



## Report

### D6.4 Second annual project meeting with the SAB

<b>Project Acronym</b>	OLISSIPO
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<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Susana Vinga (INESC-ID)
<b>Project Beneficiaries</b>	INESC-ID, INRIA, ETH Zürich, EMBL

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## Executive Summary

The OLISSIPO annual project meetings were planned to be hosted every 12 months by each partner. 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. Furthermore, the SAB strongly recommended requesting for a 12-month no-cost extension of the project to fully accomplish the proposed goals, which was fully agreed by all the Partner Institutions.

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## 1. Introduction

The OLISSIPO Second Annual Meeting was held online on 22 November 2022, organised by the coordinator INESC-ID. Its main objective was to review and discuss the project development and establish the OLISSIPO work plan for the upcoming months. The participation of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) Members was essential to reflect on the project and relevant questions in science and, particularly, in Computational Biology.

### 1.1. Deliverable objective

This deliverable reports on the minutes of the second annual meeting of the OLISSIPO project.

## 2. Minutes of Second Annual Meeting

### 2.1. Agenda

#### OLISSIPO Second Annual Meeting

22nd November 2022 – 14:30-15:30 (CET)

14:30 – 14:35	Welcome Remarks
	Susana Vinga   INESC-ID/IST
14:35 – 14:50	OLISSIPO – An overview of Years 1 and 2
	Sara Tanqueiro   INESC-ID/IST
14:50 – 15:00	Reporting Period 1 Meeting Feedback   Recommendations
	All
15:00 – 15:25	Plans for 2023 and request for non-cost project extension
	All
15:25 – 15:30	Closing Remarks

## 2.2. Participants List

Name	Institution
Jens Stoye, SAB	Bielefeld University
Magnus Rattray, SAB	University of Manchester
Marie-France Sagot, PI	Inria
Niko Beerenwinkel, PI	ETH Zurich
Sara Tanqueiro, Project Manager	INESC-ID
Simone Bell, Project Manager	EMBL
Susana Vinga, PI	INESC-ID/IST
Wolfgang Huber, PI	EMBL
Yves Moreau, SAB	University of Leuven

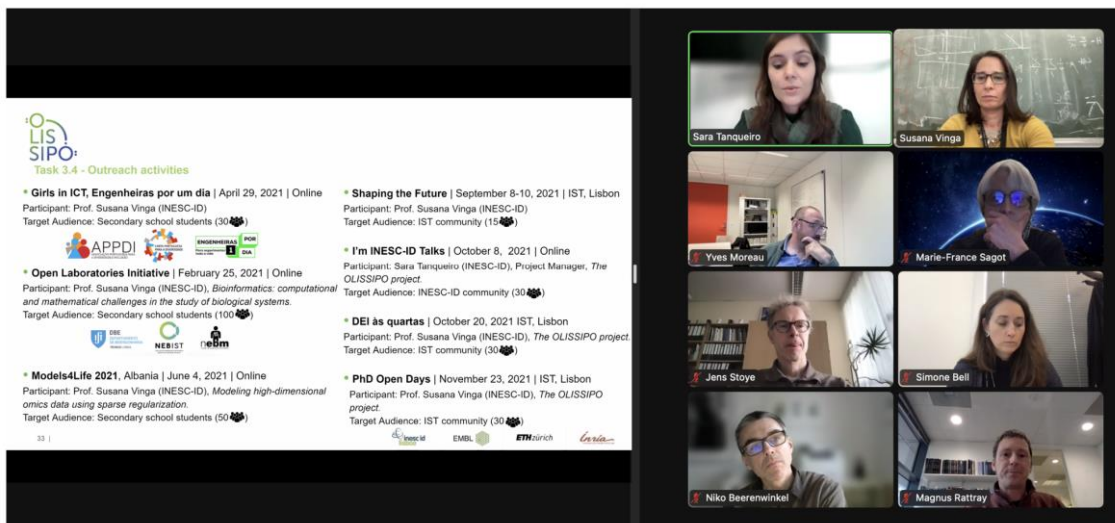


Figure 1. Group photo in the OLISSIPO second annual meeting.

## 2.3. Action Points

<b>WP1. Scientific internships and exchanges (Responsible: All; Status: Ongoing)</b>
<p>WP1 is dedicated to scientific and administrative <b>short-term staff exchanges</b>. During the first year, it was impossible to travel due to the pandemic, lockdowns and restrictions. So, among other activities carried out in Year 1, the OLISSIPO team set up an OLISSIPO Week where several members of the four institutions presented their work. Staff only started to travel in March 2022 (a total of 8 visits, with 34 team members traveling, including 17 ESRs). Regarding joint meetings, the first two were held online: the Kick-off Meeting and the first annual meeting. In July, the OLISSIPO Retreat was held in Lisbon, and it was the first time we joined members from the 4 institutions. Staff exchanges will be reinforced in 2023. However, the OLISSIPO coordination and SAB members remarked that it is impossible to recover in just one year from the delays in starting the staff exchange tasks.</p>
<b>WP2. Organisation of Schools and Training Workshops (Responsible: Inria; Status: Ongoing)</b>
<p>WP2 is dedicated to joint events. In the first year, the OLISSIPO project organized the OLISSIPO Inaugural Workshop and the Workshop on Metabolism and Mathematical models: Two for a Tango   First and Second Editions (2021 and 2022), together with Prof. Marie and Ariel Silber from the University of Brazil. The OLISSIPO PI in France, Marie-France is also involved in the Small RNAs Bioinformatics Club. Every two months, a seminar is held to animate the discussion around these molecules. OLISSIPO members participated in the organization of several international conferences, such as ISMB/ECCB, ALGO 2021, Ascona 2022, CSAMA 2022 and the European BioConductor Conference. Importantly, OLISSIPO supported the participation of ESRs in some of those conferences. The OLISSIPO Twin Seminars were also created to disseminate the scientific work and expertise of INESC-ID. New dates are now being scheduled.</p> <p>The OLISSIPO consortium decided to postpone the organization of the proposed schools so they could be onsite events. In line with this, four schools are now planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5-10 February 2023: School on Modelling and Analysis of single cell Multiple Biological Omics – Mambo School, in presence (<a href="https://olissipo.inesc-id.pt/modelling-analysis-single-cell-multiple-biological-omics/">https://olissipo.inesc-id.pt/modelling-analysis-single-cell-multiple-biological-omics/</a>);</li> <li>● Early June 2023: School on Computational phylogenetics to analyse the evolution of cells and communities – Tree for a Tango School, in presence;</li> <li>● October 2023: Mathematical modelling of inter-cell and communities interactions notably through metabolism and small RNAs – Small is Beautiful School, in presence. Would be ideal if it could instead be placed in 2024 given the extremely intense schedule of workshops and schools for 2023;</li> <li>● To be scheduled: TRANslational bioinformatiCs, data management and softwarE development – Trance School, in presence.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, also several workshops are being planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● January 2023: Workshop on Computational phylogenetics to analyse the evolution of cells and communities – Tree for a Tango, 1st Edition, virtual;</li> </ul>

