EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the fifth Newsletter of the OLISSIPPO project! OLISSIPPO 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 OLISSIPPO Coordination Team: Susana Vinga (INESC-ID), Niko Beerenwinkel (ETH Zürich), Marie-France Sagot (Inria), Wolfgang Huber and Simone Bell (EMBL)

WEBSITE

https://olissipo.inesc-id.pt

SOCIAL MEDIA

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

OLISSIPPO Poster, Leaflet and Video
PAST EVENTS

◊ **OLISSIPO Invited Lecture on “From oncology to cardiology: Spatial omics technologies for topographic biomarker discovery”** | 23 November 2023 | 👥 10

Prof. Emanuel Gonçalves, a senior researcher at INESC-ID and part of the OLISSIPO Team, invited Dr Denis Schapiro from University Hospital Heidelberg to give an OLISSIPO Lecture on “From oncology to cardiology: Spatial omics technologies for topographic biomarker discovery” on November 23, 2023 at INESC-ID, Lisbon. INESC-ID ESRs and researchers had the opportunity to discuss latest work developed on this topic.

◊ **OLISSIPO Winter School** | 6-9 February 2024 | 30 👥

The OLISSIPO Winter School on Mathematical modelling of inter-cell and communities’ interactions with a focus on metabolism, was held in Lisbon, Portugal, at INESC-ID. It was four days of brilliant discussions and cutting-edge computational and biological science. The Winter School was composed of four comprehensive and interdisciplinary sessions:

- **Metabolic Modelling in a Nutshell: From Single Reactions to Metabolic Networks to Communities** by Prof. Jürgen Zanghellini;
- **Constraint-based modeling and design of metabolic networks with CellNetAnalyzer and CNAppy** by Prof. Steffen Klamt;
- **Predicting metabolic interactions from first principles** by Prof. Jörg Stelling and Constance Le Gac;
- **Cooperation vs competition in cell communities** by Prof. Kiran Patil and Dr. Arianna Basile.
The school included six short talks where attendees had the opportunity to present their work.

Our social activity consisted of a walking tour-guided in Lisbon to explore the hidden gems and secret spots of the city.

We want to thank the lecturers for accepting our invitation to visit Lisbon and INESC-ID and give amazing courses and to the more than 30 participants who made this last school a tremendous success. This project was made for you, and we are delighted to prove that Computational Biology is alive in Lisbon and Portugal.
◊ OLISSIPO Invited Lectures | 15-16 February 2024

Prof. Jonas S. Almeida (National Cancer Institute) and Prof. Dan Gusfield (University of California) from the OLISSIPO Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) visited INESC-ID to give a talk on “Universal Sequence Maps, from biological sequences to numbers and back” and “Integer Linear Programming and SAT-Solving in Computational Biology”, respectively. These sessions were held at INESC-ID for the ESRs of the OLISSIPO project and also online to the external participants. The videos of these lectures are available here.

◊ STAFF TRAINING

◊ Horizon Europe/H2020 Master of Finance and EC Audits | 15-17 November 2023

The project manager, Dr. Sara Tanqueiro, was invited by the BIG ERA Chair project to participate in the Horizon Europe/H2020 Master of Finance and EC Audits to improve INESC-ID administrative staff capabilities. This workshop was organised by Europa Media Training and consisted of three days with theoretical and hands-on sessions. It comprised a comprehensive understanding of the financial regulations and reporting protocols of the Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 programs and their practical application in day-to-day operations. We would like to thank to Prof. Nuno Nunes and the BIG ERA Chair for the invitation!

◊ General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Research | 5 December 2023

The Data Protection Officer of INESC, Dr. Weronika Figueiredo, gave a Seminar on GDPR in Science and Research for the INESC Lisboa institutions. Dr. Sara Tanqueiro participated in this seminar which main aim was to focus on the theoretical concepts in GDPR as well as practical application of GDPR in research.

◊ Strengthening European Project Management Expertise: INESC-ID’s OLISSIPO Training Initiatives | 14-16 February 2024

After the success of the previous series in 2022 and 2023, INESC-ID and OLISSIPO hosted Dr. Matthieu Py, the European Strategy Officer at Inria in France, with the support of Dr. Silvia Castro, Head of the Innovation Management Office at INESC-ID, for a new series of three impactful training initiatives on research management of European Projects:

- Horizon Europe Workshop: Provided practical insights and equipping researchers and staff for the pre-award phase of Horizon Europe Proposals. The workshop covered essential topics, including Gender & Diversity, Ethics & Data, and Responsible Research and Innovation & Open Science.

- Research and Administration Management (RMA) Seminar: Dedicated to deepening knowledge in various methodologies, the second day hosted a seminar on Research and Administration Management (RMA). The session covered pre-award (ideation and open calls) and post-award (Project valorization and management) aspects. Alongside Matthieu Py, the seminar featured presentations presentations and guided discussions by Ana Espada (CQE, IST-ID), Mariana Santa-Marta (CERENA/CEGIST, IST-ID), and Carla Patrocinio and Patrícia Lima (Tecnico’s Technology Transfer Office), providing valuable insights into daily RMA activities.
- Bilateral Meetings and Future Collaborations: Dedicated to bilateral meetings between INESC-ID's Thematic Lines representatives and Inria, aiming to present research topics and identify common areas for future collaboration. Participants included Susana Vinga, Marie-France Sagot, Ana Teresa Freitas (Life and Health Technology), Hugo Morais (Energy Transition), José Borbinha (Societal Digital Transformation), Miguel Correia (Security & Privacy), and two members of the OLISSIPO Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) Jonas S. Almeida and Dan Gusfield.

The event saw active participation from representatives of INESC-ID, INESC-MN, INOV INESC, Técnico, IST-ID, IT, IDMEC, and LIP, with diverse expertise in science management, project management, and technology transfer. The interest and involvement of representatives from different INESC research centers and institutes, facilitated the sharing of best practices and the development of common processes to streamline research proposal preparation.

**DISSEMINATION, COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH**

◊ **Participation in the Morphos Meeting | November 8, 2023**

We were invited to participate in the Morphos Meeting at Instituto Superior Técnico to share our experience with our Twinning project. The group of Hugo Morais is part of a consortium including INESC-ID and IST, University of French Guiana and CIEMAT in Spain, towards building stronger international collaborations.

◊ **Machine Learning in Biomedicine and Biotechnology | November 23, 2023**

On November 23, Susana Vinga had the privilege of participating in a webinar dedicated to Machine Learning in Biomedicine and Biotechnology, organised by IEEE Portugal. The topics in discussion range from technological challenges and biases to the ethical considerations in the application of IA to healthcare. We want to thank to the organisers for inviting us to be part of this event! The webinar (in Portuguese) is available on YouTube.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

◊ **OLISSIPO Twin Seminar** ([ZOOM Link](#))
18 April 2024 | 13:00—14:00 (WEST)
Prof. Cátia Vaz (ISEL and INESC-ID) and Prof. Daniel Huson (University of Tuebingen)
*Algorithms and Software for phylogenetic analysis.*

◊ **OLISSIPO Invited Lecture** ([ZOOM Link](#))
22 April 2024 | 10:00—11:00 (WEST)
Prof. Jens Stoye (Bielefeld University)
*Bioinformatics Infrastructure in Bielefeld and in Germany.*

◊ **OLISSIPO Workshop on Graphical Design**
19 April 2024 | 09:00—18:00 (WEST)
Dr. Rita Félix

**MORE INFORMATION**

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