



**KATALIN FARKAS**

*Professor of Philosophy ▪ Provost and Academic Pro-Rector*

Nádor u. 9., H-1051 Budapest, Hungary

Tel.: + (36-1) 327-3000 ext. 2227

Fax.: + (36-1) 328-3404

E-mail: farkask@ceu.hu

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Professor Dirk Helbing  
ETH Zurich

Dear Professor Helbing.

In my capacity as Provost and Academic Pro-Rector of Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary, it is my pleasure to confirm our interest in the proposed FET Flagship FuturICT, within the Framework 8 program of the European Union.

CEU is impressed by the breadth and the interdisciplinary nature of the FuturICT project, aiming to take our understanding of socio-economic systems to a new level, by infusing the quantitative tools of natural sciences with the abundant data that is increasingly available about socio-economic systems. We feel that the goals of FuturICT are aligned with CEU's ambitions to continue excellence in these areas. Our programs are among the strongest, and internationally highly ranked economics, social science and political science departments in Central Europe.

Given these converging interests, we have decided to invest further in this area, planning to hire two new faculty who can contribute directly to the FuturICT project. These positions will be in network science, aiming to build the leading group in Europe in this area. These new faculty, together with our current faculty (that include Professors Albert-Laszlo Barabasi and Balazs Vedres, both well known in this area) are expected to play a key role in the FuturICT program.

In addition to these directed hires, CEU wants to express its strong support for the FuturICT concept and its ambition and confirm its interest in active collaboration with the project.

Yours sincerely

Katalin Farkas