

Dear NIRICT Colleagues,

After leading NIRICT for nearly 10 years, Peter Apers (UT) has recently been succeeded in his role as Scientific Director by Inald Lagendijk (TUD). Furthermore, the Board of the 3TU federation has granted NIRICT an annual coordination budget of 150 k€, and a total of 2 M€ for the collaborative Big Software on the Run (BSR) project.

The deans of the participating faculties at TU Delft, University of Twente, and TU Eindhoven, and the (former) management team members have discussed and agreed upon the next NIRICT planning cycle (2015-2018) with the following activities and strategy:

- Community building, as so to strengthen the mutual awareness, collaboration, and mobility and to engage senior and junior ICT researchers in the national and European ICT R&D ecosystem.
- Education collaboration, as so to mutually benefit from local expertise and to jointly design and push forward the continuous renewal of education programs, for instance in the area of ICT entrepreneurship.
- Research portfolio management, with the ambition to (a) scout emerging research themes and investigate relevance to ICT research; (b) to grow fertile areas and ecosystems of new ICT research through collaborate projects similar in size and budget to BSR; (c) to transfer maturing research fields to the research community.

We invite you to participate in the annual NIRICT Community Meet-Up on **December 9, 2014**. The Meet-Up will take place in Karel V in Utrecht, doors open at 10.30 and ending at 17.30 with drinks.

We will discuss the opportunities of the strategic NIRICT activities, and the growing areas of research such as BSR, Big Data, and Human-Technology Interaction. Also the current set of emerging research themes will be addressed, with ample opportunity to launch and obtain coordinating funding for new emerging ICT research themes.

We sincerely hope that you will attend the NIRICT Community Meet-Up on December 9, 2014. Please reply to this email (c.m.dewit@tudelft.nl) to confirm your presence. In case you cannot make it, we appreciate it if you can suggest a (assistant) professor whom we can invite as so to make sure that we have good coverage of all expertise in NIRICT.

More information about the day will follow as soon as we finalise the programme.

Kind regards,
Inald Lagendijk