



Media information

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Healthy ageing, science 2.0, crisis research, bioactive compounds & biotechnology

Leibniz Association sets up four new research alliances

The Leibniz Association has set up four new Leibniz Research Alliances:

Healthy Ageing, Crises in a Globalised World, Science 2.0, and Bioactive Compounds & Biotechnology. This raises the number of Leibniz Research Alliances to nine. The Executive Board based its decision on the applications from the participating institutes.

The work of the Healthy Ageing alliance is becoming increasingly important in view of the demographic changes we are seeing today. Focusing on research into the biological and social mechanisms of ageing, the alliance brings together 22 Leibniz institutes from the natural sciences, the life sciences, the social sciences, spatial research, economics and educational research.

The Science 2.0 alliance involves 15 Leibniz institutes. The team is investigating how web technologies like wikis, blogs and social networks (which are becoming increasingly popular among researchers) might change traditional research and how they could be of benefit to it.

The Crises in a Globalised World alliance, which currently involves 19 Leibniz institutes, is focusing on financial-market and debt crises, global food crises, crises in political systems, and environmental crises. The researchers aim to generate knowledge that will help them understand crises in all their complexity and develop options for ways in which society can manage crises in the future.

Medical progress, secure agricultural production, modern healthy diets and good personal hygiene would all be impossible without the development of active agents. Incorporating 21 Leibniz institutes, the Bioactive Compounds & Biotechnology alliance pools the association's broad-based research into molecules with biological effects.

Background

Leibniz Research Alliances are interdisciplinary groups of institutes that are set up for a limited period and are open to partners from outside the Leibniz Association. The alliances address issues that are highly relevant to research and society. To do so, they adopt an interdisciplinary approach that combines the natural sciences, the life sciences, engineering, the humanities and the social sciences. The Leibniz Association uses the alliances to give a strategic focus to its research activities and pool the competencies of individual Leibniz institutions and other partner facilities. Every alliance receives €80,000 in start-up funding from the Executive Board's Initiative Fund. However, the groups are essentially joint ventures between the participating institutes, which each make significant financial and personal commitments to their alliance.

You can find out more about the Leibniz Research Alliances here:

<http://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/research/leibniz-research-alliances/>

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The Leibniz Association

The Leibniz Association connects 89 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities. Leibniz institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services. The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. Leibniz institutions collaborate intensively with universities – in the form of “Leibniz ScienceCampi” (thematic partnerships between university and non-university research institutes), for example – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad. They are subject to an independent evaluation procedure that is unparalleled in its transparency. Due to the importance of the institutions for the country as a whole, they are funded jointly by the Federation and the Länder, employing some 17,500 individuals, including 8,800 researchers. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1.5 billion EUR.

<http://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/>