

Report DTL Partner Advisory Committee meeting

June 16, 14h00 – 17h00

Hosted by DTL at the Jaarbeurs Innovation Mile (JIM), Jaarbeursplein 6, Utrecht

Partner representatives: An overview of all Partner representatives can be found in Annex 1.

Speakers: Floor Scheepers (UMCU), Morris Swertz (UMCG), Maurien Olsthoorn (DSM), Alain van Gool (Radboudumc; coordinator roadmap cluster X-omics), Jaap Heringa (VU; coordinator of the roadmap cluster ELIXIR-NL), Peter Schalk (Naturalis, on behalf of the roadmap cluster NIEBA).

1. Opening by Ronald Stolk, chairman of the DTL PAC

a. Short introduction of new partners

Ronald Stolk opens the Partner Advisory Committee Meeting and welcomes all.

New DTL partners are welcomed and introduced: Agri Information Partners, DANS KNAW, Evidencio, Hartwig Medical Foundation, Lygature, Naturalis, Princes Máxima Centre for Pediatric Oncology.

Per July 1st DTL will move to the Jaarbeurs Innovation Mile (JIM).

b. Report of the 5th meeting of the DTL Partner Advisory Committee (Annex 2)

Actions:

Action #	What	Who	When
A20161125-1	Wishlist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a digital whiteboard to post partner requests in Industry Platform Speed dating with industrial or academic partners Explore the possibility to develop a broker-role for hotel services (incl. 'booking' through DTL hotel website) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DTL team; Inge Schats DTL team; Inge Schats DTL team; Merlijn van Rijswijk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When feasible Link to meetings where applicable When feasible
These ideas are kept on a Wish list – Inge Schats started to set up first activities.			
A20161125-2	Partner representatives are requested to make their training staff aware of the DTL training activities.	Partner representatives & training staff	Ongoing
Continuous, can be removed as action point. Information on DTL Learning can be found at the DTL website: https://www.dtls.nl/training-and-education/ . Please consult Celia van Gelder for specific requests related to training (celia.van.gelder@dtls.nl).			
A20161125-4	Request to DTL Board to make available an extra Board seat for a representative from small industry partners	Ruben Kok	DTL Board Meeting Dec 16

This has been resolved, Marijana Radonjic (Edgeleap) is part of DTL Board, representing the SME's.			
A20161125-5	(Private) partners with an interest to register as a technology hotel listed on the DTL website, please get in touch with Merlijn van Rijswijk (merlijn.van.rijswijk@dtls.nl)	(Private) DTL Partners	Preferably before upcoming ZonMW call (opening Q1/2 2017)
This subject will come back in the presentation today.			
A20161125-6	Partner representatives are asked to contact Ruben Kok (ruben.kok@dtls.nl) or Ronald Stolk (r.p.stolk@umcg.nl) with suggestions for topics for next PAC meetings.	PAC members	continuous
Continuous, can be removed as action point.			

2. Short update DTL by Ruben Kok

DTL will move to the Jaarbeurs Innovation Mile (JIM) in July. Partners are welcome to use this location for small meetings); please contact the DTL office. Ruben is proud to announce that DTL now has 50 partners, with a large diversity of partners, including a large part of universities and university medical centres in The Netherlands, as well as (technology) industry partners. Together the DTL partners have a broad expertise base, and ambition with a significant footprint in the life sciences and technology fields.

4th Enabling Technology Hotels (ETH) call

For the fourth time, NWO and ZonMw opened a call for proposals that provide researchers access to DTL-associated technology facilities (hotels). This call has two compartments and 1,8M EUR is available for about 60 projects, meaning about 30k EUR per project. These are relatively small projects, intended to provide access to technologies/capabilities you don't have in the house, and to set up small-sized (pilot) projects that would demonstrate the value of such new technologies. Besides, the call stimulates partners to implement good data stewardship for these projects (and beyond). NB: This is a call to fund the use of facilities, not to build up infrastructure.

