

Prof. Steven Bishop
Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (Maps)
UCL London

Prof. Dirk Helbing
Chair of Sociology
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology – ETH Zurich

Paris, 11 July 2011

Dear Professors Bishop and Helbing,

My colleague Giulia Ajmone Marsan reported to me on the **International Workshop on “Coping with Crises in Complex Socio-Economic Systems 2011”** which she attended on 20-25 June 2011 at the ETH Zurich. I would like to confirm our interest in following up the developments of the FutureICT FET Flagship project proposal, which you co-ordinate.

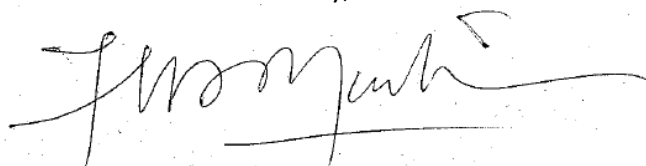
Indeed, the recent socio-economic events have highlighted the need for new and innovative ways of reasoning about socio-economic phenomena. New measurements, indicators, and modelling techniques, able to take into account social interactions and inter-personal connectivity across different geographical areas at the global scale, are needed to have a better understanding of the complex socio-economic dynamics. I believe the FutureICT initiative could provide significant steps in this direction.

Many of the themes of the FutureICT FET Flagship project proposal actually have interesting intersections with the research which we are currently undertaking in my Division, such as:

- advancing of science, technology, and innovation policy
- smart cities, transport, and service accessibility
- smart energy production and consumption

Therefore, I hope we will have in the near future opportunities to dialogue and share experiences.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Joaquim Oliveira Martins
Head, Regional Development Policy Division