



Dear user or potential user of bioinformatics tools and databases,

This note is to inform you about developments in the FUGE Bioinformatics Platform, an initiative to form a European Bioinformatics Infrastructure, and an associated Norwegian node, and to ask you for your comments and ideas.

The National technology platform for Bioinformatics receives support from FUGE in the period 2002-2012. The platform is coordinated from its Bergen node and also have nodes in Oslo, Trondheim, and Tromsø. The main portal is www.bioinfo.no where you find more information and also a newsletter summarising recent developments in the platform. We seek your input on your experience using our services, what services you need, courses you would like us to organise etc (see below).

The European Bioinformatics Infrastructure is one of 35 projects on the roadmap made by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) from 2006. An EU-funded preparatory project, named ELIXIR, is currently on-going to prepare plans for operation in the period 2011-2018. In addition to a central hub placed at the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) near Cambridge, UK, ELIXIR will have national and regional nodes across Europe. More information on this is found at www.elixir-europe.org.

The groups behind the FUGE Bioinformatics Platform propose to construct a **Norwegian ELIXIR Node** starting from the current platform. In this phase we have not yet decided on the exact focus of the Node, how it should operate, etc, and as part of the process we would very much appreciate your comments, suggestions, and ideas. Therefore we request that you take the time to fill in a questionnaire.

Among those responding to the **questionnaire** before February 15th, we will draw a **price**. The winner will get an offer to get his/her personal exome (coding part of genome) sequenced (pending admission) or alternatively the exome of a human cell line. The price illustrates the power and availability of new technology generating huge large data sets at low cost, and the growing need for bioinformatics infrastructure and expertise in the life sciences.

The questionnaire is at: <http://www.bioinfo.no>

We also appreciate if you want to contact us directly at contact@bioinfo.no (platform helpdesk) or inge.jonassen@cbu.uib.no (project leader for platform)

