

Issue 3 | May 2023



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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

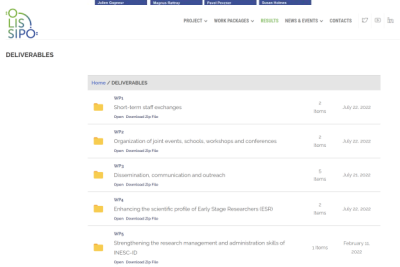
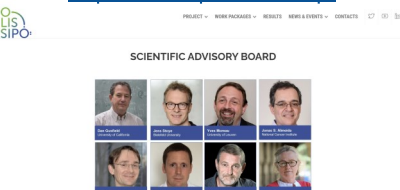
Welcome to the third Newsletter of the OLISSIPO project!
 OLISSIPO is a Twinning project, funded by the European Commission within Horizon 2020, to boost the research profile and innovation competence in Computational Biology at INESC-ID.
 Launched in January 2021, this 3-year funded project is providing training to Early Stage Researchers (ESR), PhD students, strengthening collaborations between international institutions and INESC-ID and Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) and increasing the management and administration skills of INESC-ID.
 The link to society is also included in the project.

Outreach activities are engaging young students from secondary schools in Portugal.
 Overall, the success of this project is resulting in the extension of the recruitment pool and existing network of INESC-ID, becoming by turning it attractive for young scientists that want to pursue a research career or improve their knowledge transfer skills in these areas.
 The OLISSIPO Coordination Team: [Susana Vinga](#) (INESC-ID), [Niko Beerenwinkel](#) (ETH Zürich), [Marie-France Sagot](#) (Inria), [Wolfgang Huber](#) and Simone Bell (EMBL) Sara Tanqueiro (INESC-ID)

WEBSITE



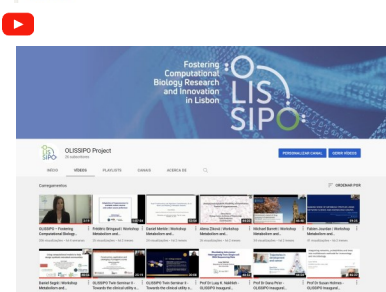
<https://olissipo.inesc-id.pt>



SOCIAL MEDIA



OLISSIPO Fostering Computational Biology Research
 @Olissipo_eu
 An @EU_H2020-funded project enhancing the competences in Computational Biology at INESC-ID in Lisbon. Horizon 2020 grant agreement No 951970.



PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

OLISSIPO [Poster](#), [Leaflet](#) and [Video](#)

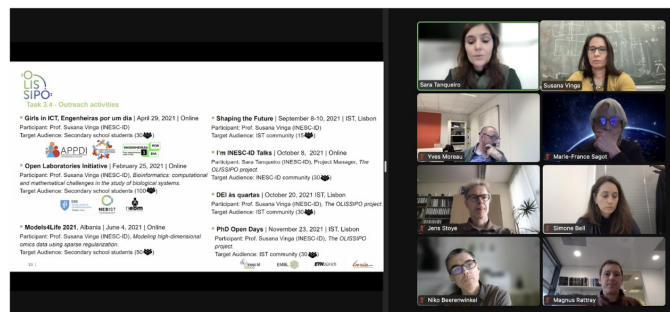


PAST EVENTS

During 2021, the coronavirus pandemic restrained work travel. Issue 1 described several online activities carried out during the first year of the OLISSIPO project. In 2022, travel restrictions were alleviated for European countries and the OLISSIPO team had the opportunity to start traveling by the end of March. In parallel with staff exchanges, we have been dedicated to organize OLISSIPO events in 2023.

◇ Second Annual Meeting (Online) | 22 Nov 2022 | 9

After the OLISSIPO Retreat has been held in person in Lisbon in July 2022 with members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) joining their meeting in person and virtually, this second annual meeting was held online on 22 November 2022 via video conference. The meeting was extremely useful to review the activities carried out during years 1 and 2 of the project, and introduce the planned activities for the upcoming months, including the staff exchanges in 2023, co-supervisions of students, and the organisation of schools and workshops.



