

Press release / announcement

Date: Monday, 11 May 2015
Distribution: ELIXIR website, Twitter (@ELIXIREurope - partners to re-Tweet), wire service (AlphGalileo), ELIXIR's partners websites
News graphic: ELIXIR-EXCELELRATE Logo for websites: <https://goo.gl/gtgrq9>

ELIXIR accelerates with major Horizon 2020 funding

11 May 2015, Hinxton, UK – ELIXIR has been awarded €19 million from the EU to accelerate the implementation of Europe's life-science data infrastructure over the next four years. From September 2015, 'ELIXIR-EXCELERATE' will facilitate the integration of Europe's bioinformatics resources, supporting all sectors of life-science R&D. It will deliver excellence to ELIXIR's users by fast-tracking the development and deployment of essential data services.

EXCLERATE funding will help ELIXIR coordinate and extend national and international data resources to ensure the delivery of world-leading life-science data services. It will support a pan-European training programme, anchored in national infrastructures, to increase bioinformatics capacity and competency. It will also provide efficiencies in management and operation throughout the infrastructure, which is distributed amongst 17 countries.

ELIXIR Director Niklas Blomberg says, "I am delighted that the EU is supporting this high-impact project. In the age of big data, it is critical that we can all make the most of the bioinformatics capacity that has been developed in each of our member states. This will make a difference to Europe's 500,000 life-science researchers, who need public research data to be managed well over the long term so it can be reused to maximum effect. EXCELERATE will bring about a step change in how bioinformatics services are coordinated across Europe, ensuring they are integrated, grow in step with the advent of new technologies, and maintained appropriately over the long term."

Dedicated use cases, defined in close partnership with diverse research communities, will help ELIXIR grow in keeping with the needs of scientists working on rare diseases, biomedical and human genomics, marine and plant sciences and other specialized areas. This will ensure that ELIXIR's services for data, tools, interoperability, compute, training and industry support are rooted in user needs, and can deliver benefits to existing and future research projects.

About ELIXIR-EXCELERATE:

ELIXIR was invited to apply to a dedicated call within Horizon 2020 following the ESFRI

and European Council decision in 2014 to categorize ELIXIR as one of Europe's three priority new Research Infrastructures. (link to be embedded: <https://www.elixir-europe.org/news/elixir-prioritised-esfri>). ELIXIR-EXCELERATE represents ELIXIR's submission to this Call.

Partners include the following organisations, listed alphabetically by country:

Belgium

- Vlaamse Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB)

Czech Republic

- Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Masaryk University
- CESNET

Denmark

- Danish Technical University

Estonia

- Tartu University

France

- CNRS
- INRA
- Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD)

Finland

- CSC

Greece

- Alexander Fleming Institute
- FORTH
- Athena RIC

Israel

- Hebrew University of Jerusalem (IL).

Italy

- Institute Pasteur (FR); CNR

The Netherlands

- Netherlands Bioinformatics Centre

Portugal

- Gulbenkian Foundation
- INESC ID Lisbon
- Instituto de Biologia Experimental e Tecnologica (iBET)
- Centre of Marine Sciences (CCMAR)

Spain

- Spanish National Research Centre (CNIO) Carlos III
- Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG)
- Centro de Investigacion Principe Felipe
- Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona)
- University of Malaga
- Barcelona Supercomputing Center
- Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
- Pompeu Fabra University
- Parc Cientific de Barcelona
- Fundacio Institut mar d'Investigacions Mediques (IMIM)

Norway

- University of Bergen

- Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- University of Tromsø
- University of Oslo

Slovenia

- University of Ljubljana
- National Institute of Biology

Sweden

- Linköping University

Switzerland

- SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics

United Kingdom

- University of Oxford
- The Genome Analysis Centre
- University of Manchester
- The European Molecular Biology Laboratory European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI)

About ELIXIR

ELIXIR, the European life-science infrastructure for biological information, is a unique and unprecedented initiative that consolidates Europe's national centres, services, and core bioinformatics resources into a single, coordinated infrastructure.

ELIXIR brings together Europe's major life-science data archives and, for the first time, connects these with national bioinformatics infrastructures throughout ELIXIR's member states. By coordinating local, national and international resources the ELIXIR infrastructure will meet the data-related needs of Europe's 500,000 life-scientists. ELIXIR supports users addressing the Grand Challenges in diverse domains ranging from marine research via plants and agriculture to health research and medical sciences. www.elixir-europe.org