

de.NBI - German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure

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In recent years, the modern life sciences research underwent a rapid development that was driven mainly by the technical improvements in analytical areas in terms of miniaturization, parallelization and high throughput of biological samples and thus the generation of huge amounts of experimental data. Prominent examples of this ongoing development are the 'omics' techniques featuring the analysis of the various levels of information storage and processes in living cells, and the numerous new imaging techniques providing insights into biological systems to a hitherto unprecedented depth. The ever growing application of these novel techniques and the exploitation of the resulting data have revolutionized many fields of science and are furthermore opening new areas of basic and applied research with considerable opportunities for life sciences. The bottleneck that prevents realization of the full potential of the different 'omics' technologies is not the data generation itself, but the subsequent data analysis.

The 'German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure (de.NBI)' takes care of this challenge in many areas of life sciences with its mission to provide, expand and improve a repertoire of specialized bioinformatics tools, appropriate computing and storage capacities and high-quality data resources. These efforts are supplemented by a training program providing courses on the supplied tools.

de.NBI is an academic funding initiative of the German Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF) and started in March 2015. The consortium currently consists of 40 project partners organised in eight service centers and one central administration and coordination unit. The service centers offer a variety of training courses and bioinformatics services, online databases, software libraries, and tools as webservices and/or for download. Furthermore, consulting on individual issues is available. Services are aimed at application users in life sciences as well as bioinformaticians and developers. The de.NBI services will be unified with regard to standards, interchangeability and reproducibility.

Further reading at: <http://www.denbi.de>