

NENS - Network of European Neuroscience Schools

How to register with NENS

Do you offer a structured Master's or doctoral degree programme in the Neurosciences? To register with NENS, simply register on the website, fill in a questionnaire and add your Neuroscience programme or school to the directory. That's it! We are very much looking forward to welcoming you within the NENS community.

NENS Committee

Jean-Pierre Hornung, Switzerland (NENS Chair)

Pavle Andjus, Serbia

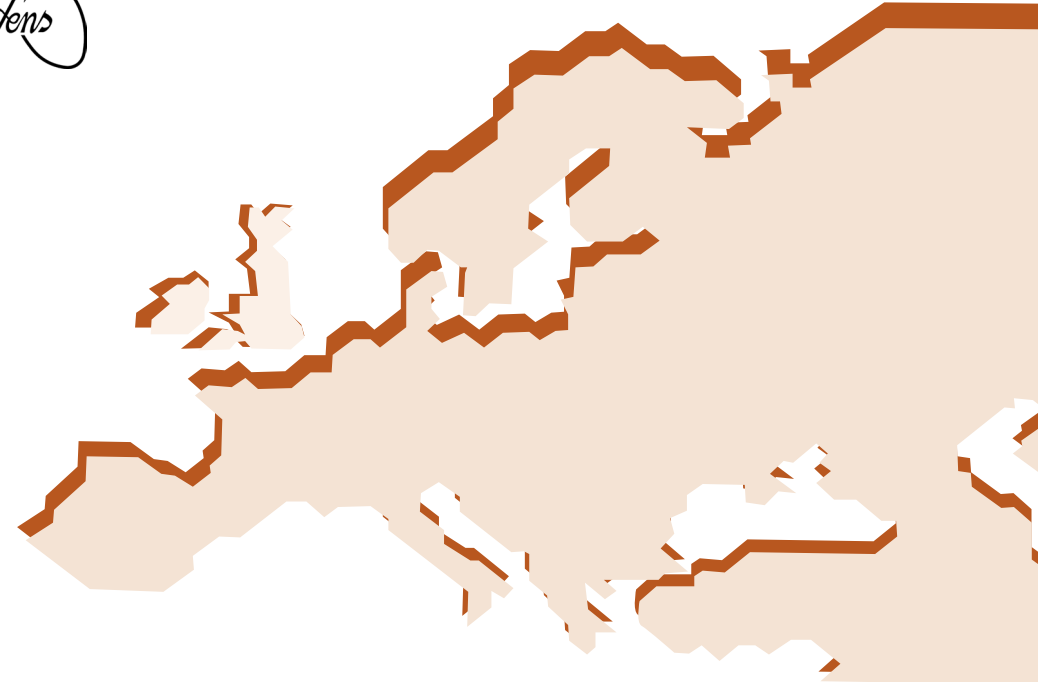
Ferdinando Rossi, Italy

Tomi Taira, Finland

Jolanta Zawilska, Poland

Ex-officio FENS Secretary-General Prof. Fotini Stylianopoulou, Greece

Ex-officio FENS Treasurer Alois Saria, Austria



NENS Mission

In Europe, Neuroscience education at the graduate level is characterised by its broad spectrum of specialist areas as well as a rich diversity of research fields. In addition to schools that focus on the entire Neuroscience field, multiple schools exist that focus specifically on either molecular, cellular, developmental, systems, cognitive, clinical or computational neuroscience.

The **Network of European Neuroscience Schools** (NENS) was founded in 2003 and represents over **150 graduate schools and programmes across ca. 30 European countries** that offer Master's, MD, PhD and doctoral degrees in Neuroscience. NENS is a formal structure within the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS www.fens.org).

NENS offers a basis for communication between European Neuroscience graduate programmes, that creates a basis for mutual support. Specifically, we have the following goals:

- The promotion of the **European higher education area** in the field
- Assisting in generating **quality standards** in Neuroscience programmes
- Encouraging and supporting **mobility** among graduate students and teachers
- **Increasing choices** and opportunities for graduate students
- Improving **cooperation** among current and future European scientists
- Generating new and significant **knowledge** in the field
- Laying the basis for obtaining consortium **funding** at national and EU level

Concrete support for your programme and your graduate students

NENS offers a yearly **Annual General Meeting** where coordinators and directors of NENS member schools and graduate programmes can come together to discuss common issues and dilemmas that we face in optimising neuroscience graduate education, engaging in state of the art research and recruiting talented students to our programmes. NENS members are given the opportunity to talk about their programmes and experiences and give feedback to NENS as to the kind of support needed.

NENS offers a **rolling slide show** where all NENS schools could advertise and showcase key aspects of their programme. In the meantime this is a standard feature of the FENS booth at both the FENS Forum and US Society for Neuroscience meeting.

NENS Services

NENS offers **stipends for graduate students** who would like to gain methodological or practical experience in the laboratory of another NENS member school. Grants are targeted at graduate students at the Master's level or early phase of the doctoral studies that wish to acquire key new skills for integration into their research work. Funding of up to 1,000 € can be acquired. Only students of NENS member schools are eligible to apply. Calls are regularly announced on the NENS website (<http://fens.org/nens/stipends>).

A large number of NENS stipends have already been awarded. Now, we are delighted to present information about the training stays and the experiments the awardees have completed. The link for the "**NENS Alumni**" site is: <http://fens.mdc-berlin.de/nens/stipends/awardees/index.php>.

NENS informs all NENS members with monthly status reports via the **NENS Newsletter**. You can also find it on the NENS website (<http://fens.mdc-berlin.de/nens/newsletter>).

NENS offers a **Document Server**, within the NENS website which can be used to upload or download lecture and teaching material relevant to graduate programmes in neuroscience. The document server is based on the idea of sharing information on the respective curricula between the NENS Schools. It aims at helping all NENS members to improve the quality of their programmes by stating, comparing, and declaring comprehensive information on the curricula of their NENS programme.

New ideas and plannings from NENS

During this year's FENS Forum first steps have been taken to establish a „**Jobs Fair**“ that can be used by students and academic employers alike, to find recruitment possibilities. Institutions and companies can register online for access to a hospitality suite where interviews with candidates can take place. Thirty minutes slots are allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration can also be done spontaneously at the FENS booth during the meeting. Booking is free of charge. Job seeker, Job giver badges will be included in the registration packs for all those that wish to advertise themselves.

With the Document Server NENS is currently developing the „**NENS knowledge database**“, to install a platform where not only coordinators and directors of NENS member schools but also students can exchange information about educational material and so on.