



Subject: Letter of support to FuturICT flagship project.

Dear Mr. Helbing,

The Portuguese Ministry of Education and Science finds in the planned FuturICT flagship project a remarkable case of scientific excellence allied to an ambitious interdisciplinary initiative with high potential for our societies. The project involves the best European research community in the area of complex systems and makes use of grand ICT resources for exploring the symbiotic co-evolution of technology with society, with impacts on the environment and health.

We are certain of its paramount importance not only for the societal challenges ahead of us, but also for the shift Europe needs in terms of collaborative work among different fields of science, such as those involved in this initiative. Only through that approach can Europe increase its readiness for the threats of our times, such as financial alarms, epidemiologic cases and others reflected by the FuturICT project.

For Portugal, this has been an important field of research in the past few years. National activities have been financed in large-scale social modeling, with great success, including epidemiology and societal simulation with high-performing computing. Nonetheless, an initiative like FuturICT can only be undertaken in a collaborative way, taking advantage of the best added-value offered by the European Commission opportunities. The Portuguese expertise involved is an assurance of excellence.

FuturICT project is thus in line with Portugal's perspectives, with several benefits both for underpinning the research agenda nationally and cross-borders and for multiplying impacts in a number of critical societal areas. In this view, it is my pleasure to assure you of Portugal's support to this project as one of the six Future and Emerging Technology flagship initiatives to be further developed in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Nuno Crato

Minister of Education and Science