



## VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS

Prof. Dr. Dirk Helbing  
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Dear Professor Helbing,

I wish to confirm that Vilnius University (VU) is keen to support the FuturICT FET Flagship Initiative within the European Union's Framework Programme.

Vilnius University distinguishes itself by a broad spectrum of fundamental and applied research. It seeks to assume the leading position among other Lithuanian institutions in all research areas that are essential to the very nature of a comprehensive University and set itself the goal of international excellence in the interdisciplinary research. The University seeks to position and distinguish itself in European research and education area by top level research, which should be sustained by University's research teams of international acclaim and new teams, as well as to ensure annually increasing involvement in European research and educational programmes. We ensure that the balanced development and interaction of research in humanities, social, physical, biomedical and technological sciences remains the most outstanding feature of the University, which essentially differentiates it from other Lithuanian establishments of higher education and research. Vilnius University initiates and actively implements the projects of value for the economic development of the country and region, which would encourage effective co-operation of scientific and educational institutions with high technology companies and create favourable conditions and environment for innovations and entrepreneurship.

I am impressed by the visionary, science and goal-driven large-scale initiative of FuturICT seeking to support research at the cutting edge, and integrate the European engineering, natural, and social science communities. In such scale of collaboration frame the European scientists should be able to get answers to a wide range of challenges in contemporary society. The synergies of excellent research and active international collaboration have a large potential, and important economical impacts in improving competitiveness and welfare of Europe and its citizens.

For all these reasons Vilnius University strongly supports the FuturICT project and would be very interested to take part in this important action towards realization of the European Research Area and Innovation Union.

Rector of Vilnius University

Prof. Benediktas Juodka