



2024 in a nutshell



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Introduction

2024 was a year marked by bold vision, deepening collaboration, and growing influence for EU-LIFE and its community. Building on the momentum of a decade of joint efforts, we entered a new phase with renewed purpose—one defined by our strategic contribution to European science policy, the expansion of our alliance, and a thriving, vibrant network of professionals committed to excellence in research.

One of the year's most significant milestones was our strong and sustained involvement in shaping the future EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, FP10. With four position papers, numerous consultations, and active participation in high-level policy fora, EU-LIFE made a meaningful impact as a trusted and constructive voice. From research assessment and knowledge valorisation to research careers and funding mechanisms, our input was grounded in real-world experience from our institutes and in a shared vision for a more ambitious, inclusive, and competitive European Research Area.

At the heart of our alliance is a dynamic community. In 2024, that community continued to grow in depth and engagement. Over 150 people contributed across nine working groups and multiple task forces, exploring key challenges and opportunities from HR to postdoctoral careers, from infrastructure to science communication. The launch of a Europe-wide mentoring programme for

postdoctoral women, the Better Together sessions, and an inaugural postdoc initiative all speak to this collective energy.

We were especially proud to organise the international conference 'A Social Innovation Experiment with Artificial Intelligence. EU-LIFE UTOPIA Conference', codesigned with CeMM leading researchers, creating space for critical reflection on the role of artificial intelligence in research ecosystems. And we marked a foundational moment for our community with the publication of the 'EU-LIFE charter of independent life science research institutes', a cornerstone document articulating our shared values and mission.

Behind every achievement are the people—researchers, managers, communicators, policy professionals—who give EU-LIFE its distinctive strength. This report offers just a glimpse into their tireless work and the collective ambition that drives us forward.

Thank you for being part of our journey. As we look ahead to the challenges and possibilities of 2025 and beyond, we remain firmly committed to collaboration, excellence, and impact.

Let us continue shaping the future of science, together.



Giulio Superti-Furga
Chair of EU-LIFE



Marta Agostinho
Executive Director of EU-LIFE

EU-LIFE institutes in 2024



- 15 institutes
- 15 countries
- Over 8,000 members of staff
- Over 560 research groups
- Over 30% success rate in ERC
- Over 150 technology facilities
- Over 80 spin-offs fostered since 2014



Contributing to European science policies, strongly advocating the key role of excellent research for innovation, competitiveness and the society.



Fostering an environment that stimulates excellence in research through shared best practices and expertise in research governance.

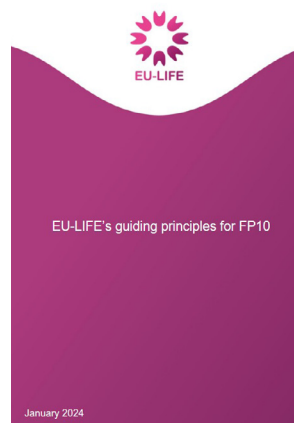
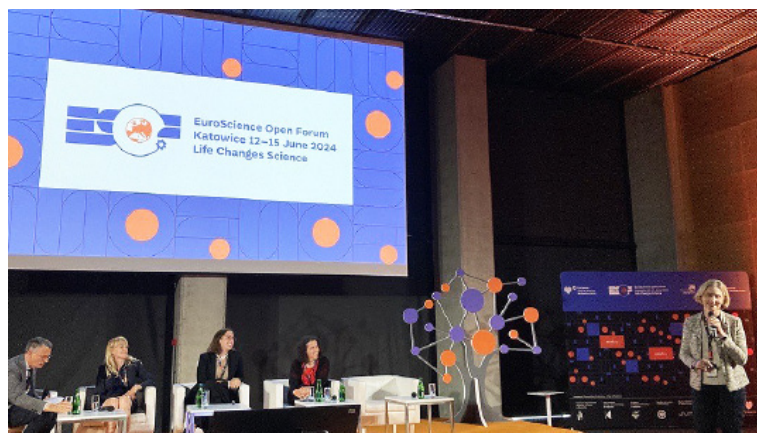


Inspiring institutions to support ethically responsible research & innovation, open science and knowledge transfer and valorisation.

