



Prof. Søren Brunak
Interim ELIXIR Board Chair
Center for Biological Sequence Analysis
Department of Systems Biology, Technical University of Denmark,
Building 208, DK-2800 Kongens Lyngby
DENMARK

2nd January 2013

Dear Prof. Brunak,

The European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) is a collaboration of National Grid Infrastructures (NGIs) that serves scientific research across Europe and beyond. EGI can trace its routes back through over a decade of activities in distributed computing that has been co-funded by the European Commission and national research councils.

Building on top of the discussions we have had with Andrew Lyall, Janet Thornton and Ewan Birney over the last few years within the EGI-InSPIRE and BioMedBidges projects, and recognising the enormous impact that ELIXIR will have on research in Europe, last year in October we started an internal activity that will explore how best to facilitate the interaction and transfer of knowledge between our NGIs (the EGI's main stakeholders) and the ELIXIR community and its national activities.

This activity is already gathering information across Europe that will help build a complete operational picture of the collaborations that are relevant at a national level between the NGIs and the ELIXIR nodes, and at a European level between EGI.eu (that coordinates EGI on behalf of its stakeholders) and ELIXIR itself. Work over the next 4 months until the project concludes in April will lead us to two important outcomes:

Firstly, establish a social network of ELIXIR-related people within the individual NGIs of ELIXIR participating nations. This network will serve as a basis for international collaboration at both technical and organisational levels between ELIXIR and EGI communities. Secondly, a report will be produced with recommendations for how a coordinated approach can be developed whereby EGI can best collaborate with and support ELIXIR. The report will help the EGI community work with ELIXIR partners to define and facilitate the establishment of the ELIXIR infrastructure.

We already have active representatives from Armenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom. In order to maximise the effective communication and exchange of ideas between our teams, we would ask that you identify how we can promote this activity further within the ELIXIR community through the ELIXIR Board and identify an opportunity where we can discuss further the recommendations coming out of the report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven Newhouse".

Dr. Steven Newhouse
EGI.eu Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ludek Matyska".

Prof. Ludek Matyska
EGI Council Chair

cc. Janet Thornton