◇ OLISSIPO School on Modelling and Analysis of Single Cell Multiple Biological Omics | 5-10 Feb 2023 | 25

(15 ESRs)

The OLISSIPO Winter School on Modelling and Analysis of Single Cell Multiple Biological Omics was held at Olissippo Marquês de Sá in Lisbon, Portugal. During one week, 6 invited speakers - Professors Ana Conesa (Spanish National Research Council), Laura Elo (University of Turku), Sini Junttila (University of Turku), Stefan Canzar (University of Munich/Pennsylvania State University), Mathurin Massias and Titouan Vayer (Inria Lyon) - involved ESRs and researchers in insightful sessions and discussions. This school had two main types of presentations: one that had a class format exclusively, and the other that had a class plus hands-on session format. The class was divided into two slots of 1h and 1h30. The same happened for the hands-on session. On Wednesday afternoon, we organised our social event and all participants visited Mafra National Palace and Ericeira. It was a very fruitful week focused on Single Cell Analysis, one of the strategic areas of the OLISSIPO project.



◇ Workshop on EU Research Management and Administration (Pre-Award) | 9-10 Feb 2023 | 23

In parallel to the Winter School, Dr Matthieu Py from Inria and Dr Marta Candeias from IST-ID conducted a workshop of two days on Pre-Award (Second Edition) with 23 participants from the different institutes of the IST world. Thank you to all the participants who shared their experiences on Pre-Award and contributed to the lively discussions.



◇ Staff Visit (INESC-ID > Inria) | 28 Mar - 1 Apr 2023 | 4 (2 ESRs)

2 ESRs (Ana Rita Baião and Dr Carolina Peixoto), Prof. Susana Vinga and Dr Sara Tanqueiro visited Inria in Lyon, hosted by Prof. Marie-France Sagot. During these days, discussions about science took place with Inria team. Sara Tanqueiro had also the opportunity to work together with Marie-France Sagot and Susana Vinga on the upcoming events of the OLISSIPO project. On 31 Mar, Dr Susana Vinga integrated the PhD Thesis Committee of a Inria ESR.

◇ OLISSIPO Workshop on Analysis of Single-cell Data from Tumors | 4 Apr 2023 | 30

The one-day Workshop on the Analysis of single-cell data from tumors was a success thanks to the ESR Pedro Ferreira (ETH Zurich), an IST alumnus. The workshop was divided in 2 talks and 1 hands-on session. It was great to receive at INESC-ID more than 30 participants from Instituto Superior Técnico, Instituto de Medicina Molecular, BioISI – Biosystems & Integrative Sciences Institute, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciencia and NOVA School of Science and Technology.



◇ OLISSIPO Workshop on Decoding the genome with deep learning | 27 Apr 2023 | 25

We received more than 25 participants from several institutions around the country for this workshop on Decoding the genome with deep learning with Bernardo de Almeida (IMP and University of Vienna), an IMM alumnus. The workshop was divided in 2 talks and 2 hands-on sessions. All sessions had lot of interaction between Bernardo and the participants. We would like to thank to all participants and specially to Bernardo. We are happy to promote these activities when lecturers bring their expertise back home.