- 5-10 February 2023: Workshop on Management and European Proposal Submissions, 2nd Edition, in parallel with the School on Modelling and Analysis of single cell Multiple Biological Omics;
- May 2023: Workshop on Modelling and Analysis of single cell Multiple Biological Omics – Mambo, 1st Edition;
- September 2023: Workshop on Metabolism and mathematical models – Two for a Tango, 3rd Edition, planned in presence;
- October 2023: Workshop on Management and European Proposal Submissions, 3rd Edition, in parallel with the School on Mathematical modelling of inter-cell and communities interactions notably through metabolism and small RNAs;
- November 2023: Workshop on Computational phylogenetics to analyse the evolution of cells and communities – Tree for a Tango, 2nd Edition, planned in presence;
- To be scheduled: Workshop on TRANslational bioinformatiCs, data management and softwarE development – Trance, 1st Edition, planned in presence;
- To be scheduled: Workshop on Modelling and Analysis of single cell Multiple Biological Omics – Mambo, 2nd Edition, planned in presence, possibly associated with the School on TRANslational bioinformatiCs, data management and softwarE development;
- To be scheduled: Closing Workshop on Computational Biology, in presence.

**WP3. Outreach activities: gathering other projects and institutions and relevant stakeholders (Responsible: EMBL; Status: Ongoing)**

Onsite **outreach activities** with schools and the wide public are planned for the next year as described in the D3.4. These activities will be widely publicized on the project webpage (<https://olissipo.inesc-id.pt/events>) and social media at [https://twitter.com/Olissipo\\_eu](https://twitter.com/Olissipo_eu) and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/olissipo>.

**WP4. Enhancing the scientific profile of Early Stage Researchers (ESR) (Responsible: ETH; Status: Ongoing)**

**Scientific internships and exchanges.** In the next couple of weeks, the final dates for staff exchanges in 2023 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 – was pointed out during the first annual meeting as a viable hypothesis to be discussed. In line with this, two joint supervisions will start in March 2023, between Prof. Susana Vinga (INESC-ID, Lisbon), Prof. Niko Beerenwinkel (ETH Zurich, Basel) and Prof. Julien Gagneur from the OLISSIPO SAB (TUM, Germany). The OLISSIPO consortium agreed that to achieve joint publications, more time and effort will be needed, including the strengthening of staff exchanges.

**WP5. Management training of INESC-ID staff and PI (Responsible: All; Status: Ongoing)**

**Training activities for ESRs and management staff.** Besides promoting scientific internships and exchanges, OLISSIPO also supports the participation of students in conferences and workshops, such as the Statistical Data Analysis for Genome-Scale Biology Course, the European Bioconductor Conference and the Ascona Workshop, and in the scientific courses they might be interested. INESC-ID will continue to promote training in different areas such as project management, communication, proposal writing, human resources, data management planning, and research ethics.

**General**

In the first part of the meeting, the project manager Sara Tanqueiro (INESC-ID) presented the activities carried out during Years 1 and 2 and updated the SAB members on the EU experts' feedback at the Review Meeting in June after submission of the reporting period 1 (recommendations). In the second part, Sara Tanqueiro introduced the planned activities for the upcoming months regarding schools and workshops.

SAB members were invited to visit INESC-ID in Lisbon and participate in the different OLISSIPO activities (schools, workshops or other events).

**Request for an extension due to *force majeure*:** Due to *force majeure*, the SAB members highly recommend the OLISSIPO consortium to ask for a no-cost extension of 12 months. It would be ideal if two planned schools and several workshops could instead be placed in 2024 instead 2023, given the extremely intense schedule of workshops and schools for 2023.

As agreed among the PIs and reinforced by the SAB members, the coordination will prepare a letter to ask for a no-cost extension of 12 months (until December 2024). It was consensual that the project will not recover from more than a full year where travel was not possible due to the pandemic, and teams were mainly working from home. The delay in starting some of the Work Packages is still severely affecting many tasks and corresponding KPIs, namely those related to joint publications.

### 3. Conclusions

The PIs and the SAB members concluded that it has been extremely useful to move several actions online, due to the pandemic and resulting travel restrictions. Although these activities certainly contributed to meeting the project aims, they agreed that it is impossible to recover in 2 years from the activities planned to occur in 3 and that 12 months of no-cost extension due to *force majeure*.