

**2022**

*Annual Report*

*October 31, 2023  
Eurolife Coordinator  
University Medical Center Göttingen  
Robert-Koch-Strasse 40  
37075 Göttingen  
Germany*

I am pleased to present the Eurolife Report for the year 2022, offering insights into the activities and accomplishments of the Eurolife Network throughout the past year. In 2022, we witnessed the successful second year of implementing DATAETHICS, the network's inaugural transcultural and interdisciplinary project funded by the Erasmus+ initiative. This endeavor was carried out under the coordination of the University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG), in line with their continued role as the coordinator of Eurolife.

Following years of collaborative efforts within the Network that were notably challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic, we were delighted to resume our partnership meetings in person. Moreover, we successfully hosted two Eurolife DATAETHICS Schools in Barcelona and Leiden. Over the course of the year, the Network thrived, forging new collaborations while strengthening existing ones, thereby consistently achieving the goals set by Eurolife.

In addition to our ongoing exchange initiatives, such as the Eurolife Lecture Series and Eurolife Distinguished Lectures, the DATAETHICS project significantly contributes to our mission of providing a transnational platform for students and researchers across diverse scientific and medical disciplines. We aspire to further develop this platform to bridge the gap between research and healthcare, promoting shared European values and standards.

**Professor Tim Gollisch**  
**Chair of Eurolife**  
**University Medical Center Göttingen**  
**University of Göttingen**

**Göttingen, October 2023**

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## 1) Introduction. Objectives, governance and management

The Network of European Universities in Life Sciences (Eurolife) is a consortium of research-driven European universities sharing a similar philosophy. The universities are committed to the highest standard of research and education in the life sciences (medicine and biomedicine).

Eurolife is composed of nine universities located in nine different EU member states:

- University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG), Germany
- Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Spain
- Semmelweis University (SE), Hungary
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD), Ireland
- University of Edinburgh (UoE), United Kingdom
- Medizinische Universität Innsbruck (MUI), Austria
- Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), the Netherlands
- Karolinska Institutet (KI), Sweden
- Université de Strasbourg (UNISTRA), France

Eight Eurolife partners are members of the “European Universities” alliances:

- University of Göttingen – Partner in ENLIGHT (<https://enlight-eu.org/>)
- Universitat de Barcelona - Coordinator of CHARM EU (<https://www.charm-eu.eu/>)
- Semmelweis University - Partner in EUniWell (<https://www.euniwell.eu/>)
- Trinity College Dublin – Partner in CHARM EU
- University of Edinburgh – Partner in UNA Europa (<https://www.una-europa.eu/>)
- Leiden University Medical Center – Partner in EUniWell (<https://www.euniwell.eu/>)
- Université de Strasbourg – Coordinator in EUCOR (<https://www.eucor-uni.org/>)
- Karolinska Institutet – Partner in NeurotechEU (<https://theneurotech.eu/>)

### Short profiles of the partners

- University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG), Germany

The UMG is a central focus point in health care in Lower Saxony, currently admitting more than 55.000 in-patients and 225.000 outpatients per year. The UMG is associated with 27 teaching hospitals and medical care sites and offers one BSc, two MSC, and 14 doctoral programmes. With about 1.450 beds and 7.900 employees in 30 clinical departments, thereof 2.000 scientists and 3.700 students, the UMG represents one of the largest university hospitals in Germany, offering a fantastic environment for research, teaching and patient care. The UMG is embedded in the scientific world-class hub of the Göttingen

Campus, comprising the Medical Faculty, the German Centre for Neurodegenerative Disease (DZNE), the Biology and Natural Sciences departments of the Nord Campus, and four Max-Planck Institutes. Through this collaboration, the UMG has initiated and engaged in a number of projects and collaborative activities of multidisciplinary nature.

- Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Spain

The UB provides the widest course offering of any university in Spain and are national leaders in research, thanks to a standing commitment to quality. This status is reflected in the foremost international rankings and is reflected in the extensive transfer activities that channel our results into society. A comprehensive range of courses are taught to more than 60,000 students every year. The UB offers 73 bachelor's degrees, 172 university master's degrees, 47 doctoral programmes, over 900 postgraduate courses and some 802 on-site and distance lifelong learning courses. The UB is recognized as a leading institution by numerous international bodies. It is considered one of the top-200 universities in the world in the most influential global rankings and, since 2010, has been the only Spanish higher education institution to form part of the prestigious League of European Research Universities (LERU).

