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Prof. Dr. Erhard Hinrichs Spokesperson Text+
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~Sent by email only~

President

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Ref: Letter of Intent NFDI-Consortium Text+

Berlin, 31 August 2020

Dear Professor Hinrichs,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President of ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities. ALLEA brings together more than 50 Academies from over 40 countries in Europe and operates under strategic objectives agreed upon by our Member Academies. Within Germany, the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina as well as all eight member academies of the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities are members of ALLEA. As such, ALLEA's secretariat is based at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW).

I have learned from the President of BBAW about the NFDI activities in Germany and the role the German academies are trying to play within the current move to establish a consortium aiming at providing research data from the humanities under FAIR principles. The German academies have a long and successful history in collecting, preparing and publishing data of utmost importance in all fields of humanities. The academies are aware, however, that new measures have to be taken to maintain these unique resources in a sustainable manner. I applaud the activities of the German academies to join forces with a multitude of other institutions in Germany to establish a consortium that aims at research data arising from digital editions, dictionaries and lexical resources as well as collections. These are resources that are also of particular importance of other academies within Europe.

Via its working group on E-Humanities, ALLEA has a proven track record in fostering cooperation in all fields of the Digital Humanities in Europe. The working group is committed to identifying and raising awareness for priorities and concerns of the humanities, with particular attention to current and emerging developments in digital practice on the European level and has previously published extensively on Open Science policies. Inter alia, the working group has in the past worked with the German academies on the establishment of the European Academies AGATE database for humanities research.

ALLEA is willing to support the NFDI consortium Text+ by facilitating a connection to the experts within ALLEA Member Academies to the text+ consortium with the aim to harmonise the various activities in Germany and Europe towards joint standards for text processing as well as on

agreements concerning the development and use of software supporting humanities research and research activities beyond the humanities utilising the rich sources of data that the academies and other institutions of Germany provide in the thematic areas mentioned.

ALLEA is supporting the FAIR principles, just as Text+ does, and is prepared to share its expertise, data and network with the institutions active in Text+ and other NFDI consortia that are currently in the preparation phase in Germany.

The ALLEA E-Humanities Working Group is currently developing a series of recommendations tailored to humanities research that, in particular, are addressing the facilitation of the adaption of Open-Science principles across the humanities and many other fields in the sciences. ALLEA therefore welcomes the Text+ initiative and stands ready to promote the open exchange of data, the standardization of data formats, etc. that will help making sciences and humanities better.

Kind regards,



Antonio Loprieno

President of ALLEA