UiO : Faculty of Humanities

University of Oslo

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To: Mathilde Skoie
Pro-Dean, Faculty of Humanities

Date: 19.08.2019
Your ref.:
Our ref.:   2019/1399 INGRIBST

Innspill fra IMV på UiO veikart for infrastruktur

Please find below comments from IMV regarding the research infrastructure roadmap draft. We would like to emphasize certain aspects of research and research-led teaching infrastructures that are central to our work at IMV and which are not sufficiently represented in the draft. Given that HF's and HumSam's roadmaps (in their relation to the broader UiO roadmap) are key documents used to route funding into the prioritized infrastructures, and given that these documents will affect the level and nature of funding that we are able to apply for in the future, then we believe that the following points should be emphasized in HF's roadmap.

We note that text-based databases and "supercomputing" (of the established big data and digital humanities style) are given a lot of attention in this draft. Infrastructures such as those used by RITMO are of course mentioned but should feature more strongly. Especially since IMV has two physical "leiested" facilities. We would like to re-emphasize the report prepared by our IT/AV-råd (https://www.hf.uio.no/imv/om/organisasjon/itav-rad/moter/2019/2-2019/protokoll.html), which is not sufficiently represented in the current draft. We believe that in a roadmap that revolves around infrastructure, there should be more focus on physical infrastructures. On this front, we would also continue to emphasize that funds need to be available not just for establishing research infrastructure or maintaining databases (which is, we think, the only place "vedlikehold"/"drift" comes up in the current draft) but also for maintaining laboratories and laboratory equipment once they are purchased and installed. Something that is, for example, made possible through the "leiesteds" model. We believe that similar issues are also relevant to MultiLing.

IMV's motion capture lab has recently been formally recognized as an official Life Sciences "national infrastructure." This could be highlighted in the roadmap, especially with regard to the issue of leiesteder. Since the NFR no longer funds physical infrastructure directly, leasing out our research laboratory infrastructures such as the MoCap Lab to externally funded project activities is now an important means by which departments such as IMV will be able to generate funding to reinvest in building and maintaining those labs (drift). IMV is the Department at HF with most experience in running labs based on the "leiested" model, which is becoming increasingly important in the process of prioritizing, funding and maintaining labs and should therefore be emphasized in the roadmap.

It is additionally important to mention that IMV has had vital research and research-led teaching infrastructures for 30 years. These come in the form of studios and specialized computer programs for music production, music notation, and a range of other aspects core to the research and teaching activities at IMV. These require ongoing support.

Feedback regarding prioritized infrastructure:

We believe that different types of infrastructure should not be grouped together or combined (IMV labs cover, for example, very different activities to some of the other infrastructures mentioned). Grouping infrastructures together requires in-depth knowledge of the equipment and its functions, and we do not want to risk limiting the possibilities for applying for funding for infrastructures because they are included in the same group.

The list of conditions detailing how infrastructure should be prioritized seems appropriate. But we have the following points to add and to highlight:
- Leiesteder should be mentioned explicitly, as these are infrastructures that are easier for externals to make use of, and it is important to have an a up-to-date registry of all equipment and people linked to them. Infrastructure that is visible in the roadmap, or is intended to be included, will also be more visible to externals. By externals we mean departments, faculties, universities and companies who do not own the infrastructure.
- In expanding on the points on "forskningsmessig kvalitet", "virksomhetskritiske" and "kritiske for utdanningen", it should be mentioned that the prioritized infrastructure is key for a department, faculty or university in order to stay at the forefront and to be a competitive workplace and university.

It is unclear from the draft whether the connection between priorities and funding channels is taken into consideration. Some funders will only fund infrastructure that is visible in roadmaps or that is eligible for renting out (in the UiO-system this means that they have to be official leiesteder). There is often a difference between how internal and external funders evaluate the priorities listed in the roadmap. Much existing infrastructure is, in fact, funded by UiO centrally, the Faculty or by the Department's own funding. Therefore, we believe it is important to consider the connection between the visibility of specific infrastructures in the road map and funding opportunities in further discussions.

Sincerely

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This document is approved electronically by UiO and is therefore not signed.

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