- Semmelweis University (SE), Hungary

The SE is the oldest medical school located in Budapest, Hungary, has been a leading biomedical institution of higher education in Hungary for the last 250 years. Its three-pillar mission is education, research and innovation, and healthcare. Semmelweis University has been listed among the world's top 300 higher education institutions in the latest THE World University Rankings 2024 by Times Higher Education and is among the top 50 in Europe. The University provides world renowned practice-oriented education based on a strong theoretical foundation. With six faculties, estimated 300 research groups and around 2.5 million patients treated annually in the Clinical Centre of the University, the Semmelweis University provides the highest quality patient care services, as well as teaching and research in Central Europe.

- Trinity College Dublin (TCD), Ireland

TCD has an international reputation as an institution that delivers world class education, consistently ranking as Ireland's top university. TCD is committed to providing a transformative learning environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship at all levels across the university and has developed the Tangent as an 'ideas workspace' to encourage students and staff to collaborate, build and innovate as an engine for economic growth and for social and cultural development. TCD is ranked first in Europe for producing entrepreneurs for the fifth year in a row (Pitchbook Universities Report 2019). From 2013 to 2018 Trinity created over 38 campus companies across all the main sectors of medical devices, pharmaceuticals and ICT. Trinity welcomes engagement with all the key components of the entrepreneurial eco-system.

- University of Edinburgh (UoE), United Kingdom

The University of Edinburgh (UoE) is one of the world's top research-intensive universities, ranked 4th in the UK for research power (Times Higher Education, Overall Ranking of Institutions), with 83% of research activity classified as world leading or internationally excellent in the last Research Excellence Framework. Five subject areas – including Computer Science and Informatics, Sociology, and Anthropology and Development Studies – are ranked as the best in the UK based on the quality and breadth of their research.

The College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine comprises two schools: the Edinburgh Medical School and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, one of the oldest veterinary schools in the world, founded in 1823 by William Dick. Together they form a unique grouping in the UK where vets, medics and biomedical scientists work together and study the common causes of disease that affect our populations and our planet. The College alone has around 3,800 undergraduate students, 4,600 postgraduates, 1,600 academics, and 1,200 professional services staff, as well as over 800 honorary staff, mainly NHS doctors, who make a substantial contribution to research within the College.

- Medizinische Universität Innsbruck (MUI), Austria

Set in the Tyrol amidst the Alps, the Medical University of Innsbruck offers an ideal setting for academic excellence. Core missions include top-tier teaching, training, research, and advanced medical treatment. The university comprises 28 theoretical institutes, 33 university hospitals, and administrative units. With over 3,500 students and 2,200 staff, it stands as the most significant medical research and education institution in western Austria. The University's success in research is driven by a compact campus with top-notch facilities. Research focuses on infection, immunity, transplantation, neuroscience, oncology, genetics, epigenetics, and genomics. Despite fierce competition, researchers attract national and international funding. Students receive high-quality, practical education, preparing them for medical and scientific roles. Graduates can pursue diverse PhD programs. Molecular Medicine programs teach essential knowledge. Patient care is a core mission, with clinical departments providing outstanding care and collaborating closely with Tyrol's government and medical facilities. The proximity of medical science and hospital care enhances the university's international reputation for treatment skills.

- Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), the Netherlands

LUMC is affiliated with Leiden University (LU), the oldest university in the Netherlands. It has approximately 8400 employees and provides study facilities for approximately 2500 bachelor and master students. It is a centre for research, education and patient care with a high quality profile and a strong scientific orientation. It has a unique research practice, ranging from fundamental medical research to applied clinical research. Education at the LUMC is closely linked to patient care and research, ensuring that students experience the latest advances in medical science and practice. The collaboration between LUMC, LU and the Leiden Bio Science Park creates unique possibilities for medical innovation. Key aspects of the education are internationalization, blended and interprofessional learning and research based teaching. Leiden has been the European City of Science in 2022.

