



Helsinki, 29.8.2019

Professor Holger Hoos
Leiden University
The Netherlands

Subject: Letter of Support for the Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe (Claire)

Dear Professor Hoos,

Artificial intelligence is one of the most important technologies of our time. It can create new competences, economic growth and promote wellbeing. Access to more efficient computing capacity, growth of the volume of data available to AI, and the development of algorithms have resulted in the acceleration of AI development and utilisation. A growing number of countries have recognised the opportunities provided by AI. In 2017, Finland was among the first countries to launch a national Artificial Intelligence Programme.

Under the Finnish Flagship Programme, a research and innovation ecosystem for AI (FCAI – Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence) has been established. FCAI is based on top-tier expertise in machine learning and on multidisciplinary collaboration with other experts and the industry sector.

Finland supports the CLAIRE initiative, which seeks to strengthen European excellence in AI research and innovation with the establishment of a pan-European Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe. Finnish stakeholders are prepared to play a key role in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Anita Lehtikainen
Permanent Secretary