Highlights on European Science Policy



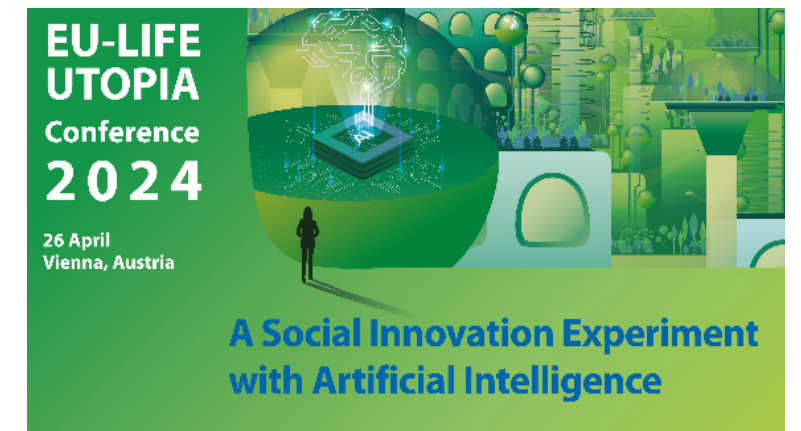
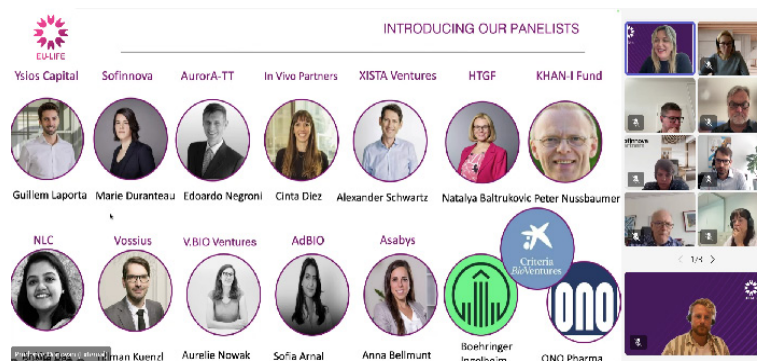
- **Regular contributions on EC policy processes:** invited stakeholder contributing to development of EU R&I policies such as ERA policy, research careers, research assessment, gender & equality in research, knowledge valorisation
- **4 position papers on FP10:** guiding principles, EIC, MSCA, 5 key actions for a competitive Europe
- **5 EU-LIFE statements, open letters and replies to EC consultations:** the future of R&I, Horizon Europe & FP10, ERA
- Active member of **3 Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) Working Groups**, incl. co-creators & co-chairs
- **Publication of EU-LIFE Action Plan for CoARA**
- **28 policy events as invited speakers and/or organizers**
- **78 meetings, consultation workshops & events with key policy leaders and stakeholders**



Highlights on Optimal Research Environment



- **1 mentoring programme launched** for postdoctoral women pairing 30 EU-LIFE mentees and 30 mentors
- **17 workshops, seminars & courses:** 7 Career Track webinars, 2 Mental Health workshops, 2 Onboarding sessions, 2 Better Together sessions, Sustainability session, Indicators workshop, ERC Masterclass and Tech Transfer pitching event
- **4 benchmarking sets & surveys:** General indicators, Horizon Europe grants data, core facilities benchmarking and remuneration and (non-)financial benefits data
- **5 reports, abstracts & articles:** Storytelling, MSCA Research Managers, ESOF 2024, 2023 in a nutshell, UTOPIA Conference report
- **3 new EU-LIFE working groups and task forces initiated:** HR WG, Office & lab space management TF, Postdoc Initiative
- **70 working group and task force meetings**
- **1 proposal co-written and submitted on HORIZON-WIDERA call**



Highlights on Strategy & Management



- Completed expansion cycle of EU-LIFE by selecting **2 new members**
- **1 EU-LIFE charter of independent life science research institutes** published
- **2 EU-LIFE meetings** organised
- **2 onboarding sessions** for new and existing members
- **Conference co-organised with CeMM: A Social Innovation Experiment with Artificial Intelligence. EU-LIFE UTOPIA Conference**
- **c. 150 people in 9 EU-LIFE working groups**
- **3.3 FTEs at the office in 2024**





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EU-LIFE is an alliance of research centres whose mission is to support and strengthen European research excellence (www.eu-life.eu). EU-LIFE members are leading research institutes in their countries and internationally renowned for producing excellent research, widely transferring knowledge and nurturing talent.

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