- Karolinska Institutet (KI), Sweden

KI is one of the world's foremost medical universities with the vision to advance knowledge about life and strive towards better health for all. As a university, KI is Sweden's single largest centre of medical academic research and offers the country's widest range of courses and programmes in the field of medicine and health sciences, with approximately 6,000 full-time students taking educational and single subject courses at Bachelor and Master levels. Research at KI spans the entire medical field, from basic experimental research to patient-oriented and nursing research and is conducted in 22 departments, most of which are situated or adjacent to Stockholm's teaching hospitals. This creates ample opportunities for translational research in which new experimental results are rapidly implemented for patient benefit, and where clinical observations provide a basis for new research ideas.

- Université de Strasbourg (UNISTRA), France

European by nature and international by design, UNISTRA'S fundamental training and research goals include forging partnerships with European and international universities. Located on four campuses spread all over the city, the University is one of the largest universities in France, with more than 52 000 students. UNISRA offers 60 international degrees in partnership with universities around the world. The university is committed to promoting student mobility and has many cooperation agreements with institutions in Europe and beyond. As a leading European centre for training and research, the University of Strasbourg has developed a strong Franco-German cooperation and is a privileged partner among the Upper-Rhine universities (Eucor - The European Camus) and coordinates since 2021 the European University consortium EPICUR. UNISTRA emerges among Europe's foremost research universities and is a founding member of the League of the European Research Universities (LERU).

## Objectives

The Eurolife objectives are:

- To promote trans-national scientific and educational interactions at a European level;
- To ensure a favourable framework to develop collaborative academic and research activities;
- To foster cooperation between members;
- To achieve even greater success in research and training activities than could be achieved by the individual universities operating alone by combining resources;
- 

Eurolife aims to achieve its objectives through:

- Research and Teaching Collaborations
- Student and Staff Mobility
- Student lecture series

- Summer and Winter Schools
- Academic Symposia and associated Lecture Series
- Joint transnational project Erasmus+: Strategic Partnership

In 2019, the objectives and strategy of the

Network were evaluated internally with the aim to review the continuous accuracy of the goals and actions of the Network and analyse the prospects of new initiatives. Eurolife introduced further improvements and enhancement of the collaborative activities and since mid-2022, the partnership has been engaged in continuous discussions and deliberations regarding the upcoming research initiative.

## **Governance and management**

As of 1 March 2018, the Network has been coordinated by the University Medical Center Göttingen with initially Prof. Steven Johnsen, now Prof. Tim Gollisch acting as the Chair and Ms. Agnieszka Buelens as the Coordinator. The Network operates on the 7<sup>th</sup> Eurolife Collaboration Agreement (2021-2023) signed at the end of 2020.

### *Chairs*

1999-2001	Rotating
2002-2004	University of Edinburgh
2005-2007	Karolinska Institutet
2008-2011	Trinity College Dublin
2012-2014	Leiden University Medical Center
2015-2017	University of Barcelona
2018-2023	University Medical Center Göttingen

## **1.1 Activities**

### **Philosophy of joint activities**

Eurolife institutions engage in collaborative initiatives, with a preference for comprehensive involvement from all participating parties. However, institutions retain the option to abstain from participation or contribute only to a limited extent in proposed activities. Instances where an institution may choose not to fully engage include when the joint activity diverges from the institution's strategic objectives, financial constraints hinder participation, or institutional regulations impose limitations.

This circumstance is evident in the context of the Eurolife Scholarship Program for Early Career Researchers, wherein not all institutions possess the financial resources to offer scholarships. Nevertheless, all institutions express a fundamental willingness, in principle, to host qualified candidates, despite financial constraints.

### **General**

The in-person collaboration between the Eurolife members is structured around semi-annual meetings, held at partner institutions on rotating basis. In 2022 the Network held only one in person meeting – hosted by the University of Edinburgh.



### **Eurolife meeting 2022**

- **Steering Committee meetings 2022**  
November 2022, University of Edinburgh
- **Education Alliance meetings 2022**  
July 2022, University of Barcelona  
November 2022, University of Edinburgh
- **Administrators meetings 2022**  
November 2022, University of Edinburgh

### **Planned Eurolife meetings 2023**

- **Steering Committee Meetings**  
November 2023, Karolinska Institutet
- **Education Alliance meetings**  
May 2023, University of Strasbourg  
August 2023, Semmelweis University  
November 2023, Karolinska Institutet
- **Administrators meetings**  
November 2023, University of Edinburgh

The meetings create a communication platform for members to review the actions of the Network and quality of their implementation, as well as constitute an opportunity to develop and discuss new ideas and enhancements. Besides the institutional Eurolife representatives, Eurolife welcomes talks and presentations by other institutional members, both administrative and academics.

