



Report

D6.3 First annual project meeting with the SAB

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Project Coordinator	Susana Vinga (INESC-ID)
Project Beneficiaries	INESC-ID, INRIA, ETH Zürich, EMBL

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Executive Summary

OLISSIPO project meetings were planned to be hosted by each of the partners every 12 months and co-located with the joint lab retreats to optimise travelling arrangements and limit the number of air journeys of all the participants. However, due to the pandemic and restrictions on travelling, the first annual meeting of the project was held online on 13 January 2022. The meeting was beneficial to reflect on the activities carried out during Year 1, introduce the planned activities for the upcoming months and meet with the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

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1. Introduction

The OLISSIPO First Annual Meeting was held online on 13 January 2022, organised by the coordinator INESC-ID. Its main objective was to overview the project development and establish the OLISSIPO work plan for the upcoming months. The meeting with the SAB was also essential to reflect on the project and relevant questions in science and, particularly, in Computational Biology.

1.1. Deliverable objective

This deliverable shows the minutes of the first annual meeting of the OLISSIPO project.

2. Minutes of First Annual Meeting

2.1. Agenda

OLISSIPO First Annual Meeting

13th January 2022 - 13:45-16:00 (WEST - Lisbon) / 14:45-17:00 (CET) (held online)

14:45 – 15:00 Welcome Remarks

Susana Vinga (INESC-ID/IST)

15:00 – 15:30 OLISSIPO – An overview

Susana Vinga (INESC-ID/IST)

Marie-France Sagot (Inria)

Niko Beerenwinkel (ETH)

Wolfgang Huber (EMBL)

15:30 – 15:40 Break

15:40 – 15:50 OLISSIPO – A prospective of Year 2

Sara Tanqueiro (INESC-ID)

15:50 – 16:00 Communication and Outreach

Simone Bell (EMBL)

16:00 – 16:10 Budget, Schedule, Reporting

Ilda Ribeiro (INESC-ID)

16:10 – 16:55 Management Committee Meeting (with Scientific Advisory Board)

16:55 – 17:00 Closing Remarks

The poster of the Agenda for the meeting is in Annex I.

2.2. Participants List

The people who attend the meeting in the representation of each institution are shown in the following list:

Name	Entity
Aashil Batavia	ETH
Dan Gusfield*	University of California
Jens Stoye	Bielefeld University
Jonas Almeida	National Cancer Institute
Julien Gagneur	University of Munich
Magnus Rattray	University of Manchester
Marie-France Sagot	Inria
Maria Ilda Ribeiro	INESC-ID
Mirjana Bekteshi*	EC (REA)
Pavel Pevzner*	University of California
Niko Beerenwinkel	ETH Zurich
Pedro Ferreira	ETH Zurich
Sara Tanqueiro	INESC-ID
Simone Bell	EMBL
Susan Holmes	Stanford University
Susana Vinga	INESC-ID/IST
Wolfgang Huber	EMBL
Xiang Ge Luo	ETH Zurich
Yves Moreau	University of Leuven

*Justified absence.

