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# Health Economy & Biotechnology Rhineland-Palatinate

Events, Fairs, Partnerships, Networking





# Health Economy and Biotechnology Rhineland-Palatinate

The health economy and biotechnology have developed into significant growth sectors in Rhineland-Palatinate. While the pharmaceutical industry is already in a robust position, medium-sized medical technology companies are also gaining in terms of economic importance. This innovative biotechnology environment within the state of Rhineland-Palatinate has not only produced pioneering developments in the past, but will also create a unique climate for innovation in the future. With first-class research facilities at universities and colleges, renowned global companies and numerous innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Rhineland-Palatinate is an important location for science and business – not only in Germany, but also internationally. The geographically favourable location and excellent infrastructure make the federal state even more attractive for innovation and growth.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has launched numerous initiatives together with various partners. The global challenges within the healthcare sector can only be overcome through close cooperation between all stakeholders. As a result, Rhineland-Palatinate not only remains a driving force for innovation, but also renders a significant contribution to ensuring excellent healthcare provision and at the same time strengthening the region's international competitiveness.

This brochure contains an overview of what's on offer, including events, fairs, information and contact details for collaboration partners.

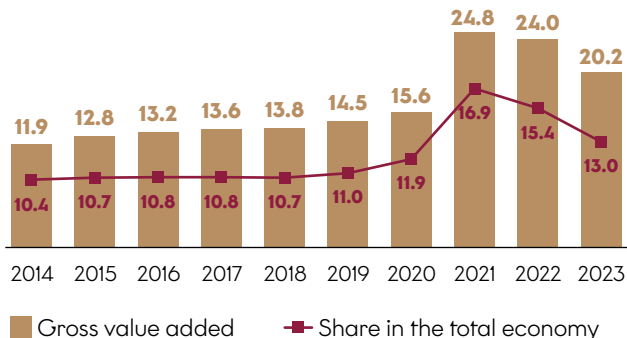
## **Your Health Economy and Biotechnology Team**

of the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viniculture for Rhineland-Palatinate

# Facts & Figures

## Gross value added in the health economy in Rhineland-Palatinate, 2014 – 2023

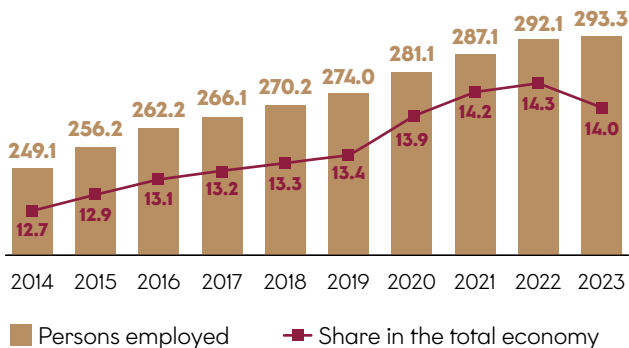
Figures are in billions of euros and as a percentage share of the total economy



Source: State Statistical Office of Rhineland-Palatinate

## Persons employed in the health economy in Rhineland-Palatinate, 2014 – 2023

Figures in thousands and as a percentage share of the total economy



Source: State Statistical Office of Rhineland-Palatinate

The health economy plays a prominent role in Rhineland-Palatinate. According to the health-specific macro economic results at federal state level, the gross value added of this sector amounted to around EUR 20.2 billion in 2023, which accounts for around 13 % of the country's total economic output.

This makes Rhineland-Palatinate the state with the highest proportion in Germany (average: 9.9%). Although the price-adjusted gross value added of the Rhineland-Palatinate health economy fell by 28 % in 2023, this is due to a statistical base effect. In 2021 and 2022, economic output stood at an exceptionally high level due to a one-off effect in the pharmaceutical industry during the coronavirus pandemic. In the long term, the health economy has grown at an above-average rate: from 2013 to 2023, gross value added in this sector rose by 31%, while the economy as a whole only grew by 8.5 % in the same period.

In 2023, 293,300 people were employed in the health economy, which corresponds to 14% of the total workforce – the fifth-highest figure in the federal state comparison (average: 13 %).

