Report DTL Partner Advisory Committee meeting
November 13th, 14h30 – 17h00
Bestuursgebouw Utrecht University, room 0.33G

Partner representatives: An overview of all persons present can be found in Exhibit 1
Representative DTL Board: Karel Luyben
Speakers: Gabino Sanchez (Wageningen-UR), Nico van Meeteren (Health~Holland/TKI-LSH), Alain van Gool (Radboudumc), Barend Mons (LUMC).
Representatives DTL Office: Ruben Kok, Merlijn van Rijswijk, Jacintha van Beemen (report)

1. Welcome by Ronald Stolk, chairman of the DTL Partner Advisory Committee
Ronald Stolk welcomes all attendees; there is a short round of introduction of attendees with a special welcome to the new partners. There are no changes to the proposed agenda.

2. DTL in action
a. Presentation: Enabling Technologies: hotel experiences (Gabino Sanchez, WUR)
Slides are attached (Exhibit 2). Main points discussed during question round:
- Access to the enabling technologies call programme is currently not easy for SMEs, either as hotel or as party requesting access to a hotel; this should be improved.
- DTL has a **brokering role,** which started by providing an overview of facilities, but it is also possible to call DTL to find the right hotel for a particular research question.
- The **data management plan** in hotel projects is mentioned as a point of improvement. This is a major effort within DTL, which is leading this movement as Dutch Node in ELIXIR. DTL would appreciate if hotels share their data management plans with DTL to be merged in an overall generic Data Stewardship plan. **Action PAC20151113-1**
- As for real hotels, DTL should organise to have a hotel "lobby" to meet each other to exchange on development and application of technology and share ideas.

b. Presentation: Collaboration Topsector LSH (Nico van Meeteren, director LSH)
Slides are attached (Exhibit 3). Main points discussed during question round:
- From the **Topsector LSH** budget, ca. 60% is already invested in programmes, part of it is adapted to requests from institutes and experts. Parties can benefit by a) **combining experts** from different fields, b) **topping-up grants** with at least 20% of EZ money.
- Both SMEs and large companies such as Philips can participate, offering expertise and technology. Industry, academia and government are stimulated to combine efforts.
- To improve visibility and awareness, the topsector LSH visits meetings across the sector (such as this meeting) where knowledge institutes and industry parties are represented. Furthermore LSH tries to open up rules and regulations set by EZ and tries to create new business relationships and collaborations.

c. Presentation: Radboud Research Facilities (Alain van Gool, Radboudumc)
Slides are attached (Exhibit 4). Partners respond very positively to this presentation. It is clear that experiences such as built up at Radboudumc could help other partners to improve their organisation of facilities. DTL is advised to facilitate this exchange among partners.

d. Presentation: 'European Open Science Cloud' (Barend Mons)
Slides are attached (Exhibit 5). Main point discussed during question round:
- To have greater impact and prevent formation of small-scale initiatives that lead to data silos, the DTL partners need to align and build a joint data approach as Dutch collective, and speak with one voice to convince funders what is needed to align with European developments.

e. Infrastructure for personalised medicine & health research (vision KNAW call for dreams; Annex 2; short introduction by Ruben Kok)
- The KNAW call (see annex 2 to the meeting documents) that requests for a grand vision (dream 2025) for large-scale research infrastructures will be followed up next year by an NWO Roadmap call. DTL plans to send in an application for a data infrastructure for personalised medicine & health research, collaborating with its partners in that field. Our aim is to get a tangible proposal with alignment from a lot of stakeholders. The Health-RI infrastructure could inspire the formation of similar collective infrastructures in other life science fields worked on in DTL.
- Note from Jos Baeten: The title of one of the 'routes' of the emerging national science agenda is the same. Jos advised to hook up to that topic.

3. Report of the 2nd meeting of the DTL Partner Advisory Committee
Comments on the action list of the previous PAC meeting on May 22 2015:
- A20150522-1: On the agenda for today.
- A20150522-2: See Annex 5 to the meeting documents.
  If you are interested to join projects in the future that involve ELIXIR funding, it is necessary to be a DTL Data Projects partner (at no cost). This partner agreement holds the necessary IP regulations. Partners should contact Ruben Kok for this.
- A20150522-3: Pending action; if partners are interested to learn more about FAIR data, and discuss the possibility to have in house datasets within your organisation 'FAIRyfied', please contact DTL.
- A20150522-4: It was concluded to first look at what is going on at the EU level, then start to work on a plan of approach how to implement a federated ICT infrastructure in the NL. Would be good to involve both public and private parties and use DTL to make sure we do not create too many independent initiatives.
- A20150522-5: Done; has been sent around.
- A20150522-6: Keep on the action list.

4. DTL from here: where do we stand and what are the next steps and priorities
After an introduction from Ronald Stolk and Ruben Kok, a discussion starts on the priorities in DTL, and on aspects that we need to cultivate or improve.

Key aspects of the discussion:
- DTL meanwhile has grown to a broad network of partners and works widely across different parts of the life sciences and ICT. It is still hard to make everyone see and experience what DTL actually does and how partners can benefit. With the current group of 34 partners around the table it is already clear that DTL should also be careful to work in effective groups. The idea was brought up to arrange for a thematic split-up in focus groups, as the life sciences technology and ICT fields may be too broad to operate as one single cluster.