In addition, Eurolife meetings are often accompanied by an academic symposium, which welcomes academic talks from globally recognised academics: in 2021, partners, students and other invited guests had the privilege to participate in the online academic lecture titled: “Stress: Mechanisms, Consequences and Evidence for Treatment” by Prof. Mats Lekander from Karolinska Institutet. In 2022, the Consortium organised the hybrid DATAETHICS project’s Multiplier Event to promote the achievements of the project and encourage participation for greater impact.

## **2) Eurolife Education Alliance (EEA)**

The Network’s Education Alliance is dedicated and committed to developing new pan-European standards of excellence in life science education and recognises the need for increased collaboration and mobility of students within Europe. Together, the Network works towards streamlining of the education policies in Europe.

The latest undertaking within the Network is the strategic partnership project DATAETHICS, which receives co-funding from the European Commission.

## 2.1 DATAETHICS



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



DATAETHICS - Changing Landscapes in the Health and Life Sciences: Ethical Challenges of Big Data is a transnational project aimed at transferring best practices in Life Sciences and related fields. It addresses the critical need to update study materials and educational approaches to bridge the gap between the collection and use of Biomedical Big Data (BBD) and available knowledge and training.

Over the last 2 years of its implementation, DATAETHICS fostered collaboration with national, European, and global partners from various sectors, including industry, setting an example of cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practice.

DATAETHICS recognized that technological advancements had outpaced ethical and conceptual considerations since the Human Genome Project. To address this, the project has been providing practical tools, novel content, and guidelines with improved and durable availability of training with a focus on real-life dilemmas. These resources match the rapid developments in data collection and generation in biomedical sciences, such as genomics technologies and patient cohort collections.

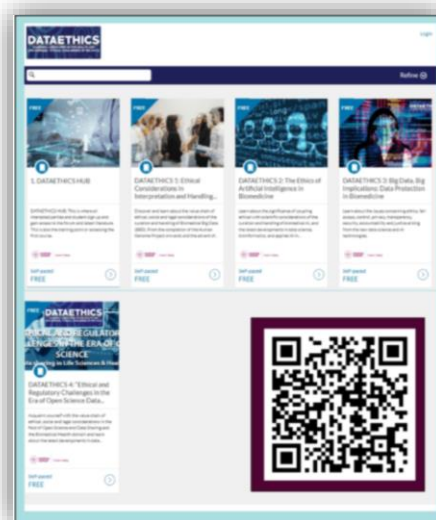
The DATAETHICS Canvas Platform which is being developed for the project will serve as a knowledge and material repository, offering four highly pedagogical e-courses that cover ethical, legal, and societal aspects of BBD collection and management. These courses will address the challenges related to data curation, interpretation, and analysis in biomedical datasets with contents consolidating international expertise, including that from industry, offering theory and case studies of high pedagogical merit:

DATAETHICS 1 “Ethical Considerations in Interpretation and Handling of Biomedical Big Data”

DATAETHICS 2 “The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedicine”

DATAETHICS 3 “Big Data, Big Implications: Data Protection in Biomedicine”

DATAETHICS 4 “Ethical and Regulatory Challenges in the Era of Open Science Data Sharing in Life Sciences & Health”



Four semi-annual Summer and Winter Schools, co-funded by the [Deutsch-Französische Hochschule](#), lie at the heart of this broad, open, transcultural and interdisciplinary implementation approach.



Following the success of the online DATAETHICS Pilot, Summer and Winter Schools held in 2021, in 2022, the EEA organised further 2 DATAETHICS schools, one Summer and one Winter, both held in person. The schools employed the Values and Knowledge Education (VaKE) method. They encouraged student-teacher mutual responsibility in the project, fostering equal dialogue in the design of the DATAETHICS training content enhancing its penetrance.

The experience will be described in the DATAETHICS handbook, opening a window of opportunity for continuous improvement in the delivery of quality teaching and unification of learning criteria in Life Science and beyond.