Between 2013 and 2023, 47,300 additional jobs were created, which corresponds to an increase of 19%, significantly higher than the increase in the number of people in employment overall (+5.6 %). In 2023, the number of employees rose by 0.6 %. Another indicator concerns productivity: in 2023, each person employed in the health economy in Rhineland-Palatinate generated an average gross value added of EUR 68,911. This corresponds to a price-adjusted decline of 28 % compared to the previous year, due to the aforementioned base effect. Nevertheless, productivity in the health economy in Rhineland-Palatinate remains above the national average of EUR 60,729.

Source: State Statistical Office of Rhineland-Palatinate, 2024

# Events



## **Medicine for tomorrow's world – from the idea to its application**

**March 13, 2025 | Wiesbaden**

PharmaForum provides a platform for researchers and companies from the region to meet with members of pharmaceutical research enterprises. The aim is to allow participants to identify shared projects such as research alliances and funding opportunities.

PharmaForum takes place once a year and is organized by the German Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (vfa), the Central Health Strategy Group (GPA-Mitte) – a regional interest group for pharmaceutical research enterprises, and the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viniculture of Saarland, Hessen and Rhineland-Palatinate.

Further information is available at:

**[www.pharmaforum-sw.de](http://www.pharmaforum-sw.de)**



**medtech**  
RHEINLAND-PFALZ

## **Rhineland-Palatinate Medical Technology Industry Conference**

**May 8, 2025 | Mainz**

The Medical Technology Industry Conference in Rhineland-Palatinate has been held annually since 2013 and promotes close cooperation between medical technology companies, IT companies, service providers, institutes, authorities and health insurance companies, in order to realise demand-oriented product and process innovations in medical technology. The event is accompanied by the "Medicine – Technology and Research" exhibition, where up to 30 exhibitors present their latest developments every year.

With medtech, the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Economic Affairs has established an excellent platform for the medical technology sector, which enables it to ascertain about current developments and trends, present innovative solutions and discuss existing challenges. The exhibition, as well as the panel discussions, specialist presentations and pitches, offer excellent networking opportunities and the chance to talk to leading experts from the field.

Further information is available at:

**[www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/  
veranstaltungen/medtech-rlp](http://www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/veranstaltungen/medtech-rlp)**



**MDR-Forum**  
Medical Device Regulation  
RHEINLAND-PFALZ

## **9th MDR Forum for the Successful Implementation of MDR and IVDR in practice**

**October 9, 2025 | Mainz**

The MDR Forum systematically supports companies in the practical implementation of the EU's Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation (IVDR). Through open discussions and the exchange of information on the current status of processes, a platform is created that enables field stakeholders to make valuable contacts with each other and with experts, share knowledge and work on problems.

The MDR Forum is an event organised by the Rhine-land-Palatinate Ministry of Economic Affairs. It is aimed at developers and manufacturers in the medical technology sector, especially SMEs and start-ups, as well as users from hospitals, medical practices and pharmacies. Anyone else interested in the topics of medical devices and in vitro diagnostics is also very welcome to attend.

Further information is available at:

**[www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/  
veranstaltungen/mdr-forum](http://www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/veranstaltungen/mdr-forum)**



# Trade Fairs



## The Rhineland-Palatinate Health Economy and Biotechnology at MEDICA

November 17 – November 20, 2025 | Düsseldorf

At the joint stand “Innovative Healthcare Technologies Rhineland-Palatinate” organised by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Health, Rhineland-Palatinate will be presenting itself as a leading location for the health economy and biotechnology.

With a diverse mix of innovative companies, research institutions and start-ups, Rhineland-Palatinate demonstrates its strengths in the fields of medical technology, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. The stand offers visitors the opportunity to discover the latest developments and collaborations and to experience the innovative power of the health economy. The Ministry of Economic Affairs is also presenting initiatives that will further strengthen the industry's growth and competitiveness.

