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Professor Judith Rees, CBE
Director

30 November 2011

Professor Steven Bishop
FuturICT Co-ordinator
Department of Mathematics
UCL
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Dear Professor Bishop,

I am writing in support of the proposed FET Flagship, FuturICT. The FuturICT project is grand in its ambitions and provides the prospect of harnessing the potential of social networking through crowdsourcing to create comprehensive new datasets on social activities and other trends. By developing the technological tools necessary to process these enormous data sets, FuturICT offers an opportunity to broaden the evidence base on which social scientists rely and improve the quality of the policy advice they provide. It is widely recognized that the solutions to the global issues we face will increasingly rely on a better understanding of the complex inter-dependencies of a variety of variables; the inter-disciplinary approach behind FuturICT provides the opportunity to hone social scientists' skills in analyzing social and other conditions, diagnosing faults, and prescribing policy solutions. The programme has the potential to involve wide interest across the School, and I am pleased to be able to support it.

Yours sincerely
Judith Rees

Professor Judith Rees
Director