

TACTIX

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 1 · JULY 2026 · PART 1 OF 2: TRAINING & EVENTS

Twinning Approach for Computational MRI Technology and Innovation EXcellence in Türkiye

FROM THE TACTIX PROJECT TEAM

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends of TACTIX,

Two years ago, a small group of us gathered in Istanbul to turn a grant agreement into a working research and training programme. Today, that programme has trained dozens of early-career researchers, worked on an MRI biomarker now being tested in real multiple sclerosis (MS) patients, and built a small but growing community across Türkiye, Germany, and the Netherlands.

This is our first newsletter. Rather than starting from today, we wanted to catch you up properly: everything we've built, taught, scanned, and published since June 2024. There's enough ground to cover that we're splitting the catch-up into two issues: this one covers our training programme and events; Part 2, arriving in just a couple of weeks, turns to the research itself and the people behind it. From Issue 3 onward, you'll hear from us roughly every month, with shorter updates timed to our workshops, courses, and research milestones. Thank you for being part of this. There is a lot more still to come.

Esin Öztürk Işık

TACTIX Project Coordinator, Boğaziçi University

Frederik Barkhof, Jan Petr

TACTIX co-PIs, Amsterdam Medical Center & Helmholtz-Center Dresden-Rossendorf

Matthias Günther, Klaus Eickel

TACTIX co-PIs, Fraunhofer MEVIS & Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences

“We set out to build a training programme from scratch. Two years ago this was a wish list. Now it is seven courses, six tutorials, and a growing community of researchers who speak both clinical and computational MRI.”

— Esin Öztürk Işık, TACTIX Project Coordinator



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#TACTIX #HorizonEurope #MultipleSclerosis #MSileGüçlüyüz #ComputationalMRI #Neuroimaging #OpenScience

SECTION 01

Project at a Glance

TACTIX is a three-year Horizon Europe Twinning project (Grant Agreement 101159624) connecting Boğaziçi University in Istanbul with Fraunhofer MEVIS in Bremen and Amsterdam UMC, with a shared goal: build computational MRI research capacity in Türkiye, and develop a new MRI biomarker for multiple sclerosis along the way.

We kicked off on 4–5 June 2024 in Istanbul, with 35 people from all three partner institutions in the room; the start of everything that follows in this issue.



Kick-off Meeting

Istanbul, 4–5 June 2024 — group photo of all three partner institutions and participants

Behind the scenes, our Project Management Plan and Data Management Plan have kept things running on schedule, including a mid-project update to our data plan past October and our first project-wide mid-term meeting.

