

Neuroinformatics in The Netherlands

Statements

(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).

The Neuroinformatics Scientific Community in the Netherlands, as gathered in The Hague on Friday January 30th, 2004, under the joint auspices of the Federation of Netherlands Neuroscience Organisations (Dutch Neurofederation), The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) and The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) concludes that:

- Neuroinformatics combines neuroscience and informatics research to develop and apply advanced tools and approaches essential for a major advancement in understanding the structure and function of the brain.
- The synergy from combining these approaches will accelerate scientific and technological progress in neuroscience and informatics, resulting in major medical, social and economic benefits.
- A Global Initiative on Neuroinformatics as is proposed and adopted by the Global Science Forum of the OECD in the summer of 2003 and supported by the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy at Ministerial Level at their January 29-30, 2004 meeting will highly contribute to international collaboration and coordination and thus to the impact of scientific efforts in the Neurosciences and Computer Sciences.
- A Netherlands Initiative on Neuroinformatics as part of the Global Initiative is essential to keep the Netherlands in pace with the forefront of international scientific developments and the expected societal impacts of the better understanding of information processing in the brain and the better design of artificial information processing systems.

Therefore:

- A Neuroinformatics Scientific Community in The Netherlands will be expanded from Neuroscience and Computer Science Communities starting off with the core already present at the First Netherlands Neuroinformatics Meeting, January, 2004.
- The Neuroinformatics Scientific Community in the Netherlands is committed to invest strongly in a National Neuroinformatics Node and Scientific Collaborative Infrastructure within the framework of the OECD Global Science Forum Neuroinformatics Initiative.
- The Neuroinformatics Scientific Community in the Netherlands calls upon the Dutch Science Policy institutions (both governmental and non-governmental) to support these national collaborative scientific actions within the international framework that is now developing.