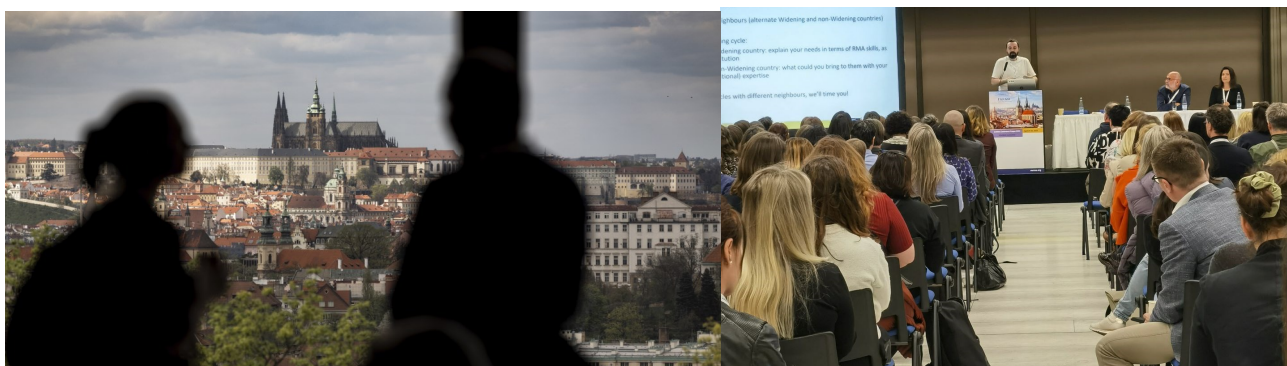


STAFF TRAINING

One of the main aims of OLISSIPO is to sharpen the research and management profile of INESC-ID. Thus, the project supports staff participation in external courses, workshops and national and international conferences.

◇ EARMA Conference 2023 | 24-26 April 2023

The project manager, Dr Sara Tanqueiro, participated in the EARMA Conference 2023 in the beautiful city of Prague. During 3 days, this conference joined European Research Managers and Administrators (RMAs) to discuss relevant topics in Widening and Deepening of the RMA Profession. Importantly, we were selected to share our experience on our ongoing cooperation, between the EU project departments at INESC-ID, Instituto Superior Técnico and Inria, in the frame of the OLISSIPO Twinning project. Dr Matthieu Py (Inria), Dr Sara Tanqueiro (INESC-ID) and Dr Marta Candeias (IST) shared best practices and impact of this project.



DISSEMINATION, COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

◇ [Portuguese Bioinformatics League](#) | April 2023

Congratulations to the winners of the Portuguese Bioinformatics League! The OLISSIPO project supported this initiative and we would like to thank all students who participated in this competition in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology and especially to Universidade de Aveiro, Universidade de Coimbra, Universidade do Minho, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa e Universidade do Porto for organising such a great event!



◇ [Laboratórios Abertos](#) | 8 May 2023

Prof. Susana Vinga participated in the Open Labs at DBE/DEI, Instituto Superior Técnico with a talk about Bioinformatics: Computational and mathematical challenges in the study of biology systems. This initiative is dedicated to students from secondary schools and it also includes visits to laboratories.

◇ Isto é Matemática: Mathematics and the future of Medicine | April-May 2023

Prof. Susana Vinga as a fan of *Isto é Matemática* TV show contacted Prof. Rogério Martins to discuss ideas for a new episode in the Computational Biology field. They found a common interest in discussing principal components analysis, high-dimensional data and dimensionality reduction. This episode explains these concepts and their direct implications in our daily lives.

Know more about this here:



[Video](#)



We want to thank Rogério Martins and his team of *Isto é Matemática* and Sic Notícias for accepting this challenge and letting us be part of the process. We also thank Instituto Superior Técnico, INESC-ID, IST -Tagus Park and iBB for kindly receiving the episode's shooting.



PUBLICATIONS

◇ Peixoto, C., Lopes, M.B., Martins, M. et al. (2023) Identification of biomarkers predictive of metastasis development in early-stage colorectal cancer using network-based regularization. *BMC Bioinformatics* 24, 17. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12859-022-05104-z>.

◇ Mussbacher, M., Derler, M., Basílio, J., Schmid, JA (2023). NF- κ B in monocytes and macrophages - an inflammatory master regulator in multitasked immune cells. *Front Immunol* 23; 14:1134661. doi: [10.3389/fimmu.2023.1134661](https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2023.1134661).



UPCOMING EVENTS

◇ CSAMA 2023

11-16 Jun 2023, Bressanone-Brixen (Italy)

◇ OLISSIPO Summer School

Computational phylogenetics to analyse the evolution of cells and communities

2-7 July 2023, Lisbon (Portugal)

◇ European Bioconductor Conference 2023

20-22 September 2023, Ghent (Belgium)

●●● MORE INFORMATION

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