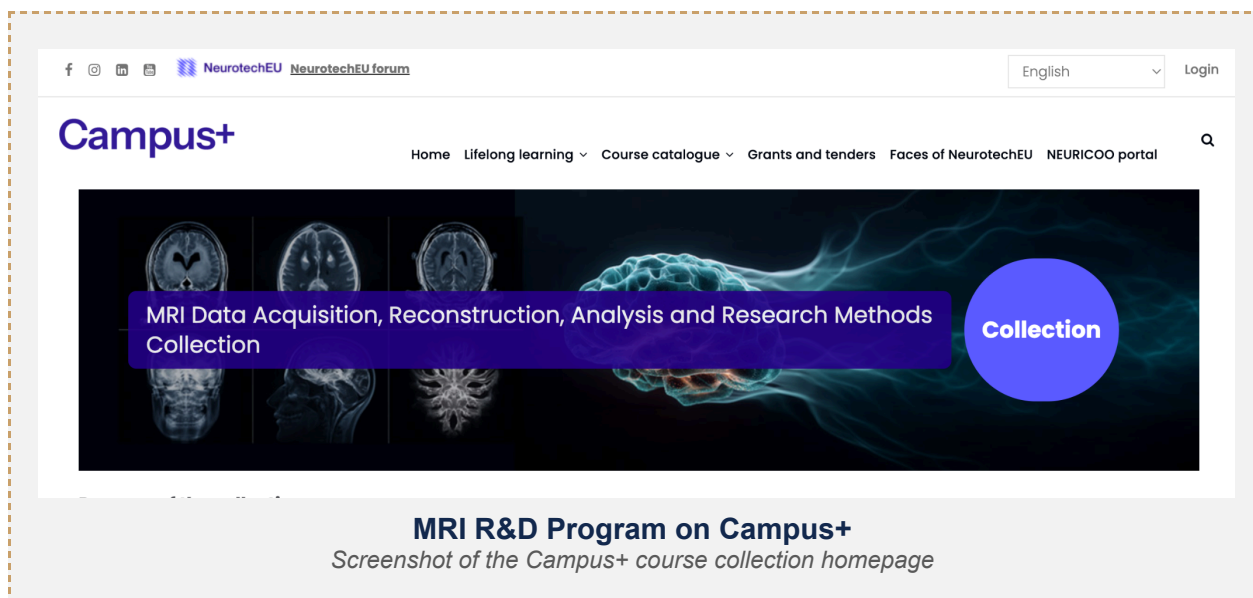
SECTION 02

Building the MRI R&D Training Program

At the heart of TACTIX is a seven-course MRI_R&D Program, built jointly by Boğaziçi University, Fraunhofer MEVIS, and Amsterdam UMC. Visit our [webpage](#) to get a detailed overview of the [NeurotechEU's Campus+ teaching platform](#), where our courses and tutorials are also integrated. All content is now live, more than 80 lecture videos published on our YouTube channel so far.

COURSES:

- **Basics of MRI** — the physics and hardware behind every scan.
- **Clinical MR Interpretation** — reading real scans, from MS to brain tumours.
- **Biostatistical Methods** — the statistics behind biomedical research.
- **MR Image Processing** — segmentation, registration, and radiomics.
- **Quantitative MRI** — relaxometry, diffusion, perfusion, and more.
- **MRI Data Acquisition** — the practical, hands-on side of running a scan.
- **Advanced Research Methods** — research design for computational MRI studies.



TUTORIALS:

Alongside the seven courses, TACTIX has produced six standalone online tutorials; shorter, freely accessible modules covering specific tools, clinical topics, and software developed by the consortium.

- **MRI Basics and Sequence Development** — MR physics and sequence design through hands-on interactive software.
- **Data Modeling and Processing for BBB-ASL** — modeling and processing pipelines for blood-brain-barrier ASL imaging.
- **Computational MRI Product Development (gammaSTAR)** — hands-on sequence development exercises using a vendor-neutral framework.
- **MRI Basics for Multiple Sclerosis** — from clinical diagnosis to case-based diagnostics, including MS care in Türkiye.
- **ExploreASL for ASL MRI Data Processing and Analysis** — ASL basics and step-by-step processing with ExploreASL.
- **MRI Applications in Clinical Research** — biomarkers, brain atrophy, brain age, and deep learning in brain tumours.

SECTION 03

Events That Shaped Our First Two Years

Winter Workshop 1

22–24 January 2025, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. Twenty-two participants in total, including an 18-person early-career researcher cohort that skewed strongly female. Three days combined clinical and technical training on MS, MRI biomarkers, and advanced imaging applications, with direct interaction with clinicians at Acıbadem Altunizade Hospital.



Winter Workshop 1 | *Istanbul, January 2025*

Summer School 1

16–18 July 2025, Fraunhofer MEVIS, Bremen. Thirty-three participants got hands-on with the gammaSTAR sequence framework and the MevisMRLab teaching tool. Interactive sessions at MEVIS', table-top MRI systems and its clinical 3T scanner completed the summer school.



Summer School 1 | *Bremen, July 2025*

Winter Workshop 2

The second TACTIX Summer School took place on 29 June – 1 July 2026 at Boğaziçi University, welcoming 30 MSc and PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. The three-day programme covered magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging, deep learning for MRI, and quantitative MRI techniques, combining lectures with hands-on practicals throughout.



Winter Workshop 2 | Amsterdam, January 2026

Summer School 2

The second TACTIX Winter Workshop, *Arterial Spin Labeling (ASL) & BrainAge*, was held on 26–28 January 2026 at Amsterdam UMC (VUmc). Participants from partner institutions worked through ASL fundamentals, BrainAge modelling, multi-center data harmonisation, and blood–brain barrier imaging across three days of lectures and hands-on sessions, closing with an internal partner meeting on project progress.



Summer School 2 | Istanbul, July 2026

MS Information Days 1 & 2

The first TACTIX MS Information Day was held on 9 September 2025 at Boğaziçi University's Kandilli Campus. Speakers from neurology, physiotherapy, and dietetics covered MS diagnosis, staying active with MS, and nutrition, followed by an open conversation over lunch. The event was free and open to all.

