EU-LIFE Working Groups (see also http://eu-life.eu/activities/working-groups)

August 2018

WG Title	Chair	CEITEC members
EU-LIFE Strategy	Genevieve Almouzni , Scientific Director, Institut Curie	Markus Dettenhofer, Zdenka Lipovská
Translational Research	Sergio Roman Roman	Marek Mráz, Liam Keegan
Indicators	Marta Agostinho	Zdenka Lipovská
Grants and Funding Strategies	Sigrid Strodl	Ladislav Čoček
Recruitment and Training	Michaela Herzig	Zdenka Lipovská, Nikola Kostlánová
Science Communication	Katrina Wright	Jana Šilarová
Technology Transfer	Katrien Swerts	Pavel Kerchev
IT	Alexander Botzki	Mirka Zbranková
CF	Nuno Moreno	Ondřej Hradil

EU-LIFE Strategy

This Working group gathers all directors from the EU-LIFE members, and focuses on general questions concerning EU-LIFE organisation and strategic actions, such as:

- EU-LIFE New/Future partners
- EU-LIFE Policy contribution
- EU-LIFE Legal status
- EU-LIFE Funding
- EU-LIFE Staff
- International collaborations to attract the best talents
- Organization of Community Meetings and Scientific Workshops

Translational Research

The Translational Research working group focuses on the following:

- Best practices and challenges in supporting translational research at institutional level
- Interdisciplinary collaborations and working in team with clinicians and industry
- Joint activities and projects within EU-LIFE

The working group organized the first EU-LIFE scientific meeting "Biology of cancer: bridging basic and translational research" in 2014 and the second scientifc meeting "Epigenetics and Disease" in 2015. In 2016 meeting " Immunity and Infection" was held in Vienna, and in 2017 "The Principles in homeostasis" were discussed in Berlin.

Indicators

The Indicators Working group is collecting and analysing data from all EU-LIFE partner institutes on main indicators of scientific excellence in life sciences:

- Excellence in Science (Publications, impact factor, citations)
- Capacity to attract competitive funding at national and international level
- Technology Transfer
- Translational research
- Training program
- Internationality
- Human Resources strategy
- Science and society activities

Grants and Funding Strategies

This working group will focus on the following questions:

- How to develop strategies to maximize funding opportunities in a research institute
- Sharing best practices in European projects: lobbying, proposal preparation, financial issues, legal aspects
- Defining Grant Policies and Guidelines
- Developing training modules for grants and research management related issues

Recruitment and Training

This working group will focus on the following questions:

- How to ensure a continuing professional development for researchers at all stages of their careers.
- Gender Issues: Best practices to obtain a gender balance at all levels or categories.
- Recruitment: the EU-LIFE alliance will share job offers and opportunities.
- Mobility experiences: how to address administrative barriers in this issue.
- Define best practices in terms of Salaries/grants/social security and employment contracts – with a special focus on postdocs

Science Communication

This working group will focus on the following questions:

- From local to international media: how to get impact in international general-interest media.
- Social Media for scientists and/or for the general public: common strategies.
- Public relations and institutional contacts management.
- Internal communication: when communication becomes membership feeling.
- Scientific output: publications, citations, h-index: how to match actual needs with available resources.
- Open access and repositories: special clauses and obligations in EU projects.
- Sharing best practices on benchmarking papers

The Communication Working group will also design and implement the EU-LIFE internal and external communication strategy

Technology Transfer

This working group will focus on the following questions:

- Organize EU-LIFE partnering meeting with companies.
- Valorization projects. Share different experiences and good practices on how to manage these projects. Sharing of capabilities to generate stronger Proof Of Concept and increase value of licensing opportunities.
- Company creation. Share different experiences and good practices on the promotion of company creation in basic science research centers and attract financial investors.
- Overview/mindmap current landscape of Horizon 2020

IT

The IT Working group was formed in November 2013 to adress a variety of topics linked to data storage, user support and IT development.

It has established the following action plan:

1. Define storage best practices (policies, architecture, cost containment, life cycle management, pressure and volume with vendors for better prices)
2. Define best practices for computational support (shared computational resources with national or universities, code optimization)
3. Each institute provides a high level list of applications supported to facilitate knowledge exchange.
4. Establish a list of active and planned projects in order to discover synergies.
5. Establish IT collaborations in areas of common interest and look into defining overall best practices.

Core Facilities

The Core Facilities working group was established in 2015 to create a forum for discussion of core facility-specific challenges. Current focus is on the following:

- Sharing best practices and expertise in core facility management
- Comparing indicators across institutes: financial, personnel, operations, research, training, and performance evaluation
- Defining opportunities for capacity sharing
- Collaboration on the level of training courses, grant applications, etc…
- Participation in a dialogue to foster European funding opportunities for core facilities and core facility networks