Some modifications have been made to the ETH call set-up, based upon earlier discussions in the PAC. The DTL team has communicated these requested modifications with ZonMw and NWO, and with the Chair of the Programme Committee. Previous calls were available for academic hotels only – industrial facilities were not accepted – although all projects were required to involve companies as a PPP, and industry had to provide an in cash contribution. These aspects have been modified:

1. industrial parties are now accepted as a technology hotel.
2. part of the budget is available for purely academic research projects (without involvement of the industry), and an equivalent part is available for public-private projects.
3. the contribution of industrial parties to the project that wants to access a hotel can be in cash or in kind.

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Applications should be done by a scientist from an academic organisation, while the ETH project proposal is prepared together with the hotel manager. Only hotels listed on the DTL website can participate in the call. The call closes on August 29. Final selection of projects is expected before the end of 2017.

Large scale research infrastructure initiatives

NL Roadmap 2017

In December 2016, a revision of the national Roadmap on large-scale infrastructures was formally published, and in January 2017 a call for infrastructure proposals was opened by NWO. Only infrastructure clusters on the Roadmap can respond to the call (100 M€ for this call, another 100 M€ in two years; minimal size per cluster is 10M€ for five years). Several DTL-linked initiatives are on this shortlist of national infrastructures with a strategic value for the Dutch science fields. The chair of the Roadmap committee Hans van Duijn made a few statements at the launching event:

1. all research data must be made FAIR (across science domains),
2. for the Life Science related research infrastructures, the commission advises to collaborate in DTL and
3. their data approach should be harmonized with ELIXIR-NL.

ELIXIR-NL now had a dual role: help other clusters, while being a competitor in the same call. DTL and ELIXIR-NL worked with SURF and NLeSC to strengthen proposals with respect to data management and computational requirements.

Later in the agenda of this PAC meeting we will have three presentations to illustrate the scope of infrastructure clusters that request funding in the NWO Roadmap call.

KNAW agenda 2016: Health-RI

Two important initiatives with great relevance for and involvement of DTL partners are *Health-RI* and *Bioscopy*. Bioscopy has been discussed in the previous PAC meeting. Regarding Health-RI, a core team is preparing a business plan for implementation of this platform with support of KPMG. NFU, VSNU and Health-Holland (LSH) have advising roles. The Health-RI initiative brings together infrastructure clusters related to research in human health. It needs to materialize into a broad but well-managed infrastructure involving a wide range of stakeholders. In the second half of 2017 we expect to have a model ready, which will be published on December 8th during the Health-RI Conference. This initiative can be followed at <https://www.health-ri.org>.

GO FAIR

The European Commission has launched the European Open Science Cloud Initiative. The Netherlands would like to kick-start implementation of a model for the EOSC fully based on the FAIR approach, in line with European proposition. With close involvement of SURF, a task force has been setup to prepare GO FAIR (Global Open FAIR) as an initiative with the goal to help set up so-called "Implementation Networks" across science domains and across continents. Further development of this initiative will be communicated late 2017.

GO FAIR will adopt existing technology and drive development where needed. It will work closely with DTL and start with technology that has been developed in the scope of DTL by several partners. Several releases have already been made available for DTL partners to make your data FAIR.

FAIR Data Train

The [Personal Health Train](#) video is meanwhile familiar to many. A similar movie has now been created for the agro field, termed [Farm Data Train](#), a joint initiative by GODAN, WUR and DTL. Now applied in the agri&food chain it propagates the PHT concept: a core data infrastructure framework based upon FAIR

principles, and using distributed learning approaches to leave the data at the original location.

Platform for industry phase 1

There is still a lot to gain in closing the gap between industry and academia, but industry partners have also expressed a desire to meet and discuss specific industrial needs. The existing Bioinformatics Industrial User Platform (BIUP) is now linked as a community to the DTL network. Events organised will be aligned with the DTL agenda. Inge Schats helps to strengthen such company initiatives and attended several events to communicate about the DTL partnership and programmes.

DTL organisation

Communication tuned with partners

The DTL website has been restructured and information is being offered in a more compact manner, per request of several partners. Partners are encouraged to inform colleagues about DTL-related activities, newsletter etc.

