Good health and better quality of life.

The field of specialization “Healthy Living and the Healthcare Sector” provides innovative solutions for the future.
The field of specialization “Healthy Living and the Healthcare Sector“.

As part of the process of elaborating the Thuringian Innovation Strategy (RIS3 Thuringia), more than 500 stakeholders from academia, the economy, and intermediary sectors came together to identify the most promising future growth fields that Thuringia has to offer. They concluded that “Healthy Living and the Healthcare Sector” is one of Thuringia’s five “fields of innovation” and thus a mainstay of the region’s future economic success.

Healthcare is already one of Thuringia’s fastest growing, high-employment industries. This in a time in which the worldwide healthcare sector is facing growing challenges in the wake of rising standards of living and increased longevity, not to mention global mobility and the increased risk of infectious diseases which it entails. In this regard, Thuringia’s specialization profile offers excellent conditions for developing innovative solutions.

The specialization profile as defined in the Thuringian Innovation Strategy

- **Medical technology**
  - Implantology
  - Ophthalmology
  - Rehabilitation
  - Mobile health
  - Autonomous sensors
  - Materials R&D and medical plastic products

- **Analytics, diagnostics & infection research**
  - Sepsis research
  - Biomarkers
  - Point-of-care diagnostics
  - Companion diagnostics
  - Personalization

- **Biotech & biophotonics**
  - Analytics
  - New processes for diagnostics and therapy
  - Multi-modular imaging
  - Applications for all neighboring fields

- **Pharmaceuticals**
  - Production & packaging of pharmaceuticals
  - Pharmaceutical R&D
  - New anti-infective agents

- **Health & aging**
  - Mobility in old age
  - Service / assistance systems
  - Social inclusion
  - Geriatric research
  - Workplace health & safety
  - Prevention
  - Healthcare industry

- **Nutrition**
  - Food safety
  - Healthy foods / nutrition
  - New processes & products
  - Longer shelf life
  - Logistics

The specialization profile serves as the baseline for implementing the Innovation Strategy and will be fine-tuned over time.

The Working Group.

Thuringian stakeholders are working together closely in an effort to find common solutions to the pressing challenges of our times. The members appointed to the Working Group meet regularly to further develop their field of specialization while generating suitable recommendations for action.

“The Working Group’s activities have brought together stakeholders with shared interests and goals who had little contact with one another before.”

*Eugen Ermantraut (Blink AG), Working Group Spokesman*

“In the Working Groups, we identify topics relevant for the future and get innovative projects and solutions off the ground.”

*Prof. Dr. Jürgen Popp (IPHT), Deputy Working Group Spokesman*
You, too, can get involved! Visit our forum events or join the discussion on the forums of our online platform:

- Medical Technology / Analytics / In-Vitro Diagnostics
- Healthy Living / Aging
- Nutrition / Pharmaceuticals

Thuringian networks.

medways e. V.
Based in Jena, medways e. V. is an industry association composed of leading Thuringian research institutes, industrial enterprises, and universities. Its mission is to promote the development of innovative ophthalmic diagnostics and therapies, as well as medical products viable for the global market. medways offers regular professional training programs for the ongoing qualification of personnel, including individual in-house training.

Das Thüringer Ernährungsnetzwerk e. V. (TH-ERN)
Founded in 2011 and supported by the Thuringian Ministries of the Economy and Agriculture, the nutrition network focuses on topics specific to the Thuringian nutrition industry while representing the interests of the sector. Thus, TH-ERN liaises with political decision-makers and serves as a platform for networking between the business and scientific sectors to promote innovation.

The network also carries out PR work to increase awareness of the industry’s players and to sustainably enhance their positive image while helping to develop new markets. This is intended to secure the industry’s competitiveness – and thus its employment and growth prospects as well. By now, the network already has 36 members.

