



# **EU-LIFE Charter of Independent Life Science Research Institutes**

Executive Summary  
March 2024



Independent research institutes are a fundamental part of the research and innovation landscape in Europe and worldwide. The EU-LIFE Charter of Independent Life Science Research Institutes formulates the foundational core principles of these type of research performance organisations, based on the lessons learned after ten years of improving research governance by benchmarking and developing new common strategies in the context of EU-LIFE, the alliance of independent research institutes in the life sciences in Europe.

The signatories of the charter aspire to apply these principles in their own institutions and to inspire other research institutes to adhere to them. They also want to encourage critical reflection about the structure and governance of research organisations, to identify room for development, and set a precedent for new institutes.

## **The 10 essential principles of modern independent research institutes in the European Life Science space**

### **1. Excellence**

Striving for high-quality, impactful research through continuous innovation and collaborative excellence.

### **2. Independence**

Empowering prompt, autonomous decision-making with transparent leadership recruitment and active cooperation.

### **3. Training**

Committed to inclusive, internationally oriented training for creative thinking and technology transfer.

### **4. Internationality and inclusivity**

Fostering an inclusive environment that values diversity and international collaboration for scientific excellence.

### **5. Mission**

Driven by a clear, purposeful mission that shapes funding, operations, and community engagement.

### **6. Technology**

Leading the development and accessibility of sustainable, cutting-edge technologies.

### **7. Administrative innovation**

Revolutionizing research administration and governance for greater efficiency and inclusivity.



## 8. Cooperation

Enhancing cost-effectiveness and sustainability through competitive funding and collaborative efforts.

## 9. Impact

Aiming for research that delivers positive societal impacts through proactive tech transfer and interdisciplinary collaboration.

## 10. Engaging society

Engaging with society through media, public activities, school programs, and citizen science initiatives.

Read the full charter [here](#).

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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](http://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.**

#### **EU-LIFE Partners**

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