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Dr Ruben Kok
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Letter of support for ELIXIR-Netherlands 'Icon Project' application

Dear Ruben

I am writing as Director of ELIXIR in order to express my support for the 'Icon Project' application to be submitted by the Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences (ELIXIR – Netherlands).

The mission of ELIXIR is to bring together bioinformatics resources to establish a coherent, pan-European infrastructure to ensure that life science researchers have access to the data services critical for modern biological and medical research.

The Dutch Centre for Life Sciences, which constitutes the Dutch Node of ELIXIR, is leading the ELIXIR interoperability platform, which aims to deliver the ELIXIR Interoperability Backbone, and has played a key role in recent international developments for Open Science in establishing the key architecture of the Internet of FAIR Data and Services, where data as well as the corresponding analytics workflows are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable (FAIR), now being implemented as part of ELIXIR-EXCELERATE.

The proposal to establish a chain of 'FAIR Open Implementation Labs' ('FOILs'), linking to the broader science community, where the components needed to make the 'Internet of FAIR data and services' can be agreed upon, tested, assembled and implemented is very much in line with the aims of ELIXIR, with opportunity for significant global societal impact. I would therefore like to show full support for this application.

Our enthusiastic support of this application is indicative of the value that we place in the expected outcomes of this work in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Niklas Blomberg".

Dr. Niklas Blomberg