

EU-LIFE ACTIVITY REPORT 2020



2020 HIGHLIGHTS eulife

EUROPEAN SCIENCE POLICY

- 11 EU-LIFE statement papers
Horizon Europe, Brexit, ERC, Health research, European Research Area, Cancer Mission
- 2 EC consultations
1 Campaign: **Support to Horizon Europe**
- 38 meetings and events with EU-LIFE participation
- 6 nominations for high-level European policy committees
- EU-LIFE consultancy in 3 reports from relevant external stakeholders

INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE & EXPERTISE

- Draft plans & workshop on **Anti-bullying and harassment policies**
- Creation of **ad-hoc group for COVID-19**
- 1st call for the EU-LIFE **Visiting Postdoc Seminars Programme**
- 3 Workshops on **Research Data Management**
- 5 EU-LIFE representation in external meetings through talks and posters: **open science, gender equality in science, alumni strategies**

EU-LIFE STRATEGY

- Welcoming programme for new partners: **IIMCB, Poland & IMBB-FORTH, Greece**
- Active communications supporting policy
- EU-LIFE project & policy officer
- Benchmarking: research performance, core facilities, science communication, IT, grants & funding

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2020 was definitely a landmark year. The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically highlighted how vulnerable Europe is regarding health safety. The outbreak also entailed a major challenge for organisations and all citizens, both in Europe and around the world. Many research institutes – [amongst them our members](#) – and universities responded in full force and acted promptly to serve society and help to find solutions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. The scale of collaboration and sharing of best practices or research findings at both national and international level has been impressive. Within EU-LIFE, a new task force focusing on COVID-19 responses – diagnosis, research and institutional organisation – was initiated to help our institutes tackle the urgent needs of citizens, health sector and researchers through exchange of knowledge and practices.

Despite the context, the EU-LIFE alliance continued to contribute to EU research and innovation policy throughout the year. We followed the busy European agenda closely, in particular the EU negotiations on the multi-annual financial framework 2021-2027 and the Brexit deal, with a series of statements, position papers, one-to-one meetings, letters and participation at key events. In the interest of addressing the needs of European citizens, we contributed our views on [how to ensure health safety in Europe](#) through a long-term vision of better coordination among European countries. In 2020, the European Commission gave a new direction to the European Research Area, which [we welcomed](#), in line with our previous contributions to ERA strategy.

We were also able to develop the majority of actions planned for sharing good practices and involvement of institutes in joint projects through the EU-LIFE working

groups in a bottom-up approach, complemented by task forces, a top-down approach to implement specific initiatives.

2020 was also the year of the official expansion of the alliance with the enrolment of two new partners, [IIMCB in Poland](#) and [IMBB-FORTH in Greece](#), who enthusiastically started participating in ongoing projects. Strengthening the office team, we also recruited the EU-LIFE project and policy officer, who joined EU-LIFE in July.

Most importantly, this year showed us how strong we are together even if unable to move across Europe. It also motivated us even more to stand up for science and its impact in improving people's lives globally. We dedicate this additional drive to [Michael Wakelam](#), Director of The Babraham Institute and member of the EU-LIFE Board of Directors, who died as a result of complications from suspected COVID-19 infection early in 2020. Michael was an enthusiastic scientist who was instrumental in building the EU-LIFE alliance as it is today. Your legacy will always be with us Michael.

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

EUROPEAN SCIENCE POLICY

2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

- 11 EU-LIFE Statements, open letters and papers: Horizon Europe, BREXIT, ERC, Health research, European Research Area, Cancer Mission
- 1 campaign: support to Horizon Europe (articles in national media with industrialists / patients org)
- 2 EC Consultations: Horizon Europe implementation, Cancer Mission
- 38 meetings & events including with EC's Commissioner M Gabriel cabinet, EC's Director General of Research & innovation (JE Paquet), ERAC, ESOF Forum
- 6 new nominations for high-level policy committees within EU-LIFE community (individual appointments): ERC Scientific Council, SAM, ERC President
- 3 consultancies (Attractiveness of BioMed in Europe, Gender in scientific publications, SHE Figures 2021)

INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE AND EXPERTISE

2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Creation of ad-hoc group for COVID-19
- 3 Workshops on "Research Data management": institutional policies, training and core facilities in RDM
- First call EU-LIFE Visiting PostDoc Programme (visits postponed to 2021)
- Draft plans & workshop on Anti-bullying and harassment policies @research institutes
- Benchmarking: general research performing indicators; Core Facilities Survey; mapping IT expertise and mapping Science communication expertise @EU-LIFE institutes; Application & success rates of EU-LIFE institutes in H2020
- 1 joint proposal submitted to H2020 (MD-PhD)
- >5 EU-LIFE representation in external meetings through talks and posters (open science, gender equality in science; alumni strategies)

EU-LIFE STRATEGY & MANAGEMENT

2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

- EU-LIFE Expansion: signature of Consortium agreement and welcoming programme for new partners (> 4 online sessions and steering teams)
- Recruitment of EU-LIFE project & policy officer
- 3 EU-LIFE meetings: Main representatives, Strategy and Community meetings
- Communication: Active Twitter activity supporting policy (> 30 tweets on Horizon Europe, > 15 supporting ERC) & EU-LIFE activity, coverage on COVID activities, > 20 news in website, EU-LIFE mentions in Science Business and interviews.



About EU-LIFE

EU-LIFE is an alliance of research centres whose mission is to support and strengthen European research excellence (www.eu-life.eu). EU-LIFE members are leading research institutes in their countries and internationally renowned for producing excellent research, widely transferring knowledge and nurturing talent.

EU-LIFE Partners

Center for Genomic Regulation (**CRG, Spain**) | Central European Institute of Technology (**CEITEC, Czech Republic**) | European Institute of Oncology (**IEO, Italy**) | Flanders Institute For Biotechnology (**VIB, Belgium**) | Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (**FMI, Switzerland**) | Institut Curie (**IC, France**) | Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (**FIMM, Finland**) | Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (**IGC, Portugal**) | International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw (**IIMCB, Poland**) | Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (**MDC, Germany**) | Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (**CeMM, Austria**) | The Babraham Institute (**Babraham, United Kingdom**) | The Netherlands Cancer Institute (**NKI, The Netherlands**) | The University of Copenhagen Biotech Research & Innovation Centre (**BRIC, Denmark**) | Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (**IMBB FORTH, Greece, Associate Partner**)

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