Dear …,

A consortium of representatives of European Research Organisations has taken the initiative to create a virtual institute named the **“European Astrobiology Institute”** (EAI). Several leading research organisations (CNRS (FR), INAF (IT), CNES (FR), Centro de Astrobiología (ES) and FNRS (BE) and around 20 universities and research institutions already participate in the institution. The institute was formally established on May 30th 2019.

We would like to **invite your institution to become a member entity of the Institute**. The EAI will engage in the following activities:

* **Build strong European research communities** to perform ground-breaking research on key scientific questions in astrobiology requiring a cooperative interdisciplinary approach.
* **Disseminate high-quality results** of these efforts effectively in the scientific community
* Provide **interdisciplinary training** for students and early career scientists in astrobiology
* Engagein **education** on astrobiology on all levels.
* **Liaise with industry** to foster collaborations on technological developments that are relevant to astrobiology research and beneficial to Europe as a whole
* **Coordinate outreach activities** to the general public, industry and all other relevant stakeholders.
* Act as advisory body and **provide high-quality expertise** to European research organisations and decision makers on European
* **Ensure the necessary financial means** to carry out these activities through a coordinated approach to European funding agencies.

Membership in the EAI provides the following benefits for participating institutions and organisations:

* **Free or greatly cheaper registration** to conferences and training schools of the EAI for their affiliates
* **Benefit from funds** from grants obtained by the EAI
* **Have a vote** on the policy and the activities of the institute

If your institution wants to participate in the EAI, please consult <http://www.europeanastrobiology.eu>. **The next meeting** of the EAI will take place on **La Palma Island, ES, 20-24 April 2019.** See the website <http://www.europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020> for details.

Further information can be obtained on the website of the EAI ([http://www.europeanastrobiology.eu](http://www.europeanastrobiology.eu/)).

We look forward to welcoming your institution in the EAI.’

Best regards,

N. N.