This overview describes the community driven node selection process that Elixxir will use to select the initial nodes for the BetaNet phase of the project. These initial nodes are integral to establishing the legitimacy and integrity of the Elixxir platform. This selection process will also serve ̄ as a dry-run for a similar process to be used in the MainNet.

The goals for the node selection process are:
- Openness and fairness
- Flexibility
- Timeliness
- Clear, concise, and easily understood expectations and documentation
- Technical excellence and high quality deployments

The 6-step process described below is designed to ensure every stage of the process is transparent to the community while also eliciting impactful community input. After the initial node selection, a modified version of this process may be used to add additional nodes to the BetaNet.

Step 1: Questionnaire (1-3 weeks)

We will publish a questionnaire to poll the community on certain preferences during the selection process. Specific answers to the questionnaire will be kept anonymous, but participation will be public and completion of the questionnaire will be considered favorably during selection. The Elixxir team will publish questionnaire results on the Elixxir blog.

Step 2: Application (4-6 weeks)

Based on the questionnaire, high-level decision-making criteria will be established, a process will be published for the initial screening, and a node application will be made available.

Step 3: Initial Screening (4-6 weeks)

Elixxir will screen applications against criteria announced during the application process. At the end of screening, a set of finalist candidates will be selected and announced for public comment. A public dispute resolution process will be made available.

Step 4: Publish Applications (6-8 weeks)

The public will be given a chance to comment on both the process and the selected nodes, giving Elixxir further insight into community opinion regarding the conduct of the selection process generally as well as any insights regarding any finalist operators.

Step 5: Initial Decision and Public Discussion (6-8 weeks)

Elixxir will make a preliminary decision, announce selection results and request public comment.

Step 6: Final Decision (1-3 weeks)

Elixxir will make the final decision on the initial set of nodes for the BetaNet bootstrap and will produce a document summarizing the selection process and describing the reasoning behind our decision making.

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