DTL Board: 2 new members

Two new board members have been appointed per April 1st 2017: Dr. Marijana Radonjic (Edgeleap). She has been appointed with support of the SME's within DTL. Also Prof. Guus Schreiber (dean of the faculty of science at VU University) has been appointed as member of the DTL Board, with endorsement of the deans of all science faculties. Formally, all Board members have been appointed personally, without a consultation role (*“zonder last of ruggespraak”*).

DTL-Projects – project vehicle within DTL

Partners are informed that Stichting NBIC has been formally re-named to Stichting DTL Projects. The governance of this foundation involves a Board and a Supervisory Board. The eight members of the DTL Board also have a seat in the Supervisory Board of DTL-Projects. The already existing collaboration agreement (by NBIC) signed by all universities, UMC's and a range of institutes and companies can be used within DTL Projects. Ruben Kok will assemble information and make this available to all DTL partners.

3. What happens in the DTL network?

Floor Scheepers (UMCU) gives insight in the big data project at the department of psychiatry research at Utrecht UMC, set-up in collaboration with several partners. Goal is to be able to move from studies about causality to a better form of psychiatric risk profiling at personal level, and subsequently to use such prediction profiles to define personalised treatment. Patient data derived from various sources and the behaviour of patients online gives a lot of valuable information to professionals. The strong part of the project is the co-creation with doctors and nurses, and the use of a common Psychiatry Data Process Platform. The use of a strong visualisation tool (Scinoscope) makes outcomes easily understandable for non-data experts. A *“compute visits the data platform”* is being established with several stakeholders, including the GGZ.

Morris Swertz (UMCG) explains how -- like several other organisations -- UMCG and RUG are jointly shaping a *DTL inside* set-up in Groningen. DTL involvement started early in 2014, and since then, an increasing amount of groups and experts became involved. As a next step in developing the Groningen DTL landscape UMCG/RUG would like to connect to other groups and establish a coordinating Groningen

node. It still needs to be worked out what should be set up separately from the overall DTL and what shouldn't, how to share templates, best practices, how to connect to the central DTL website, align communication, etc.

LUMC (Peter Bram 't Hoen) and Radboudumc (Alain van Gool) have also developed an internal structure similar to what Morris describes. Alain van Gool invites Morris Swertz to visit the technology centres setup in Nijmegen. Ruben Kok proposes that partners exchange about their *DTL-inside* approach and benefit from each other's experience. Rob Hooft emphasizes that having a network of mutually communicating *local DTL's* would make it possible not to have all technology and data expertise locally. Morris Swertz agrees and calls on partners to exchange on similar internal DTL initiatives.

Maurien Olsthoorn (DSM) shares information about steps in data analytics and data management in industrial microbial production. DSM in Delft as a biotechnology company is part of a global organisation, and well connected with its health-related parts in Switzerland and the US. DSM has identified FAIRification of data as an excellent step to optimize the learning curve in process development, extracting the value out of the data and use that new information to improve pipelines for existing products. This is a big challenge within DSM, as a lot of data is generated. DSM seeks help in DTL to optimize this process. A first BYOD will be prepared to get the first practical hands on what FAIR means in practice. DSM is eager to connect with parties with practical expertise on FAIR data. Although data will be made technically FAIR over time, all crucial data will be kept inside the company.

4. Towards large-scale infrastructures: examples of three Roadmap cluster proposals

Alain van Gool (Radboudumc; coordinator X-omics cluster) talks about developing X-omics approaches and a X-omics national infrastructure. Alain van Gool is the main applicant of the X-omics initiative as part of the NWO Roadmap for large scale infrastructures. X-omics has six major local facilities, which were asked to form a cluster. The goal of the X-omics cluster is to contribute to the understanding of the building blocks of life, with the world experts in the field of genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and a selected number of application fields. The X-omics cluster has close ties to the Bioscopy and Health-RI initiatives. X-omics plans to build one accessible portal and create a helpdesk in NL for advice and best practices related to multi-omics research.

