

March 12, 2024

Letter of Support

"open_eTIC - Responsible Research Assessment: Infrastructures and Ethics"

To whom it may concern,

As Chair of the Leadership Group (LG) for VIVO (<https://vivo.lyrasis.org/>), I strongly support the **Open eTIC** (Responsible Research Assessment: Infrastructure and Ethics) project and its funding effort.

VIVO is a member supported open source software community that is developing world standards for big data representation of scholarly work and expertise, including through our Vitro ontology (<https://Lyrasis.org/vitro/>). Our software supports various RIM (Research Information Management), EFS (Expert Finder Systems), and CRIS (Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) serving universities, scientific centers, and institutes worldwide.

VIVO makes possible customized platforms that serve as central management tools for scientific activities by aggregating and recording scholarly data on projects, research funding, publications, and increasingly instruments and facilities. Together, the various platforms span a range of different systems, tools, and architectures that are at times unevenly connected to other important data storage systems, including human resources or financial management software, space and people management systems, single sign-on services, open access repositories, publication funding systems, and essential library systems.

RIMS, CRIS and EFS must continue to adapt to a larger expanding environment of open science policies and initiatives toward more responsible research assessment. The **Open eTIC** project is very important to our continued evolution because it will investigate the preparedness and development of options in system infrastructures, especially the ethical components of technical as well as teleological design. The project also will address challenges inherent in assuring qualitative metrics, transparency, and system diversity. The **Open eTIC** has the potential to make an important contribution by furthering development of RIM and CRIS infrastructures in France and Germany, and beyond. This will help reduce existing concerns among scientists about data collection by recommending standards for the ethical use of these systems.

If the project is funded, I am certain many in the VIVO community – with years of experience in building the “Vitro” ontology for representing scholarship and collaborating with others in the open source software community – will be willing to support and/or contribute to the project. This would include participating in planned events and being available as contact persons for interviews, panels, or other defined outputs. And I will certainly promote the work of the **Open eTIC** at the VIVO LG and to the larger VIVO community.

In short, on behalf of the VIVO LG, I wish the **Open eTIC** applicants all the best in their efforts and know the larger VIVO community will be delighted to see this important project fully funded.

Sincerely,



L. Bryan Cooper, MLIS, PhD
Chair, VIVO Leadership Group
Associate Dean, Engagement & Innovation, FIU Libraries
LBCooper@fiu.edu