 ESR positions. Many of them applied for more than one position. Table 1 gives an overview of the candidates.

Table 1

Applications				
Beneficiary [Short name)	Project title	number	country (number)	gender
VU	Polygenic analyses of childhood and adolescent internalizing problems	19	Italy (3), The Netherlands (1), USA (43), India (1) , Uk (4), Brazil (92), Germany (1), Slovenia (1), Turkey (1), Egypt (1), Portugal (10), Spain (1)	F: 13 M: 6
VU	Polygenic analyses of comorbid symptoms during childhood	23	The Netherlands (1), Spain (2), USA (3), UK (4), Italy (3), India (91), Germany (2), Brazil (2), Slovenia (1), Turkey (1), Estonia (1), Egypt (1), Portugal (1)	F: 17 M: 5
KCL	Genetic and environmental underpinnings of psychopathology during childhood and adolescence	17	Italy (1), Turkey (2), USA (2), Sweden (2), India (1), The Netherlands (3), Germany (1), Brazil (1), Egypt (1), France (1), Spain (1), Finland (1)	F: 7 M: 10
UGOT	Prediction of negative life outcomes in individuals with anxiety	68	not available	F: 38 M: 30
Bristol	Lifestyle behaviours during pregnancy and offspring psychiatric outcomes: Using Mendelian randomization to infer causality	21	USA (2), Ghana (1), Sweden (1), India (2), Estonia (1), Zimbabwe (1), Poland (1), Spain (2), The Netherlands (2), Germany (2), France (2), Belgium (1), Turkey (1), South Africa (1), Egypt (1)	F:11 M: 20
Bristol	Two-step Mendelian randomization analyses of lifestyle behaviours during pregnancy and offspring psychiatric outcomes	17	USA (2), Ghana (1), India (1), Zimbabwe (1), Poland (1), Spain (2), Italy (1), The Netherlands (2), Germany (1), France (2), Belgium (1), Turkey (1), Egypt (1),	F: 7 M: 10
EUR	A genetic and epigenetic approach to studying the effects of lifestyle behaviors during pregnancy on offspring outcomes	22	UK (2), USA (6), Portugal (1), Turkey (2), Tanzania (1), Brasil (1), Estonia (1), Spain (1), Germany (3), Belgium (1), Egypt (1), France (1)	F: 14 M: 8
Karolinska	Prediction of negative life outcomes in ADHD	38	UK (5), USA (2), India (2), Turkey (1), Tanzania (1), Iran (1), Spain (2), Ireland (1), Greece (2), Italy (4), The Netherlands (1), Germany (5), France (3), Egypt (1), China (1), Sweden (1), Cyprus (1), Pakistan (1), Belgium (1), Brasil (1), Norway (1)	F: 25 M: 13
Twente	Gene-environment interaction using harmonized phenotypes	8	USA (2), India (1), Morocco (1), Germany (1), Egypt (1), France (1), Malawi (1)	F: 4 M: 4
UNICA	Building a sustainable facility for multi-site analyses and translating the results to the clinic	10	USA (2), India (2), Ireland (1), Brasil (1), Germany (1), Egypt (1), Sweden (1), Finland (1)	F: 1 M: 9
ICL	Analytical methods for bio-behavioural sciences - polygenic analyses of childhood and adolescent ADHD symptoms	9	USA (2), Iran (1), Germany (1), Finland (1), Sweden (2), France (1), Egypt (1)	F: 2 M: 2
Janssen	Analytical methods for bio-behavioural sciences - polygenic analyses of childhood and adolescent ADHD symptoms	17	Ukraine (1), UK (3), USA (2), Portugal (1), Iran (1), Morocco (1), Greece (1), Italy (1), Germany (3), South Korea (1), Egypt (1), Sweden (1)	F: 8 M: 9

The selections were done at the institutes. Per institute three or four candidates were invited for a job interview. These interviews were all done by Skype, except at Janssen-CILAG. They invited the two final candidates in person and took the costs to bring them to Stockholm.

All institutes succeeded after the interviews in finding a suitable candidate for the ESR position. Eventually the selected candidates for the positions at the University of Bristol and the Karolinska Institute passed the job.

For both positions we published the advertisement again at the Euroaxess website. Table 2 gives an overview of the 2nd round applicants.

Table 2

Applications				
Beneficiary [Short name)	Project title	number	country (number)	gender
KI	Prediction of negative life outcomes in ADHD	12	India (1), USA (1), Iran (1), UK (1), Germany (1), The Netherlands (1), Spain (2), Malaysia (1), Brasil (1), Greece (1), ireland (1)	F: 5 M: 7
Bristol	Two-step Mendelian randomization analyses of lifestyle behaviours during pregnancy and offspring psychiatric outcomes	7	Brazil (2), Spain (1), Denmark (1), India (1), The Netherlands (1), Botswana (1)	F: 6 M: 1

Given that we succeeded after the 2nd round in appointing suitable candidates for both positions we were able to start in time at 8 institutes in accordance with the Description of Action of the Grant Agreement. In table 3 an overview of all recruited ESR's. Only at the University of Cagliari and Bristol the ESR's started two months later which didn't cause any delay in the project.