Jaap Heringa (VU; coordinator of the ELIXIR-NL cluster) explains the plans to develop a national digital infrastructure for life science research under the ELIXIR-NL flag. The international strength of ELIXIR-NL in data interoperability (FAIR principles) and training is here combined with strong initiatives at Radboudumc (DRE, Digital Research Environment as an infrastructure for collaborative data-intensive clinical research), UMC Maastricht (euroCAT infrastructure for distributed learning) and SURF (national e-infrastructure, cloud orchestration). First focus is on health-related projects, as part of Health-RI, but ELIXIR-NL wants to establish the data backbone for all life science areas. Strong collaboration has been set-up with BBMRI-NL and the MRI&Cognition cluster. Also ISBE (Systems Biology cluster) has joined ELIXIR-NL. Apart from a central engineering team, a ring of local data stewards at DTL partner organisations is planned to create a strongly connected and federated digital environment for data stewardship and analytics. This will also be brought to the European level, as part of the European ELIXIR infrastructure. Conversely, it can serve as a gateway to make the international developments available for

the Dutch partners.

Peter Schalk (Naturalis) presents plans to develop a National Infrastructure for Ecology and Biodiversity Analysis: NIEBA. The proposed Roadmap infrastructure will provide researchers easy and remote access to an abundance of validated data that can be used to understand ecosystems by combining them with abiotic data and traits. The focus is initially on the fresh water ecosystem (NIEBA-fw). There is a strong sense of urgency to be able to better predict changes in the environment and use them for societal benefits. Integration of fields and bundling of disciplines is highly necessary to come to ground-breaking discoveries related to ecology, biodiversity and climate change and that enhance our “understanding of the natural world for our sustainable future”.

General discussion on the development of research infrastructures. When is collaboration beneficial? How can organisations contribute and benefit? What’s in it for industry?

Ronald Stolk: DTL is a public-private organisation. What is the potential involvement of private partners in these proposed infrastructure clusters?

Alain van Gool: The involvement in X-omics is at several levels. Most of the laboratories develop technology together with vendors of analytical equipment. Then there is also co-development of omics and X-omics pipelines and potential involvement in application development.

Jaap Heringa: ELIXIR-NL tries to open as much as possible to private parties in multiple sectors, both at large and small scale (SME’s) and both as users of the infrastructure as well as for contributors of certain parts of the infrastructure. There should be room for cracking tools, pay for use models, etc. The Radboud DRE concept already involves companies.

Peter Schalk: NIEBA is open for private partners as well.

Ronald Stolk: How to can DTL facilitate to build bridges among these infrastructures and involve the partners?

Answer Ruben Kok: The role of DTL can certainly be to make sure there is no duplication of efforts, so first of all DTL can help to communicate and align different plans and initiatives. In the last couple of months there have been exchanges among several consortia, which allows the development of an internal roadmap. In the framework of the Health-RI initiative, for example, a clear prioritisation has been agreed, with a desire to have a strong connecting data infrastructure first (ELIXIR-NL), plus a X-omics infrastructure. BBMRI-NL and the MRI&Cognition cluster have not prepared separate proposals this time. So this has led to an internal strategy rather than all writing competing proposals for the same call.

At the data level we can promote the implementation of the FAIR principles, which NWO and the Roadmap Committee already have made mandatory. This can facilitate the cross-connection between the different infrastructures at the data level.

Based upon the general access mechanism worked out for the DTL hotel infrastructure we may start to think about a national access approach, also involving technology facilities offered by the companies and large-scale infrastructures. Ruben would like to see how, as a partnership, those types of principles can be embraced, harmonized and possibly also voiced towards NWO. If we come up with a collective proposal to NWO, this would be a very strong signal.

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Ruben Kok: We should realise that we have strategic list of infrastructures (Roadmap) but a highly competitive funding instrument associated with it. While 15 life science clusters are on the Roadmap in the LS compartment, the majority of these initiatives will be disappointed in this call (probably only 3 will be selected).

5. Closure and drinks

Ronald Stolk thanks all speakers for their contributions and all for their attendance. He closes the meeting and reminds all that the next PAC meeting has been scheduled November 23, 2017.

Actions:

A20170616-1	Ruben Kok will assemble information on DTL Projects and send that to all DTL partners.	Ruben Kok	2 nd half 2017
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