

Dear friends of the High Level Forum

*It has been more than a year now that we've been living with the COVID-19 pandemic and despite its very sad impacts, this period has shed light on the great potential for solidarity and creativity that lies within each one of us. As highlighted during the 2020 HLF Connect Briefing, when we discussed the impact of Covid-19 on innovation, ecosystem resilience and new forms of collaboration, many countries and ecosystems have reinvented themselves and showed more resilience than ever. Although there are still lock-downs, curfews and restrictions, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel with increasing numbers of people vaccinated.*

*This evolution and the possibility to travel again lead us to hope that our plan to meet in-person at the HLF Summit in November, should not be unduly affected and I am sure every HLF member is looking forward to it as much as we are, in Grenoble.*

*While the HLF team within GIANT is preparing for the event, things are running smoothly in the HLF connected world. Our plan is for two HLF Connect briefings for 2021: one briefing will be in the form of a traditional webinar on June 29 and the second will coincide with the HLF Summit (7-11 November), both in-person and also online.*

*Building on the success of the 2020 cycle, which we linked to the global pandemic, we wanted to tie the 2021 HLF Connect briefings to the theme of the annual Summit: **the reinvention of industry to support a resilient society**, itself entwined with topics such as the green and digital transitions that strongly impact the work of innovation ecosystems. For this purpose, two sub-working groups have started to work, with one focusing on "Technology-driven innovation to support the reinvention of industry and greater societal resilience" and the other on "Ecosystem approaches to reinvent industry and address local/regional resilience".*

*Finally, our international network has made considerable progress in visibility through a thriving communication programme including a new website and, on LinkedIn, the launch of the HLF Connect World tour and of a series of key stakeholder's interviews. We also promise some surprises to come.*

*Yours, sincerely*

*Karen Amram, Chair of the HLF & Robert Thomas, Deputy Chair*

#### **HLF Steering Committee 2021**

The HFL Steering Committee (SCOM) is of great help, providing valuable input for forthcoming HLF actions as well as acting as group of ambassadors for the HLF community. It is an immense pleasure to welcome Yusuke Mori, from the Tsukuba ecosystem, who will take over from Dr Toshihiko Kanayama. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Toshihiko for his great support over the years. We are happy to keep you in our circle as part of the Tsukuba delegation and SCOM deputy member.

#### **HLF 2020 Summit – 7 to 10 November, Grenoble**

The HLF 2021 summit will take place in Maison MINATEC, Grenoble. HLF steering committee members had already provided valuable feedback regarding the importance of an in-person event. Nevertheless, in order to allow delegates who will not be allowed to travel, and participate in person, we will offer them the possibility to interact online.

The broad subject of the Summit, "Innovation Ecosystems, key-players in reinventing industry to support a resilient Society", includes many of the current short to long-term challenges and transitions our regions are all dealing with and creates a continuity with the work carried out in 2020.

→ Save the dates: 7-10 Nov 2021

→ Have a look at the tentative [agenda online](#)

→ It is still time to propose speakers from your ecosystems. Please contact me with your proposals.

### **Structuring HLF Connect #2 to nurture the HLF Summit 2021**

HLF Connect 2020 has been an opportunity to put in place interactions between each annual summit that combine collaboration and valuable content within the HLF network and to reach even more regions of the world. In the first cycle, we experimented with the SCOM members only, and we see 2021 as a year of transition for HLF Connect, with two newcomers involved in the round (Edmonton, Canada and the Ruhr Region, Germany). In the future we hope to have the involvement of other ecosystems per Connect cycle. To feed the debates of this year's Summit, two working groups have been set up to focus on:

- **Technology-driven innovation to support the reinvention of industry and greater societal resilience**
- **Ecosystem approaches to reinvent industry and address local/regional resilience**

Each working group will provide outputs for two HLF Connect briefings in a two-phased approach. Phase 1 will be akin to sharing an individual approach and presentation and Phase 2 will be more collaborative.

### **HLF Connect briefing – 29 June 2021 – to end of Phase 1 of HLF Connect 2021 cycle**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 we will hold an online briefing to discuss together the outcomes of the working groups at end of Phase 1. Two online panel sessions will be open to the HLF network and a wider international audience.

- Save the date, registration will open at the beginning of June

### **HLF World Tour & Interviews on LinkedIn**

The #HLF World Tour is a series of publications on LinkedIn highlighting an ecosystem member of our International Network of Innovation Ecosystems. The world tour has already taken a stop in Tampere (Finland), Thailand, Lund (Sweden), Ruhr Region (Germany), Atlanta (USA) so that we could dive into these leading innovation ecosystems at the forefront of technological research. More explorations to come soon! The [HLF LinkedIn page](#) also gives the floor to emblematic personalities of our network and we started with [Marcel Morabito](#), founder of the HLF and [Patrick Lévy](#), former President of Grenoble-Alpes University and one of the staunchest supporters of the HLF since its inception.

- Stay tuned!
- Contact [us](#) if you are interested in any of these projects.

### **Highlight from GIANT : Structural biology at EMBL, driving technology development**

Studying macromolecular structure at the atomic level to understand biological processes is a major challenge. To do this, researchers rely on instruments that can precisely obtain the data they need. EMBL Grenoble has distinguished itself in this field, notably by developing innovative technologies that are now adopted worldwide. Florent Cipriani – who retired from a long career at EMBL Grenoble, mostly as head of the instrumentation team – pioneered a way to automate instrumentation for macromolecular X-ray crystallography. In fact, synchrotrons around the world, such as the ESRF, now employ his technological development that significantly advanced how researchers managed samples.

- More info here : <https://www.embl.org/news/lab-matters/structural-biology-at-embl/>

*Stay safe and well,*

*Emma Richet, HLF International Relations Manager*

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