



Professor R.W. O'Neill
Vice President for Research

1 December, 2011

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dirk Helbing
ETH Zurich, Room CLU E1
Clausius Strasse 50
CH-8092 Zurich
Switzerland

Re: FuturICT FET Flagship

Dear Prof. Dirk Helbing,

I wish to confirm that National University of Ireland Maynooth (NUIM) is keen to support and develop the overall vision of the proposed FuturICT FET Flagship Initiative. This inter-disciplinary initiative targeted at the big global challenges is needed now more than ever to help accelerate our understanding of the interplay of complex inter-connected natural and man-made processes in order to implement creative, sustainable and innovative solutions for the future.

NUIM is home to several research institutions sharing the research agenda of FuturICT: National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG), Hamilton Institute, ICARUS Climate Modelling Institute, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), and Callan Institute for Applied ICT.

NCG is the internationally recognised group focused on advanced spatial analytics and visualisation. It coordinates a number of national and international projects targeted at understanding of the fundamental processes in spatial human dynamics and developing technologies to support spatial decision making. Particularly, it is a lead house of the Strategic Research Cluster in Advanced Geotechnologies (<http://www.stratag.ie>) which is a large-scale national research programme in this domain. NIRSA is pursuing research in linking spatial processes to social and economical development. Hamilton provides a bridge between mathematics and its applications in ICT, including techno-social networked systems. ICARUS was established in order to improve our scientific understanding of climate change and its impacts nationally and across Europe. Callan Institute is focused on the use of information, computing and communications technologies to address challenges arising from our increasingly complex world of communication- and technology driven environment and their impact on our personal lives. NUIM is currently coordinating an Open Data innovation platform, Dublinked (<http://www.dublinked.ie>), which will be linked to European Network of Living Labs and is also developing the All Ireland Regional Observatory (<http://www.airo.ie>), an online portal for national & regional socio-demographic information.

These are the areas NUIM will develop in terms of the current and planned academic and applied research programmes which are strongly aligned with FuturICT agenda.

In conclusion, NUIM would like to express its full support to the FuturICT concept and vision, and feels that the research institutes, the core projects and our upcoming research initiatives can make real contribution to the FuturICT FET Flagship. We will further extend our commitment by promoting a joint research cluster of the main institutes, supported by several future academic appointments, to advance the FuturICT research programme as it develops.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Ray O'Neill
Vice President for Research
National University of Ireland Maynooth