InfectoGnostics – Forschungscampus Jena e. V.
The InfectoGnostics research campus in Jena is a public-private partnership that is breaking new ground in the diagnosis of infections. Here, more than 30 partners from science, medicine, and business are combining their expertise in technology, application, and production in order to develop market-ready solutions for the quick and cost-effective on-site analysis of infections – e.g. tuberculosis, Chlamydia strains in the veterinary sector, or the diagnosis of foodborne pathogens.

Key Target 1
Thuringia is to become a hub for the creation of solutions in analytics, diagnostics, and monitoring for medical applications and therapy, as well as for healthy nutrition.

Key Target 2
Thuringia is to become a hub for significant innovations that promote healthy aging and ensure the quality of life for the chronically ill.

“...and its various forums give us the opportunity to communicate with all key interest groups in Thuringia.”

Dr. Jens Hellwage
InfectoGnostics – Forschungscampus Jena e. V.
Success, made in Thuringia.

Thuringia’s innovative capacity in the field of “Healthy Living and the Healthcare Sector” is best evidenced by the many success stories attributable to the regional associations, networks, and enterprises active in this field. Here are just a few:

fzmb GmbH
The Research Center of Medical Technology and Biotechnology in Bad Langensalza has developed the technological basis for a rapid Ebola test. The corresponding screening assay — which fzmb developed for the market in collaboration with the Thuringian diagnostics firm Senova in Weimar — can be used to identify infected persons so that they can be promptly isolated. This means that the impact of an Ebola epidemic, such as the one that claimed more than 11,000 lives in West Africa, can be greatly reduced. The rapid Ebola test is already being produced by Senova as a certified medical product and is being distributed worldwide by STADApharm.

VorteilJena
Established under the motto “prevention through social inclusion,” the consortium known as Vorteil Jena is intended to create a “healthcare region” where health and wellness are promoted. The key objective in this context is to develop strategies and instruments that help people of all ages to develop a positive sense of self-worth and social inclusion, which can serve as a basis for forging a shared communal identity. This project is being pursued under the auspices of the grant program “Healthcare and Service Regions of Tomorrow,” a grant program sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) that forms part of the Federal Government’s overall High-Tech Strategy.

InflaRx
InflaRx is a young biotech firm with the mission of developing antibodies for therapeutic use against inflammatory diseases. The research currently focuses on acute, life-threatening inflammations (for new therapeutic approaches to be used in intensive-care units), but is being expanded to also cover chronic inflammatory and/or auto-immune diseases. The most promising new product drug candidate is in clinical development now. In recognition of its outstanding innovations, InflaRx was awarded the 2014 German Start-Up Prize (Gründerpreis) in the category “Technology of the Future.”

Your contact persons at the Thuringian Cluster Management Unit:
Dr. Britta Wlotzka | Telefon +49 361 5603-472
britta.wlotzka@leg-thueringen.de
Dr. Robert Weigelt | Telefon +49 361 5603-353
robert.weigelt@leg-thueringen.de

Selected companies
ABLIG Feinfrost GmbH, Heichelheim
ALERE Technologies GmbH, Jena
Analytik Jena AG, Jena
Asclepion Laser Technologies GmbH, Jena
Bauerfeind AG, Zeulenroda
Bayer Weimar GmbH & Co. KG, Weimar
Born Senf & Feinkost GmbH, Erfurt
Brantl Zwieback GmbH & Co. KG, Ohrdruf
Carl Zeiss Meditec AG, Jena
Erfurter Teigwaren GmbH, Erfurt
Griesson – de Beukelaer GmbH & Co. KG, Kohla
Herzgut Landmolkerei e. G., Rudolstadt
HPT Hochwertige Pharmatechnik GmbH & Co. KG, Neuhaus am Rennweg
Lay Gewürze OHG, Grabfeld
microfluidic ChipShop GmbH, Jena
Mühlhäuser GmbH, Mühlhausen
Ospelt food GmbH, Apolda
Otto Bock Health Care GmbH, Königsee
Thüringer Waldquell Mineralbrunnen GmbH, Schmalkalden
Trumpf Medizin Systeme, GmbH & Co. KG, Saalfeld
Wacker Biotech GmbH, Jena

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