MS BİLGİ GÜNLERİ - 1

Multipl Skleroz (MS) hakkında doğru ve güncel bilgileri paylaşmak, farkındalık yaratmak ve sorularınızı uzmanlarıyla konuşmak için sizleri **TACTIX 1. MS Bilgi Günleri**'nde bize katılmaya davet ediyoruz.

Etkinlik **herkese açık** ve **ücretsiz** olarak gerçekleştirilecek olup katılım 50 kişi ile sınırlıdır.

Katılmak isteyenlerin kampüs güvenlik prosedürleri gereği önceden web sitemiz üzerinden **2 Eylül 2025** tarihine kadar **kayıt yaptırmaları zorunludur**.

9 Eylül 2025, Salı | 10:30-13:30
Boğaziçi Üni. Kandilli Kampüsü
 Derin Teknoloji Üssü Seminer Salonu

Dr. Serkan Emekli
 İstanbul Tıp Fakültesi,
 Nöroloji

Prof. Dr. Esin Öztürk Işık
 Boğaziçi Üniversitesi,
 Biyomedikal Mühendisliği

Burcu Ünal Canyol
 Uzm. Diyetisyen

Fulden Orakoğlu
 Uzm. Fizyoterapist

Program ve konuşmacılar hakkında detaylı bilgiyi ve online kayıt formu linkini aşağıdaki QR kodu üzerinde ve websitemizde bulabilirsiniz.

DAHA FAZLA BİLGİ
<https://tactix.bogazici.edu.tr/>

MS Information Days, 1 | Kandilli Campus, Istanbul

The second edition took place in collaboration with Istanbul University's Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, drawing 72 participants to a public MS patient education day co-supported by TACTIX. Speakers addressed current approaches to MS treatment and living with MS-related symptoms including sleep, fatigue, and pain. A lively Q&A session closed the programme, reflecting both the demand for reliable information and the strength of the community around it.



MS Information Days, 2 | Istanbul University Campus, Istanbul

“Future of Imaging” with Siemens Healthineers

The Future of Imaging event, part of Siemens Healthineers Türkiye's "Future Of" series, was held on 19 December 2024 at Boğaziçi University's Albert Long Hall. TACTIX co-organised the event alongside the Biomedical Engineering Institute, with Project Coordinator Prof. Dr. Esin Öztürk Işık speaking in the opening session. The programme brought together academia, industry, and start-ups around AI, radiology, and innovation in medical imaging. The event also opened the door to follow-up meetings with Siemens representatives on potential future collaboration, including joint EU project applications.



Future of Imaging
Boğaziçi University, December 2024

LOOKING AHEAD TO ISSUE 2

Next time, in just a couple of weeks: the MRI biomarker research two years in the making, the people behind our mobility exchanges, and what TACTIX has opened up to the wider research community.

TAXCTIX TEAM MEMBERS

BOUN Team:

Prof. Dr. Esin Öztürk Işık - Project Coordinator

Dr. Pınar Özbay - Expert in computational MRI

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ademoglu - Specialist in signal and image processing

Sinemis Temel - Project management

Esra Sümer Arpak - Post-Doctoral researcher

Buse Buz Yaluğ - Doctoral researcher

Ayşe İrem Çetin - Doctoral researcher

Gülce Turhan - Post-Doctoral researcher

Prof. Dr. Alp Dinçer - Department of Radiology, Acıbadem University Altunizade Hospital

Prof. Dr. Dilaver Kaya - Department of Neurology, Acıbadem University Altunizade Hospital

MEVIS Team:

Prof. Dr. Matthias Günther - MEVIS Team Lead

Mareike Buck - Expert in ASL data modeling

Amnah Mahroo - Expert in ASL data modeling

Dr. Nora-Josefin Breutigam - Advanced MRI methods expert

Dr. Jörn Huber - Advanced MRI methods expert

Dr. Daniel Hoinkiss - Software development for gammaSTAR framework

Dr. Simon Konstandin - Software development for gammaSTAR framework

Prof. Dr. Klaus Eickel - Teacher in Medical Computing, University of Applied Science Bremerhaven

AUMC Team:

Prof. Dr. Frederik Barkhof - AUMC Team Lead

Dr. Jan Petr - Joint research lab ExploreLab

Dr. Henk Mutsaerts - Joint research lab ExploreLab

Dr. Vera Keil - Clinical neuroradiology expert

Dr. Eva Strijbis - Key MS neurologist, imaging in MS

Dr. Menno Schoonheim - MS imaging and cognition expert

Dr. Hugo Vrenken - Structural MRI and image analysis expert