

# **ELIXIR - A European Infrastructure for Biological Information: Challenges and Progress**

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With the advent of high-throughput biology, the last few years has released a flood of biological information unprecedented in this area of science. Increasingly novel discoveries are made by exploiting these data to understand and predict the molecular basis of life and to simulate biological systems. The European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) recognised that a robust infrastructure for this information was one of the top priorities within Europe to ensure continued excellence in all aspects of biology from academic research to medicine, agriculture and the environment. The European Bioinformatics Institute, which is the European centre for core biomolecular data, are co-ordinating the ELIXIR proposal to prepare for the construction of an internationally integrated infrastructure to support the life sciences and society over the next 20 years. This presentation will outline the needs and benefits of such an infrastructure and the challenges we face in its constructions.