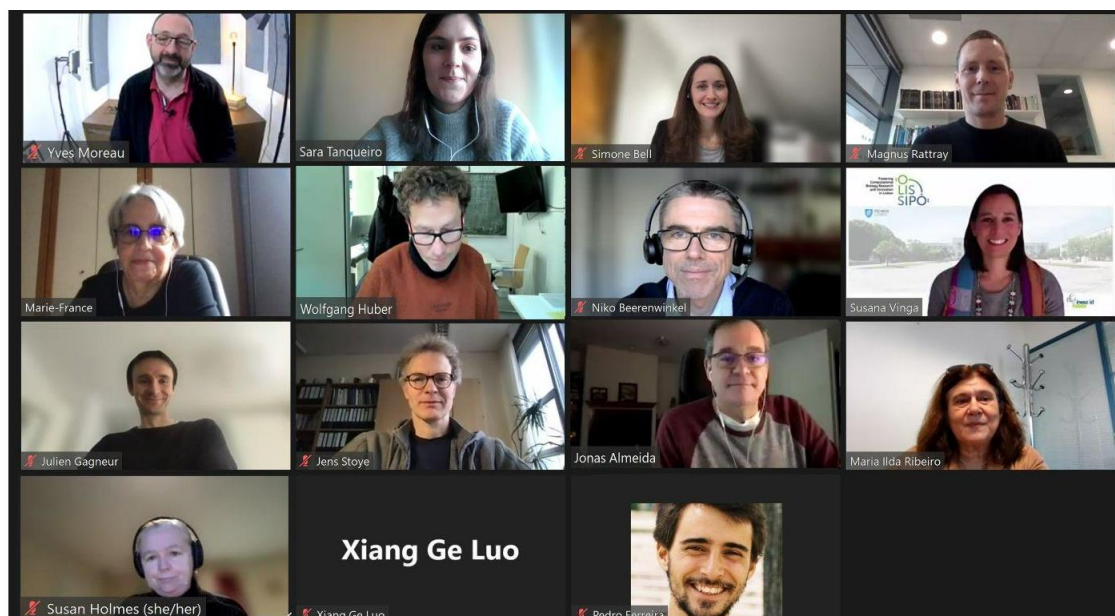


Figure 1. Group photo in the OLISSIPO first annual meeting.

2.3. Action Points

What	Responsible	Status
WP1. Scientific internships and exchanges	All	Ongoing
WP2. Organisation of Schools and Training Workshops	Inria	Ongoing
WP2. Organisation of the OLISSIPO Twin seminars	INESC-ID	Ongoing
WP2. Organisation of Alumni Seminars to assembly successful use cases and share them with the ESR	All	To be planned
WP3. Outreach activities: round-tables to talk about science policy (gathering other projects and institutions and relevant stakeholders)	All	To be planned
WP4. Participation in international conferences and events	All	Ongoing
WP4. Training activities for Early Stage Researchers (ESR)	All	Ongoing
WP5. Management training of INESC-ID staff and PI	All	Ongoing
WP6. Financial reporting (QMRs)	INESC-ID	Ongoing

Other points discussed
WP1
During the project's first year, short-term staff exchanges were not possible due to the current pandemic. However, tentative dates are now being settled for them to occur this year. It is expected that with the evolution towards a new phase of the pandemic, the final dates can be released soon (see D4.1). Project members from INESC-ID (between administrative staff, PI, researchers and students) will visit Inria, ETH and EMBL, and people from these institutions will visit INESC-ID during Year 2 (2022). These first visits will help get to know the other institutions, what the other researchers work on, crystallise new joint ideas and certainly establish new collaborations. Staff exchanges for 2023 will be planned during 2022.
WP2
Organisation of the OLISSIPO Twin Seminars (initially in-classroom teaching): This successful seminar series will continue to occur online during 2022 with the same format (25 minutes/each speaker + 20 minutes Q&A). New seminars with new speakers from INESC-ID and an international partner are being scheduled. The first OLISSIPO twin seminar of the year will be on 10 February 2022.
Organisation of the second Workshop Two for a Tango , together with the Inria Associated Team Capoeira. Date to be defined.
Organisation of International Conferences: OLISSIPO's team is enrolled in the Bioconductor Conference (14-16 September 2022 in Heidelberg) and in the ASCONA Workshop (27 March - 1 April 2022 in Ascona).
OLISSIPO retreat: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restraints, the First Annual Meeting was moved to an online format. However, meeting in-person is still imperative to create synergies and accelerate the project activities. In line with this, a two-day retreat in Lisbon will be organised to bring all project members together, discuss new ideas and strengthen collaborations. The tentative dates are 14-15 July 2022. However, a possible collision with the ISMB 2022 in the USA was pointed out, and the postponement by a couple of days of the retreat will be discussed between the PIs.
WP3
In-person outreach activities at schools and for the broad public are planned for the next two years, as described in the D3.4. These activities will be widely publicised on the project webpage (https://olissipo.inesc-id.pt/events) and social media at https://twitter.com/Olissipo_eu and https://www.linkedin.com/in/olissipo .
WP4
Scientific internships and exchanges: In the next couple of weeks, the final dates for staff exchanges will be released. The co-supervision of master students from IST between INESC-ID and the partner institutions or other institutions involved in the project – with an internship of 1 month in the partner institution - can also be a viable option to be discussed, and a proposal of the joint supervisions will be drawn during this first semester to be started in the Fall 2022.

