

## Project Deliverable

### D1.1 OLISSIPO Short-term staff exchange plan

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## Executive Summary

This deliverable outlines the mitigation measures to be taken to promote staff and Early Stage Researchers (ESR) exchanges between OLISSIPO partners to carry out this project in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictive measures. Since work travel has been severely restrained, it is crucial to plan alternative actions to foster the efficient exchange of ideas and information between institutions.

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## 1. Introduction

Short-term staff exchanges were planned to promote the interchange of scientific knowledge and expertise between the OLISSIPO consortium. In particular, these actions will enhance INESC-ID research and innovation competence in mathematical and computational modelling of biological systems and provide training to staff and Early Stage Researchers to build critical mass at the interface of computer science and health research. These visits also include the exchange of administrative staff, to improve project management and administration skills at INESC-ID.

Furthermore, short-term staff exchanges will promote and strengthen collaborations between the Twinning partners, which may also become attractive for young scientists that want to pursue a research career or improve their knowledge transfer skills in these areas.

### 1.1 Deliverable objective

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has been restraining work travel, and consequently, the efficient exchange of ideas and information. In line with this, a plan was drawn for carrying out the OLISSIPO project in the event of a continuing pandemic and restrictive measures during 2021. It is important to note that this situation is extremely dynamic, and the steps proposed here are tentative and might change depending on the evolution of the measures in these four countries (Portugal, France, Switzerland, and German). Therefore, we will keep an updated review of the mitigation actions, to be adapted continuously during 2021.

Additionally, after the first half of the project, a report with the description of all staff-exchange activities will be produced to assess their impact and update the exchange plan accordingly for the following period (D1.2) and beyond project completion, in the last report (D1.3).

## 2. OLISSIPO Short-term staff exchange plan

Scientific internships and exchanges will be postponed during this first year since it would hardly happen within 2021. An updated evaluation will nevertheless be produced for the second half of the year. However, the interaction among OLISSIPO institutions should be promoted. In line with this, several alternative actions will be organized (online) to encourage institutions interaction during this first year:

- **OLISSIPO Week** – This activity will be carried out for one week and it consists of flashlights and longer talks, where meetings and virtual get-together among the students and

PIs will take place. The goal is to strengthen the collaborative atmosphere, to share the main scientific topics being addressed by the partners, and to identify novel promising routes for joint work. This action will be set according to the OLISSIPO calendar (planned for April). Although in-person visits are unquestionably better, we expect that this interaction will nevertheless kick-off the collaboration between the teams and support a smoother transition to future joint work.

- **OLISSIPO workspace in Slack** (<https://slack.com/intl/en-de/>) – This action will promote interactions between students and all the team. The workspace was already created ([olissipoworkspace.slack.com](https://olissipoworkspace.slack.com)). All partners are invited to share it with their researchers or send their emails to the OLISSIPO coordination, which will send the invitations.

- **Joint supervision of master students** – Three joint master supervisions are planned to start in October 2021 at Instituto Superior Técnico (one with Inria, the other with EMBL, and a third in collaboration with ETH). INESC-ID should visit the other institutions and the partners should also come to Lisbon to disseminate that Lisbon is an excellent place to continue the development of high-quality research in the field. A proposal of these joint supervisions will be drawn until the end of June to be started in the Fall of 2021.

Important Note: Work travel will be reinforced in 2022 to compensate for the forced reduction of these activities in 2021.

- **OLISSIPO Twin Seminars** (initially in-classroom teaching, under WP2, Task 2.3): This series will be moved online during the first project year, and will include stronger participation of the INESC-ID Team (ERS, staff, Senior Researchers) than initially defined. The rationale is to foster collaboration between the Teams despite the travel restrictions expected during 2021. These seminars will be organized to include two short presentations (20-30 min/each), one from a Lecturer from the Lisbon team followed by a second presentation from a twin international researcher working in similar topics; a discussion open to the public will follow to further promote the interaction between all the participants. These lectures should include experts from a specific subject related to the project Strategic Areas in Computational Biology previously identified. The seminars will be opened to everyone interested and may be further disseminated in a dedicated YouTube channel (upon the agreement of all the participants). The moderator/host can select the questions from the chat to discuss at the end of the lectures. This action will occur once every 2 months and is planned to start in March or April 2021. It is expected that the OLISSIPO Twin Seminars can contribute to disseminate the scientific work and expertise of INESC-ID and all the Consortium and contribute to attracting new talented researchers.