Further information is available at:

[www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/  
veranstaltungen/medica-2024](http://www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/veranstaltungen/medica-2024)

[www.medica.de](http://www.medica.de)



## **German Biotechnology Days (DBT)**

**April 9 – April 10, 2025 | Heidelberg**

This event is a national forum for the German biotechnology industry where companies can interact with stakeholders from science and politics, research institutions and administrative departments. The two-day agenda covers diverse fields of application and highlights the potential of biotechnology from health research to bioeconomics. The DBT event is organized by BIO Deutschland and the Council of BioRegions in Germany (AK-BioRegio).

Further information is available at:

[www.biotechnologietage.de](http://www.biotechnologietage.de)

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## **Swiss Biotech Day 2025**

**May 5 – May 6, 2025 | Basel, Switzerland**

Swiss Biotech Day is one of the most important biotechnology conferences in Europe, attracting professionals from the global life sciences community. In 2025, it will again provide a platform for networking, stimulating discussions and the exploration of developments in research & development, production, data management, artificial intelligence and innovative financing. International biotech delegations use

the “global village” to strengthen their ties with Switzerland as a hub of biotechnology and to promote cross-border investment, public-private partnerships, research & development collaboration as well as the exchange of talent.

Further information is available at:

[www.swissbiotechday.ch](http://www.swissbiotechday.ch)

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## **BIO-EUROPE®**

### **BIO-EUROPE**

**November 3 – November 5, 2025 | Vienna, Austria**

The Bio Europe trade fair is one of the leading events for the biopharmaceutical industry, which takes place annually in various European cities. It brings together experts from the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology sectors to network, exchange ideas and explore business opportunities. The trade fair offers a comprehensive programme of lectures, workshops and panel discussions on current trends, technologies and challenges in the industry. There will also be numerous exhibitors presenting their latest products and innovations. The event serves as an important meeting place for companies, investors and research institutions to promote cooperation and support the exchange of knowledge.

Further information is available at:

[www.informaconnect.com/bioeurope/](http://www.informaconnect.com/bioeurope/)

# Partnerships & Networking



## **InnoNet HealthEconomy**

InnoNet HealthEconomy e.V. is the network serving the healthcare industry in Rhineland-Palatinate. The nearly 150 members from the pharmaceutical, medical devices, prevention & rehabilitation, healthcare, services and IT sectors, alongside health insurance funds and companies from the care management sector, ensure extensive expertise and a high level of involvement.

InnoNet offers players in the healthcare economy sector a platform for cooperation, exchange and networking with the aim of strengthening competitiveness, knowledge transfer and innovation and better utilising potential on European and international markets.

InnoNet stands for:

- Creating transparency
- Promoting networking
- Strengthening visibility


Further information is available at:


[www.innonet-healtheconomy.com](http://www.innonet-healtheconomy.com)

### **InnoNet HealthEconomy e.V.**

Healthcare Economy Network, Rhineland-Palatinate

Birgit Härtle, CEO

 0174 1683986

 [birgit.haertle@innonet-healtheconomy.com](mailto:birgit.haertle@innonet-healtheconomy.com)

## **Focus Groups at InnoNet**

### **Digital Health**

- Development-focused collaborations for complex digital services
- Combining digitalisation and health care management

### **Diabetes Alliance**

- Further development of the interdisciplinary DIA RLP Cluster
- Improvement of early detection of diabetes, prevention
- Improvement of the care situation

### **InnoFACTOR**

- Artificial intelligence in healthcare
- Overcoming hurdles in the integration of AI
- Software-based development and approval of medical products

### **Strengthening Practices**

- GP practice as a central interface, promoting outpatient care
- Relieving the burden on doctors in everyday practice with targeted strategies (e.g. preventive medicine, digital practice processes)

## **NEW – Network Forum InnoNet**

The InnoNet HealthEconomy e.V. Network Forum is a monthly online forum where members can introduce themselves to each other. It makes it possible to recognise common interests, potential and opportunities for cooperation. The Network Forum offers a unique opportunity to network with other members of the association, in order to achieve a mutual benefit and form a strong community.

