# ESTABLISHING AN INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ELIXIR

**Author**

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**Purpose of the paper**

To present a proposal for the formation of an Industry Advisory Committee for ELIXIR, including suggestions for the role and remit of the committee and the process for appointing members.

**Action required**

To approve the creation of an Industry Advisory Committee for ELIXIR and agree the next steps for its formation.

**Voting requirements**

Two-thirds majority in accordance with ECA, article 6.2.4.x.

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**Establishing an Industry Advisory Committee for ELIXIR | ELIXIR / 2014 / 13**
**Meeting date: 7-8 April 2014**

This document was last edited on: 7 March 2014

# 1. The importance to industry of ELIXIR

Total life science investment in R&D in Europe was $82 billion in 2012, with $53 billion of that from industry. Industry usage of Europe's bioinformatics resources is already high; for example, in 2012 the EMBL-EBI website received 110 million hits from 'commercial' IP addresses. Commercial usage of public bioinformatics resources is fundamental in underpinning product development in areas such as drug discovery, marine biotechnology and aquaculture, software development, sustainable crop production and agrochemicals.

Europe is home to many knowledge-based SMEs whose business models are based on developing commercial services on top of public open data resources and for which ELIXIR presents a stable, reliable platform. In parallel, the European Commission estimates that cloud computing can contribute up to €250 billion to EU GDP in 2020, a total cumulative gain of €940 billion for the period 2015-2020. ELIXIR will help stimulate supply-side innovation in this sector through public investments in data centres and servers. The potential for ELIXIR to stimulate innovation and support industry across multiple sectors is therefore enormous.

# 2. Rationale for establishing an Industry Advisory Committee

The 2013 ELIXIR-commissioned report by ConnectedDiscovery into the needs of industry stated that, "Industry researchers are a critical partner in, and user, of ELIXIR infrastructure. As such, it is vital that the needs of industry and their use cases are fully understood." The formation of an Industry Advisory Committee is proposed as one of the main mechanisms to achieve this. Similar suggestions on the need to establish a mechanism to receive industry input were made during the panel interview with the High Level Expert Group on Assessment in February 2013.

# 3. Role and remit of an Industry Advisory Committee

The Industry Advisory Committee would constitute an advisory body to the ELIXIR Board, ELIXIR Director and Heads of Nodes according to Art. 6.6. of the ELIXIR Consortium Agreement. Its primary function would be to provide expert, strategic advice as seen as appropriate by the ELIXIR Board, Director and Heads of Nodes, on issues including:

- The implementation of the ELIXIR Programme and the ongoing development of ELIXIR's industry support actions
- The process of labelling ELIXIR services and suggestions on relevance of new and emerging ELIXIR services
- Priorities for future ELIXIR Pilot Actions
- ELIXIR's scientific collaboration with European and global initiatives and international countries

# 4. Membership of the Industry Advisory Committee

To truly reflect the breadth of ELIXIR, the Industry Advisory Committee should comprise industrial members from user communities as well as suppliers (ie, High Performance Computing companies) and publishers. It should include an appropriate balance of representatives from both large industry and SMEs and from commercial sectors including pharma, biotech, food and agriculture.

A suggested number of appointees would be nine, mirroring the number on the ELIXIR Scientific Advisory Board. The Chair would be elected by committee members who will also establish Rules of Procedures.

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## 5. Frequency and format

The Industry Advisory Committee should meet every 12-18 months. Where possible, meetings would be held in Hinxton. Written input and advice could be requested of the committee on an ad-hoc basis.

The secretariat to the committee would be provided by the ELIXIR Hub as part of the ELIXIR Programme for 2014-2018. This will include organizing the logistical aspects of the meetings. Committee members would be reimbursed for their travel from the ELIXIR Hub budget but would not receive an honorarium.

## 6. Process for appointing members

It is proposed that the ELIXIR Hub opens a public call for submissions of interest from interested industry members. The ELIXIR Board would assess these submissions and make the appointments at the November 2014 Board meeting. The open call would ask for industry members to submit their CV for consideration by the Board.

The call for submissions of interest would be made public and disseminated through the numerous channels including:

- ELIXIR Nodes' existing industry contacts
- Companies taking part in ELIXIR Innovation and SME events
- The companies interviewed by ConnectedDiscovery in 2013
- ELIXIR website and websites of ELIXIR Nodes

## 7. Timing and Next Steps

- April 2014 - ELIXIR Board to approve decision to establish an Industry Advisory Committee
- Q-2/Q-3 2014 - ELIXIR Hub to publish a public call for submissions of interest for members to the committee
- November 2014 – ELIXIR Board to vote on an appoint members to the committee
- 2015 – First meeting of Industry Advisory Committee

## 8. Action Required

To approve the creation of an Industry Advisory Committee for ELIXIR and agree the proposed next steps for its formation.

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