



NEMZETI ERŐFORRÁS
MINISZTERIUM
FELSŐOKTATÁSÉRT ÉS TUDOMÁNYPOLITIKÁÉRT FELELŐS
HELYETTES ÁLLAMTITKÁR

Ikt.szám/Our ref.: 116245-1/2011.

Prof László Dux

**Deputy State Secretary for
Higher Education and Science Policy**
Ministry of National Resources

30 September 2011

Dirk Helbing

Chair of Sociology, in particular of Modeling and Simulation

ETH Zürich

Clausiusstrasse 50
8092 Zürich

Subject: Letter of support for FuturICT

Dear Professor Helbing,

Hungary very much appreciates the efforts of the planned FuturICT flagship project to foster scientific cooperation between the countries of the European Union, which are not only useful for Hungarian researchers, but also for the scientific communities of the region.

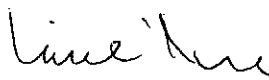
The Ministry of National Resources, responsible for science policy in Hungary, sees the FuturICT project as one of the most important initiatives that could underpin the research agenda on the national strategic level. The perspective of this project in Hungary is to facilitate academic as well as commercial research and development activities in the field of ICT by pushing forward ever more important interdisciplinary research teams combined from

ICT experts to mathematicians and social science engineers.

Support for and willingness to participate in the project has been already expressed in Hungary by leading research and higher educational and academic organisations, among them the Hungarian Academy of Science, the Technical University of Budapest, Lorand Eötvös University, or Szeged University. Considerable interest in the project has also been shown by leading companies in the field of distributed and high performance computing, who expect the project to open new business opportunities for the future. Based on these involvements, Hungary is prepared to make a significant contribution to the planned FuturICT project and to European excellence in science on a global scale.

The Hungarian government is already intensively supporting RTD activities, which are in line with the research objectives of FuturICT. In addition, we intend to support FuturICT related activities through the introduction of various new national RTD initiatives, where we plan to provide this support through various instruments. The current plan is for the government to provide around EUR 24 Million of grants for RTD activities in this area in the upcoming three years; around EUR 3.7 Million alone for a higher education and research FuturICT centre. The support for the program will be executed through targeted research projects based on the European Social Funds. An extension of the project up to the maximum duration of the flagship program is envisaged, if the financial and political situation of the country allows.

Sincerely yours,



Dr László Dux

