Nomination Letter for Governing Board Member

Nele Labi
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Dear ERDERA Coordinator,

As the Deputy Secretary for Innovation at the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs, I am writing to formally nominate **Mari Teesalu** for the position of Principal Representative on the ERDERA Governing Board for Estonia. Additionally, we will be nominating **Heli Paluste** as the Permanent Deputy Representative for Estonia.

Nominee's Credentials and Role:

Mari Teesalu is acting as the scientific advisor in health policy at the ministry; she holds a PhD in genetics and has been the ministry's main contact at EJP-RD. She is familiar with all the national strategic policy documents in the field of health and coordinates scientific activities accordingly at the ministry. Their extensive experience in supporting policymakers with scientific evidence and their commitment to advancing research in rare diseases make them an ideal candidate to represent Estonia on the ERDERA Governing Board.

Heli Paluste is a paediatrician by training and acts as the head of the healthcare system at the ministry. She is a vocal advocate for the visibility of rare diseases both in the society and healthcare, and thereby an excellent candidate for the Deputy Representative.

Governing Board Responsibilities:

The ERDERA Governing Board is the ultimate decision-making body regarding the strategic directions and priorities of the ERDERA programme, excluding final decisions on topics of joint transnational calls, which fall under the mandate of the Board of Funders. Responsibilities include:

1. **Strategic Steering:** Ensuring coherence between ERDERA activities and relevant European/national/international initiatives and policies.
2. **Approval of Priorities:** Providing feedback and approving ERDERA priorities through the rolling annual plans.
3. **Progress Monitoring:** Delivering input on the ERDERA progression and providing feedback on key strategic milestones and deliverables.
4. **Facilitating Uptake:** Contributing to the facilitation of the uptake of ERDERA results and catalysing the exchange of best practices at the national level.
5. **Sustainability Reflection:** Reflecting on the sustainability of ERDERA outcomes and research resources.

Nomination Process:

According to the ERDERA governance structure, each participating country is required to nominate one Principal Representative who shall actively participate in the activities and meetings of the Governing Board in a cooperative manner. Nominated representatives must not be members of other ERDERA bodies to avoid conflicts of interest, except in specific cases where countries have limited human resources.

Endorsement:

We endorse the nomination of Mari Teesalu and Heli Paluste for the position of Principal Representative and Permanent Deputy, respectively. We believe that their expertise and dedication will significantly contribute to the strategic decision-making processes of the ERDERA initiative.

Please find attached the nominee's detailed curriculum vitae and any other supporting documents for your review. We are confident that Mari Teesalu will be a valuable asset to the Governing Board and will help advance our collective goals in rare disease research.

We look forward to your positive response and to the official appointment of Mari Teesalu to the ERDERA Governing Board.

Warm regards,

Nele Labi
Deputy Secretary for Innovation
Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs

Attachments:

- Mari Teesalu Curriculum Vitae
- Heli Paluste Curriculum Vitae