# INNOVATIONSAGENTUR RHEINLAND-PFALZ

## Innovation Agency Rhineland-Palatinate

The Innovation Agency Rhineland-Palatinate functions as a matchmaker, initiator and guide in the Rhineland-Palatinate innovation ecosystem. As a company of the state, it networks key stakeholders from economy and science such as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), start-ups, research institutions and clusters. In doing so, it promotes the transfer of knowledge and technology and simultaneously acts as a guide for the promotion and financing of innovations. Some of the main topics in the field of healthcare are:

- Medical technology
- Personalized medicine
- Telemedicine
- Drug discovery and development
- Digitalization and automation

The Innovation Agency offers workshops, world cafés and other event formats. The cross-industry approach is central to this, resulting in new and unexpected connections.

On the InnoHub networking platform, you can find the partners who will move your project forward. Make new contacts in the group "Location Healthcare and Biotechnology Rhineland-Palatinate"!

Further information is available at:

[www.innovationsagentur.rlp.de](http://www.innovationsagentur.rlp.de)

[innohub-rlp.de](http://innohub-rlp.de)

### Innovation Agency Rhineland-Palatinate

Elke Butzen-Wagner, Network Manager Life Science/  
Focus: "Personalized Medicine & Digitalization"

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## **Enterprise Europe Network Rheinland-Pfalz / Saar**

With over 600 contact points in more than 50 countries, the Enterprise Europe Network is the world's largest support and advisory network for SMEs in the areas of innovation and internationalisation.

In Rheinland-Pfalz and Saarland, three strong partners are pooling their expertises: Innovationsagentur RLP GmbH in Mainz, EIC Trier GmbH and saaris GmbH in Saarbrücken. In this consortium, Innovationsagentur is the central contact point for innovations and supports their access to foreign markets.

Specifically, Enterprise Europe Network offers tailor-made consulting services and international partnering.

These include, for example:


- Support for finding international business and R&D project partners
- Support for processing of business with foreign partners
- Co-organisation of international partnering events and business trips
- Support in European funding programmes and financing, especially in research and innovation
- Improvement of innovation management

Further information is available at:

[www.een-rlpsaar.de](http://www.een-rlpsaar.de)

### **Innovationsagentur Rheinland-Pfalz GmbH**

Dr.-Ing. Julia Dohnt-Buchheit, Projectleader

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 buchheit@innovationsagentur-rlp.de



## **Life Science Centre Mainz GmbH (LZM)**

The Life Science Centre Mainz (LZM) has been involved in the constant development of the start-up ecosystem in Rhineland-Palatinate and the region around the state capital Mainz since 1987.

It focuses on supporting start-ups and entrepreneurs in the fields of life sciences and biotechnology and paves the way for young scientists and visionary founders to turn their ambitious ideas into successful businesses. With a comprehensive range of customised services, it provides a solid foundation for success in these forward-looking sectors.

The LZM's current project is the Life Science Incubator [LiSci]RLP. It will help start-ups from the life sciences and biotechnology sectors to successfully launch through close support, mentoring and coaching with seminars and 1:1 training sessions.


With its strategic location in the Rhine-Main region and strong support from local and regional institutions, the LZM is an indispensable partner for anyone who wants to be successful in the life sciences and biotechnology sector.

Further information is available at:

[www.lzmz.de](http://www.lzmz.de)

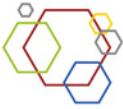
### **Life Science Centre Mainz GmbH (LZM)**

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**BioVation RLP**  
synergy 4 life sciences

## **BioVation RLP – Synergy for Life Sciences**

BioVation RLP is a state-wide networking platform for the fields of biotechnology and life sciences in Rhineland-Palatinate. The main objective of the platform is to establish a strong network of all players from science and industry in the fields of biotechnology, life sciences, medicine, medical technology and artificial intelligence.

The focus is on creating synergies in the life sciences sector, promoting innovation and supporting cooperation and interdisciplinary project work. The networking of leading players from science and industry with global players, as well as with innovative small and medium-sized companies and research institutes, opens up a wide range of opportunities for collaboration.


As a business unit of Life Science Centre Mainz GmbH (LZM), BioVation RLP is firmly anchored within the structures of Rhineland-Palatinate. The platform is intended to grow into an ecosystem that promotes synergies in the life sciences sector and lays the foundation for new developments and collaborations in order to advance the industry and achieve joint success.