- Main message is: DTL is about collaboration: the partners can do a number of things at a higher level if done together, and with DTL to facilitate this and bind people to **speak with one voice**. We as partners will have to contribute our expertise in DTL. The more you put in, the more you get out. There is a lot of diversity within DTL (cross-sector) but the more parties we get, the stronger the message.

- On the DTL website an overview of hotel capacities is shown, it would be good to broader that information outside hotel calls. It is very interesting to know what services the companies around the table can offer. Would e.g. be very useful to have meetings with presentations from SME's and arrange for a **match making** event. It would be good to make such match making activities a part of larger conferences to bring parties together. We all have opportunities to improve the quality of data and technologies. Beautiful matches between industry and academic partners can be made and can cause **paradigms shifts,** and if this is propagated together, we have a better chance to convince funding organisations to start investing in relevant programmes.

- DTL partners could go beyond match making and (in consultation) choose to run some **pilots** with multiple partners that gives more binding/focus. Another option would be to find money to move from pilots to dedicated implementation studies. At NWO/ZonMW case studies are needed in order to apply for funding.

- Hotels with public private partnerships are already possible. Nevertheless, **SME's** would like to be **more visible** within DTL, e.g. through **hotel services** in or outside the ZonMw/NWO calls.

- Important is to guard the **quality of data and technology hotels** – DTL parties have the goal to bring science to a higher level. The quality of data is based on the technology used to produce it. DTL will invest time and effort to work on this aspect with its partners. **Quality standards** could be setup in order to guarantee the quality of the hotels. These standards should not be set-up from scratch; DTL can liaise with DTL partners and use (part of) existing quality standards as examples to prevent re-inventing the wheel. DTL should be descriptive and objective (fit for purpose) and not go for certification. There should be room for one-star as well as five-star hotels, and for specialised "B&B's".

- In the metaphor of the hotels it should be taken into account that there are different ways Universities and UMC's are financially organized. E.g. at one institution use of equipment is free of charge, at another organisation costs will be charged. DTL will take this into account.

- Ruben Kok and Merlijn van Rijswijk will meet with ZonMw early December and will on behalf of the DTL partners emphasize the ideas the DTL partners have put forward to improve the existing calls. **Action PAC20151113-2.**

- Other main issues are data **standards** and data stewardship. **training** and guiding people in data expertise -- all the way from the moment of experimental design, measuring to data analytics and data stewardship.

- The DTL partners indeed see the **DTL Learning** part as a very valuable DTL activity. It is good to work together in e.g. organizing courses and workshops (such as BYOD's). For partners it is valuable to have one experienced body with a helicopter view and an inclusive line of working that can teach others and create a new generation of data experts; this backbone is used to get the partner expertise forward. At this collective DTL-level, it is more easy to identify the white space and look for opportunities to have these filled. There will be huge efforts needed in the coming years to train data experts across the life sciences. The DTL Learning programme will build upon the existing community to reach the **scale** needed.

5. Any other business
No issues discussed here

6. Conclusions & advice to the DTL Board
Sum-up of important ideas/statements:

1. Apply lessons learned from the Radboud Research Facilities and from experienced technology facilities such as at WUR in the DTL hotel approach;
2. DTL can facilitate its partners to speak with one voice to generate higher impact, create high-level ideas and increase the chance of receiving funds at both the Dutch as well as the EU level;
3. Stimulating the communication and interaction among DTL partners is of high importance – we may organize a market place directly preceding a PAC meeting to facilitate match making or pilots between partners - matches can be presented to funders/stakeholders;
4. SME's would like to participate as hotels within and outside existing calls, quality standards should be implemented;
5. Hotels should have a data management plan to secure data stewardship based upon the FAIR data principles; this should help to improve the quality and re-usability of data;
6. DTL is stimulated to further build out the Learning programme and help identify white spots.

6. Closure & drinks
Ronald Stolk thanks all participants for their contribution. He asks Ruben to translate the outcome of this meeting in tangible activities for the coming year **(Action 20151113-3),** and closes the meeting.

Actions:

A20150522-3	Make an inventory among the partners of key datasets that could be made FAIR	Ruben Kok & Barend Mons	Summer 2015 - *pending*
A20150522-4	Define next steps in establishing a federated ICT and data infrastructure that fits the needs of, and has ownership in the collective life science fields.	Ruben Kok and Anwar Osseyran	*wait for action at EU level*
A20150522-6	DTL will facilitate document sharing among the partners and a discussion platform and set up a system for this	Ruben Kok	Asap
A20151113-1	Collect data management plans among DTL hotels to be used in working out a generic Data Stewardship approach	DTL team in communication with DTL hotel owners	Coming period
A20151113-2	Assemble the collective input from the partners to the enabling technologies programme set-up and communicate the requests as advice to ZonMw/NWO on behalf of the full partnership (speaking with one voice).	DTL team in communication with DTL hotel owners and ZonMw/NWO	Next months
A20151113-3	Translate input from partners to tangible activities as part of the 2016 DTL programme	Ruben Kok	Coming period