WP4, WP5
Training activities for ESR and management staff: Besides promoting scientific internships and exchanges, OLISSIPO also supports the participation of students in conferences and workshops, such as the European Bioconductor Conference, the Ascona Workshop, and any scientific courses they might be interested in. INESC-ID will also promote training in different areas such as project management, communication skills, grant proposal writing, human resources, data management plan and research ethics (see D5.1 - Research Management Unit Strategic Report) and will divulge all these opportunities among the project members.
WP6
The list of the deliverables to be submitted during 2022 was focused during the meeting as well as the lead partner responsible for each report.
General
<p>In the first part of the meeting, Prof. Susana Vinga presented an overview of the OLISSIPO project and presented the activities carried out during Year 1. Next, the PIs of each partner institution - Marie-France Sagot (Inria), Niko Beerenwinkel (ETH), and Wolfgang Huber (EMBL) - presented their role in the project, the work they completed during 2021 within the project and their plans for 2022. The project manager, Sara Tanqueiro (INESC-ID), introduced the planned activities for the upcoming months. Simone Bell (EMBL) handed out what is designed for the next two years regarding Dissemination, Communication and Outreach. Additionally, the financial officer of INESC-ID, Maria Ilda Ribeiro, reported about the management of the project and its financial aspects (Quarterly Management Reports and their timeline, information received during the first year, efforts and costs per partner, global efforts and pre-financing and the amount of budget declared). Given the slow execution of the project due to the current pandemic, the declared efforts and spent budget are lower than expected. Therefore, the transferring of 25% of the pre-financing to the partner institutions will be delayed by six months in order to avoid transferring a contribution that is higher than the expenditure capacity of the partner. An email with this information was sent to all partners by the OLISSIPO coordination.</p> <p>All sessions' presentations are made available to the consortium through the project repository.</p> <p>The OLISSIPO coordination invited Prof. Susan Holmes from Stanford University to participate in the meeting with the members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) as an observer. All PIs agreed to invite Prof. Susan Holmes to become a member of the SAB. The coordination of the project will contact the European Commission's (EC) project officer in order to formalise this invitation.</p> <p>During the Management Committee Meeting with the SAB, a few topics were discussed in the context of the current challenges in Portugal regarding science policy, research careers, and projects' implementation. The discussions focused on managing teams in this new context: how to keep the motivation, improve collaborations and dialogue between supervisors and students and between students, how to strengthen international collaborations: the challenge to work online; Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability (FAIR) data systems and collaborative Cloud; and how to improve science policy: strategies to reach the government and improve the overall awareness about the challenges.</p>

To initiate the discussion, Susana Vinga raised several relevant questions and challenges related to Portuguese science policies and environment, e.g. (a) how to maintain great students at Instituto Superior Técnico and INESC-ID; (b) availability of only a few tenure-track/permanent positions; (c) low salaries/opportunities for career progression; (d) uncertainty linked with project funding; (e) faculty high teaching workload and university/institutions countless tasks for the senior researchers.

All members of the SAB enthusiastically participated in the discussion, and two new action points were defined: the organisation of Alumni Seminars to assemble successful case stories and share them with the ESR, and the organisation of round-tables to talk about science policy (gathering other projects and institutions and relevant stakeholders).

Also, ELIXIR (<https://elixir-europe.org>) and ELLIS Units (<https://ellis.eu/units>) in Portugal, BioData project (<https://biodata.pt>) and LUMILIS (<https://lumilis.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/>), respectively, were pointed out as relevant networks to support the development of activities within the scope of the OLISSIPO project.

3. Conclusions

Several actions were moved online to promote institutions interaction during the project's first year. Despite the planned activities having been carried out without affecting the project's aim, work travel will be reinforced during 2022 and 2023 to continue creating synergies and strengthening collaborations.

Annex I

Fostering
Computational
Biology Research
and Innovation
in Lisbon



First Annual Meeting

13th January 2022



Agenda (CET time)

14:45 – 15:00	Welcome Remarks	
	Susana Vinga	INESC-ID/IST
15:00 – 15:30	OLISSIPO – An overview of Year 1	
	Susana Vinga	INESC-ID/IST
	Marie-France Sagot	Inria
	Niko Beerenwinkel	ETH
	Wolfgang Huber	EMBL
15:30 – 15:40	Break	
15:40 – 15:50	OLISSIPO – A prospective of Year 2	
	Sara Tanqueiro	INESC-ID
15:50 – 16:00	Communication and Outreach	
	Simone Bell	EMBL
16:00 – 16:10	Budget, Schedule, Reporting	
	Ilda Ribeiro	INESC-ID
16:10 – 16:55	Management Committee Meeting PIs and Scientific Advisory Board	
16:55 – 17:00	Closing Remarks	



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