



2023 in a nutshell



2023 in a nutshell



A Decade of Science, Dreaming, and Dialogue: Reflecting on EU-LIFE's 10th Anniversary

2023 was special. As we marked the milestone of our 10th anniversary, it was not merely a celebration of longevity; it was a testament to a decade of impassioned dialogue, visionary dreaming, and steadfast dedication to the advancement of science.

The EU-LIFE Utopia Conference “Envisioning the research centres of the future”, a rare forum where researchers, managers and policy makers converged to delve into the intricacies of scientific pursuit and envision the future, stood as a poignant testament to our journey. In the company of around 300 colleagues within and beyond EU-LIFE member institutes, our conference echoed with the voices of early career researchers, seasoned professionals, and the unsung heroes — the staff — who infuse every endeavour with added value. It’s a tribute to the diverse tapestry of talents and perspectives that enrich the scientific landscape and propel us forward.

Reflecting on the highlights of 2023, our achievements resonated across our different areas of action. EU-LIFE stood at the forefront of shaping EU research and innovation policies, contributing to critical discussions on the European Research Areas policy, including research assessment, gender equality, knowledge valorisation, animal experimentation, and more. With active involvement in relevant committees, initiatives and policy events, we fostered a collaborative ethos, influencing policy landscapes and providing a voice for the scientific community in European policy.

Regarding our contribution to creating an optimal environment for research, we cultivated sharing of practices and knowledge through workshops, benchmarking sets, and trainings among the 15 different institutes of the alliance. From ERC Masterclasses to Technology Transfer Pitch events, from technologies to

research assessment benchmarking exercises, we nurtured talent, facilitated collaboration, and fortified institutional expertise, ensuring a robust foundation for groundbreaking research.

Our 10th-anniversary celebration encapsulated the spirit of innovation and foresight, culminating in a conference envisioning the research centers of the future. As we charted the course for the next decade, other initiatives like the international EU-LIFE/Nature essay contest and the mapping of potential institutes across Europe to join the EU-LIFE alliance underscored our commitment to fostering excellence and inclusivity in life sciences research.

Amidst these milestones, our communication efforts thrived, amplifying our message through videos, booklets, and social media campaigns. Behind the scenes, diligent recruitment processes fortified our team.

As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of science, EU-LIFE remains steadfast in its mission—to catalyse excellent research and innovation, advocate for equitable policies, and nurture the next generation of scientific leaders. Our 10th anniversary serves not only as a commemoration of the past but as a clarion renewed call for the future — a future where science is fuelled by collaboration, curiosity, and unwavering resolve. Together, let us continue to dream, innovate, and push the boundaries of possibility.

Here’s to a the next decade of scientific excellence, and to the countless possibilities that lie ahead.

* Text writing assisted by ChatGPT, OpenAI, 10 May 2024, <https://chat.openai.com/chat>



Mónica Bettencourt-Dias
Chair of EU-LIFE



Marta Agostinho
EU-LIFE Executive Director

EU-LIFE Highlights on European Science Policy



Regular contributions on EC policy processes including the European Research Area Forum



2 Co-creation processes of European policies: Animal experimentation/NAMs and fundamental research & scientific leadership

4 Statements & replies to EC consultations on Horizon Europe, ESFRI & animal research



European Commission
March 2023



14 Policy events as invited speakers and/or organizers

3 Active member, including co-creation & co-chairing, of Working Groups of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)



CoARA ACA WG
Kick-off meeting
October 2023



92 Meetings, consultation workshops & events with key policy leaders & stakeholders

EU-LIFE Highlights on Optimal Research Environment



4 Workshops and events: ERC Masterclass, Tech Transfer Pitching Event, Storytelling workshop for early-career researchers, Tech Watch Series



6 Benchmarking sets and surveys: general indicators, publications, grants, core facilities, training, sustainability

3 Reports, abstracts, and articles: Lifecycle of core facilities, IT storage & security, ERC Masterclass



6 Exchanges of knowledge with external partners: sustainability, research infrastructures, research management, media and outreach, tech transfer

50 Working group meetings



2 New working groups/initiatives launched: HR and post docs



Storytelling workshop
BRIC, Denmark
April 2023



Tech Transfer Pitching
Event
October 2023

EU-LIFE Highlights on Strategy & Management



- 1 Celebration of the 10th anniversary of EU-LIFE:**
- 1 Conference on “Envisioning the research centres of the future”
 - 1 international EU-LIFE/Nature essay contest



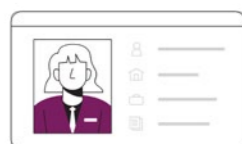
- 1 Mapping of independent research centres in the life sciences in Europe and selection of potential candidate institutes for EU-LIFE expansion**

- 3 EU-LIFE meetings organized**



- 24 Communication materials produced:** 14 videos, 3 booklets, 3 logos, 4 social media campaigns

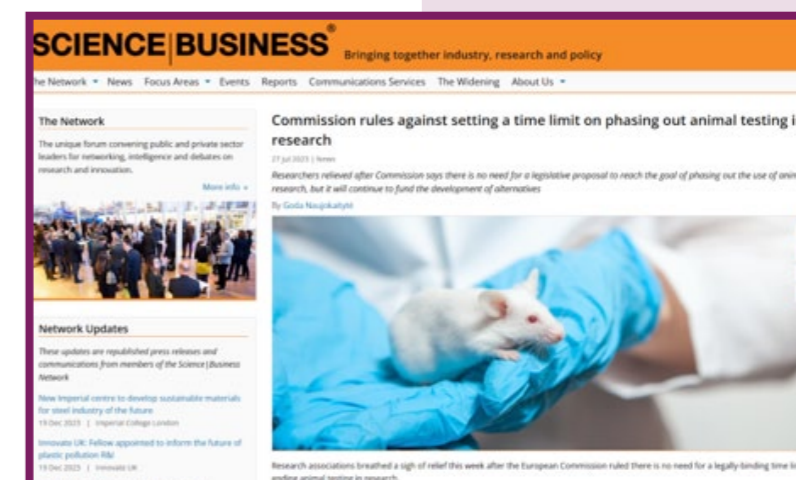
- 2 Recruitment processes for the office:** Community Officer and Policy Officer



c140 people actively working on EU-LIFE Working Groups
From 1.6 to 3.3 FTEs at the EU-LIFE office across the year



Strategy Meeting
IIMCB, Poland
October 2023



EU-LIFE in the media
Science Business
July 2023



May 2024

EU-LIFE Office

Marta Agostinho, EU-LIFE Executive Director

Iris Uribealgo, EU-LIFE Policy Officer

Marijn Huiskamp, EU-LIFE Community Officer

Esther Dorado-Ladera, EU-LIFE Communications Officer

For further information please contact the EU-LIFE Office: contact@eu-life.eu

To cite this work please use the following sentence:

EU-LIFE (2024). *2023 in a nutshell*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11240951>

© EU-LIFE 2024

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

EU-LIFE Office

Room 429, Centre for Genomic Regulation

C/ Dr. Aiguader, 88, 08003 Barcelona, Spain

www.eu-life.eu

contact@eu-life.eu



www.eu-life.eu

contact@eu-life.eu

[@EULIFE_news](https://twitter.com/EULIFE_news)

[/company/EU-LIFE](https://www.linkedin.com/company/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 (France) | Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM, Finland) | Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (IMBB FORTH, Greece) | 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)