Table 3

recruited ESR's			
Beneficiary [Short name]	Project title	last residential country	gender
VU	Polygenic analyses of childhood and adolescent internalizing problems	UK	F
VU	Polygenic analyses of comorbid symptoms during childhood	UK	F
KCL	Genetic and environmental underpinnings of psychopathology during childhood and adolescence	The Netherlands	M
UGOT	Prediction of negative life outcomes in individuals with anxiety	Germany	F
Bristol	Lifestyle behaviours during pregnancy and offspring psychiatric outcomes: Using Mendelian randomization to infer causality	Estonia	F
Bristol	Two-step Mendelian randomization analyses of lifestyle behaviours during pregnancy and offspring psychiatric outcomes	Germany	F
EUR	A genetic and epigenetic approach to studying the effects of lifestyle behaviors during pregnancy on offspring outcomes	USA	F
Karolinska	Prediction of negative life outcomes in ADHD	USA	F
Twente	Gene-environment interaction using harmonized phenotypes	India	F
UNICA	Building a sustainable facility for multi-site analyses and translating the results to the clinic	India	M
ICL	Analytical methods for bio-behavioural sciences - polygenic analyses of childhood and adolescent ADHD symptoms	Finland	M
Janssen	Analytical methods for bio-behavioural sciences - polygenic analyses of childhood and adolescent ADHD symptoms	UK	F

3. Career development plan for each recruited researcher

All ESRs have developed a supervision and career development plan together with their supervisors, each following individual institutional requirements and format as well CAPICE requirements. These plans list a number of training courses and needs for individual ESR in addition to the compulsory and network-wide CAPICE workshops. The training plans were due to be submitted to the EU by end of Oct 2017, except for Gothenburg and Karolinska which were due by end of March 2018, as part of D.7.2. However, Gothenburg's training plan was also received by end of Oct 2017 and hence submitted by then. The training plan of Karolinska's ESR was received soon after Oct 2017 and was uploaded onto the EU portal for submission before the Christmas break, in December 2017.

Having received all the plans, we have performed general assessments on their contents, taking into account individual project proposals and topic for each ESR. These training and development plans appear coherent with individual training needs and projects; all seem to share common training aspects and trends. Statistical training, content-based skills and general PhD-related competences (i.e. scientific writing, presentation, publications etc) are listed coherently in all the career development plans. As mentioned before, the formats of those plans are different, 1 is in the local language and a translation has been provided just for a few courses while another seems to be a 2 year plan instead of 3. However, essential issue is the plan for the first two years at this point.

4. Management of the action

The management is going well. This is also due to the cooperation of all beneficiaries and partners and their willingness to collaborate.

We had a kick-off meeting on the 15th of November 2016. In addition to the regular calls with the supervisors/ work package leaders, we had 2 calls with all beneficiaries, one on the 16th of December 2016 (to discuss the budget) and one on the 26th of February 2017 (to discuss the consortium agreements). The regular calls with the work package leaders / supervisors were held on the 29th of August 2017, the 16th of October and the 4th of December.

In the kick-off meeting, the overall plan for the project was discussed with specific emphasis on recruitment strategy, training plan, budget and redistribution of training and management budget, and the deliverables that involve all beneficiaries (i.e., data harmonization and the building of the data facility for analyses across sites). Everybody agreed that each supervisor could select the PhD student(s). However, advertising and collection of applications was done centrally (by the VU), in order to have a view on the overlap in candidates for several positions and to avoid conflicts of interest.

Progress on these topics and on the individual PhD projects were also discussed during the other calls with the work package leaders / supervisors and the annual meeting. No changes have been made to the plan for the network wide training activities. We made a start with the plans for data harmonization and the data facility. That is still ongoing.

We will continue the calls next year in a frequency of once in three months.

We also regularly communicate with other cohorts involved in the EARly Genetics and Lifecourse Epidemiology (EAGLE) consortium. Several of these cohorts will be involved in the meta-analysis of internalizing symptoms during childhood and in the data harmonisation process.

Regarding specific rules. Some universities have rather strict rules regarding the percentage of the budget that is regarded as overhead and therefore should be transferred to the central administration. This made the redistribution of the management budget to a central budget for some beneficiaries problematic. The percentage was therefore decreased.

In Sweden, a PhD should take four years. This means that this beneficiary needs to pay one year of salary from another budget.

5. Communication activities

The website has been launched in autumn. The text on the website has been written in close collaboration with GAMIAN Europe.

Accounts at other social channels have also been established:

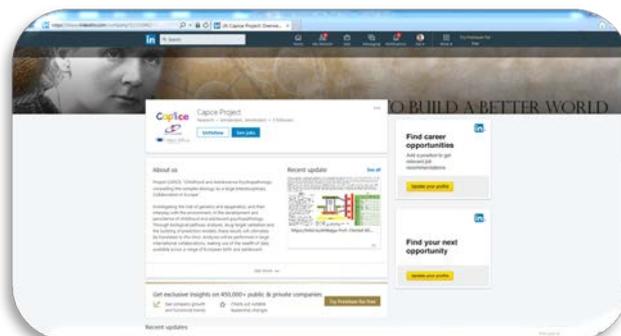
- <https://www.facebook.com/CapiceProject/>



- https://twitter.com/capice_project



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/11351041/>



- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGg8uIHHE69IlcHoYCjwKg/videos>



The project has been presented with posters during two conferences, the World Congress on Psychiatric Genetics and the International Workshop on Neonatology.

One paper has been published so far, in World Psychiatry, the no1 journal in Psychiatry.

6. Impact of the Action

The recruited researchers are supervised by internationally renowned researchers in the field of psychiatric genetics, in a project in which international collaboration is key.

It strengthens the collaboration between the institutions even further, allowing more efficient use of the wealth of data and higher impact papers.

This project significantly contributes to the following priorities of the European Research Area:

- Optimal transnational co-operation and competition, including 'optimal transnational cooperation and competition' and 'Research Infrastructures';
- Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research;
- Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge, including 'Knowledge circulation' and 'Open Access';
- International cooperation.

Having the capacity of 12 PhD students (of which the majority is female) facilitates the analyses across the 19 cohorts from Europe and Australia in EAGLE as the PhD students can offer support for the different sites.