

Neuroinformatics in The Netherlands

Roadmap

Steps towards implementation of a Netherlands Neuroinformatics Program

(The text originates from a first draft, discussed and commented at the *Policy Workshop on Neuroinformatics in the Netherlands and the International Perspective*, Friday, January 30, 2004, Den Haag, organized under the auspices of ZonMW, Neurofederation and NWO)

A. Build a Netherlands Neuroinformatics Community of researchers and research groups

Crucial actions towards this goal are to

A1. Organize scientific meetings in Neuroinformatics

- *A satellite meeting has been organized at June 4, 2004 at the 3rd Endo-Neuro-Psycho Meeting in Doorwerth.*
- *A Neuroinformatics Science Workshop is being organized for 26 November 2004 in Den Haag*

A2. Build a collaborative scientific neuroinformatics research program.

Scientific meetings (like the ones in June and November this year) are crucial instruments to give shape to a Netherlands Neuroinformatics Research Program, for which national funding agencies will be requested for enabling resources. This program is also intended to implement the objectives of the International Neuroinformatics Program through INCF (see B.)

A3. Organize a Neuroinformatics education and training program

A list of education and training courses relevant to Neuroinformatics are included in the Neuroinformatics WEBSITE

A4. Build a Netherlands Neuroinformatics WEBSITE, linked to international NI portals and WEBSites

This website should be instrumental in building a national Neuroinformatics community (A) and in setting up a National Neuroinformatics Node within INCF (see B). The WEBSITE www.neuroinformatics.nl (or www.neuroinf.nl) is in operation and provides information about, for instance, ongoing activities, research groups with short summaries of their profiles and references, educational opportunities and links. Evidently, the site is under continuous development.

B. Establish the Netherlands participation in the *International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility* INCF

The INCF is to coordinate and develop international activities in Neuroinformatics. Its purpose, mission and operations are described in the “Business Plan for the INCF”. Briefly, the INCF relies on central and distributed entities consisting of a Governing Board with representatives from all participating countries, a Secretariat to coordinate and harmonize national and regional neuroinformatics efforts, and National Neuroinformatics Nodes to coordinate Neuroinformatics activities within the participating countries. (In the Meeting of the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy at Ministerial Level, 29-30 January 2004 in Paris, the national, including Netherlands, representatives have given their support to promote scientific cooperation in the field of neuroinformatics).

B1. Signing the “Understanding for the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility”

The participation of a country in the INCF starts by signing the Understanding

B2. Organization of a “National Neuroinformatics Node”

Tasks and Work Program of a National Node are summarized in the “Business Plan for the INCF”

B3. Netherlands representation in the INCF Governing Board

B4. Participation in the “Program In International Neuroinformatics” (PIN)

Its goal is to establish a new international funding scheme to evaluate, fund, and monitor projects for neuroinformatics research or infrastructure which cannot be addressed optimally through national funding.

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The Neuroinformatics activities in the Netherlands are supported by a Neuroinformatics Steering Committee consisting of Gerrit van Ark (ZonMw), Stan Gielen (KUN), Jos Lely (MinOCW, waarnemer / observer), Arjen van Ooyen (VUA-FALW), Jaap van Pelt (NIBR), Arno Siebes (UU-ICS), Harry Uylings (Neurofederatie) and Wytse Wadman (UVA-SILS)