



Focus of the month

Neurex, the neuroscience network of the Upper Rhine Valley, gets a financial support of over three million Euros

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With more than 100 laboratories and 1000 researchers in the Upper Rhine Valley, including scientists from the Biozentrum, Neurex has become the most important European network in the field of neuroscience.

In order to reinforce and extend its activities the cross border network receives more than three million Euros.

Neurex was created in 1999 and covers the fields of basic, clinical and applied research. It gathers together three neuroscience federations: the recently founded Center of Competence "Neuroscience Network Basel" which includes the Neurobiology group of the Biozentrum, the Neurag Federation in Freiburg and the Federative Institute of Neuroscience IFR 37 in Strasbourg. With the support of the University of Basel Neurex has initiated and developed an intensive collaboration in training and research in neuroscience in the Upper Rhine region over the last few years.

Now thanks to the University of Basel, local partners and with administrative support of the Regio Basiliensis, the coordination office of cross-border affairs, a new project called Neurex+ was recently launched. Co-funded by the new European Interreg IV programs, Neurex+ gets a financial support of more than three million Euros. The University of Basel, the Kanton Basel-Stadt and Kanton Basellandschaft have attributed a funding of 150.000 CHF each, and an additional 450.000 CHF has been granted by the Swiss Confederation. Other partners of the project involve the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience (BCCN) in Germany as well as several actors in France (University Louis Pasteur Regional Council of Alsace, Département Bas-Rhin, Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg, CNRS, and INSERM).

The aim of Neurex+ is to strengthen and to extend the activities of the cross border network in order to make it competitive, increase its innovation strength and create jobs in the field. Its main activities involve the development of an education of excellence by organizing workshops, winter schools and annual meetings. A PhD exchange program is on the agenda as well as a program for « Helping welcome/coming back of researchers ». Neurex+ plans a support program for start-ups that will be carried out in collaboration with the structures implied in the valuation field in the 3 regions. By organizing meetings on topics or techniques that so far were not represented, Neurex+ hopes to develop new research directions.

For more information see www.neurex.org or contact directly pascale.piquet@unibas.ch

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[Back](#)

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