



CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

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European Commission
Dr. Wolfgang Boch
Head of Unit
DG INFSO – F1 (BU 25-05/24)
1049 Bruxelles
Belgium

Budapest, 4 January 2012

Dear Dr. Boch,

We are delighted to send you the letter of support for the FuturICT flagship proposal, coordinated by Dirk Helbing (Chair of Steering Committee) and Steven Bishop (Pilot Phase Coordinator, UCL)

The goals of FuturICT closely match with the strengths and ambitions of Central European University. We have an outstanding program in social, political sciences and economics, and we are in the process of establishing a PhD program concentration in network science. We hope that this concentration will grow into a full-blown PhD program which would be the first in the world. The program will provide fellowship for 5 PhD students each year, leading to a stable 15 fellowships once the program has reached its full potential.

As a first step in this direction we have recently established the Center for Network Science at CEU, under the leadership of Professor Balazs Vedres, and we are working on building the network science program, in collaboration with the Center for Network Science and the Departments of Political Science, Economics and Mathematics, an effort lead by Professor Albert-Laszlo Barabasi. This program will lead to at least two new professorships in this area, one with focus on networks and economic processes, and the other at the border of networks science and mathematics,

The center and the program will focus on core issues addressed by FuturICT—understanding, quantifying and predicting socio-economic phenomena. We are pleased to align these new investments - which will reach close to 0.5 million Euros in 2013, and will continue to increase in the following years as the program matures - with the goals of the FuturICT program.

We expect the opportunities offered by the FuturICT program to create considerable excitement on our campus, involving a wide range of expertise and constituents, from students and faculty spanning several disciplines. We are delighted to be part of this visionary program.

Yours sincerely

Katalin Farkas
Provost and Academic Pro-Rector