Further information is available at:

[www.biovation-rlp.de](http://www.biovation-rlp.de)

### **BioVation RLP**

Dr. Sabine Söhngen, Platform Coordinator

 06131 9064120

 [info@biovation-rlp.de](mailto:info@biovation-rlp.de)



## Medical Device Innovation Center (MIC)

The Medical Device Innovation Center (MIC) of the University Medical Center Mainz is a publicly funded project of the Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Trials (IZKS), which supports and advises companies and research institutions in the development of new and innovative medical devices.

As a competence center for medical devices, the MIC stands for close cooperation between industry, clinics and research and aims to achieve efficient product development closely aligned with the requirements of hospitals and in compliance with MDR regulations.

The MIC accompanies the entire product life cycle through to Post Market Surveillance (PMS), in order to ensure the benefits of medical devices, minimise risks and guarantee the best possible healthcare for patients.

Further information is available at:

[www.mic-mainz.de](http://www.mic-mainz.de)

### MIC Mainz

Dipl.-Biol. Karolina Nadjafi,  
Scientific Clinical Project Manager MIC

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## **Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Trials (IZKS)**

The Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Trials Mainz (IZKS) is a central research platform of the University Medical Center Mainz. It provides support in all issues concerning clinical research projects:

Study management, statistical consulting and analysis planning, test plan development, clinical monitoring, data management, regulatory affairs, safety management, study reports, inspection briefing, audits and further/continuing education.

Further information is available at:

[www.izks-mainz.de/en](http://www.izks-mainz.de/en)

### **IZKS Mainz**

Dr. Michael Hopp, Director of IZKS Mainz

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## Medical Startup Alliance

The Rhine-Main Medical Startup Alliance, a collaboration of the Rhine-Main universities of Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Mainz and the University Medical Center Mainz (UM), has set itself the goal of scouting out initiatives for founding new businesses and helping companies to become successful and lasting start-ups.



## Medical Start-ups

Medical start-ups in the Rhine-Main region meet quarterly – at the site of a different company each time – to discuss problems and possible solutions.

Further information is available at:

[www.unimedizin-mainz.de/forschung/technologietransfer](http://www.unimedizin-mainz.de/forschung/technologietransfer)



## Mainz University Medical Center

### Technology transfer at the Mainz University Medical Center

Dr. Matthias Schwabe, Departmental Head

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# Formation and Financing

The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viniculture for Rhineland-Palatinate offers a comprehensive range of consulting, support and financing services for the various phases of forming a company/startup, including in the health economy area, of course:

- **[innohub-rlp.de](https://www.innohub-rlp.de)** is a platform that provides tailored information to help prospective company founders to transform their vision into innovation and to network in business circles.
- **[www.startupoffice.rlp.de/en/startup-office](https://www.startupoffice.rlp.de/en/startup-office)** aims to increase the transparency of possibilities relating to setting up businesses and startups and to strengthen communication on the founder scene.
- **[www.gruenden.rlp.de](https://www.gruenden.rlp.de)** is a metaportal of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viniculture for Rhineland-Palatinate aimed both at people considering founding a company and at startup consultancies and business consultants.
- **[www.crowdfunding.rlp.de](https://www.crowdfunding.rlp.de)** is the Rhineland-Palatinate crowdfunding information portal. It provides information on events relating to alternative forms of financing and crowdfunding.

## Funding and Competitions

Rhineland-Palatinate offers special schemes for the financial support of innovative companies such as innovation funds, the InnoTop program and innovation assistants.

Further information is available at:

[www.isb.rlp.de/service/foerderung](http://www.isb.rlp.de/service/foerderung)

There are also attractive competitions such as "startup innovativ", "Pioniergeist", the Rhineland-Palatinate Innovation Prize and Success Award of the ISB Bank, the "1,2,3 GO" business plan competition and the Rhineland-Palatinate Ideas competition.

Further information is available at:

[www.gruenden.rlp.de](http://www.gruenden.rlp.de)



# Site notice

## Contact persons

at the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Economic Affairs,  
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[www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de](http://www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de)

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AND VINICULTURE

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