DATAETHICS expedites cooperation across sectors, both within the EU and globally, to identify best practices for BBD, ultimately improving medical knowledge and clinical care. The project has been successfully developing ethical models for biomedical and healthcare institutions and the BBD industry. With a growing network and benchmarks in place, DATAETHICS aims to sustain its impact in this dynamic field.

**DATAETHICS Partners:**



**DATAETHICS Associate Partners:**



## 2.2 Eurolife Mobility Program

Each year Eurolife offers 27 grants to undergraduate and master students of the partner institutions to carry out the practical part of their studies – research – at one of the other Eurolife institutions. The students undertake a period of research of 3-6 months at the partner institution, in a project that is discussed in advance between the student, the Mentor at the home university, and the Mentor at the host university, so that it is tailored to a particular research area and requirements, while building a research network.

In addition, Eurolife institutions have been encouraged to update previous Erasmus+ agreements or to sign new ones with the Eurolife partners. The table presenting current Erasmus+ agreements was uploaded to the website and students have been encouraged to apply for both, Eurolife and Erasmus+ grants simultaneously and thus get a **tuition fee waiver** at their host university.

In the academic year 2021-2022, 6 students: Bachelor (2) and Master (4) were awarded Eurolife grants and in the academic year 2022-2023, 6 students: Bachelor (4) and Master (2) were granted Eurolife scholarships.

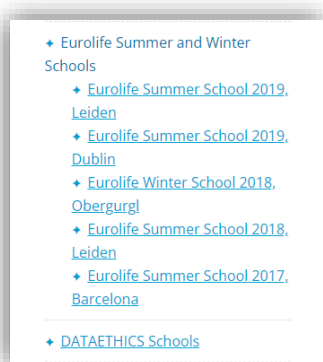
## 2.3. Eurolife Schools

### Eurolife practices

The Network hosts one summer or winter school in-person on annual basis. The decision on the event is made internally, by the Eurolife Steering Committee. To select/organise a school, a document has been prepared with guidelines for putting forward a proposal for being submitted to the Eurolife Steering Committee. In this short manual, the scope, size and structure of the proposal are detailed.

The Eurolife partners ran internal calls to select students to take part in the course. The promotional and dissemination activities for the Schools are to a large extent centralised and information distributed by the Eurolife central coordination office in Göttingen.

On each occasion, Eurolife produces video testimonials, which are filmed during the schools – these are considered best practice-sharing - and effective promotional and informative- tool for the future participants.



At the end of each Eurolife School, each Eurolife Grantee receives a Certificate of participation, which additionally states the number of ECTS credits students can claim at their Home institutions for the participation.

### **Eurolife DATAETHICS Open Badges**

Since 2021, in the framework of DATAETHICS, Eurolife Network has been developing and awarding Open Badges, as a means of recognising and validating participation of student attendees and contributing speakers in the DATAETHICS Schools.

DATAETHICS badges contain secure data which describe the criteria for awarding the badge, the achievements of the holder, the nature of the activity or event, and information on who has awarded the badge. This information is embedded in the badge using blockchain technology and importantly, is secure and verifiable.

Open Badges are digitally portable and may be stored online in a digital open badge ‘backpack’ attached to electronic documents or websites (such as LinkedIn). Thus they are highly relevant to students and other members of the workforce today and an excellent solution for verification of professional achievements.

Following Open Bages have been issued to the participants of the 5 DATAETHICS Schools held in 2021/2022/2023.



## Eurolife Schools 2022

### 2.3. a Eurolife DATAETHICS Summer School 2022

**The Eurolife DATAETHICS Summer School 2022**, themed "*Big Data, Big Implications: Data Protection in Biomedicine*," took place from July 4 to 8, 2022, at the University of Barcelona, Spain. This event was a meticulously executed and high-quality course that successfully met its intended objectives.



4-8 July 2022

26 students from DATAETHICS Partner institutions joined the 5-day program to debate on the significance of coupling ethical with scientific considerations of the curation and handling of BBD in learning structures and learn about the latest trends and considerations in health data empowerment, data protection and Artificial Intelligence (AI). According to the majority of participants, the event increased their awareness of the importance and methods of adopting an ethical approach in the way they make decisions when handling and curating BBD. Students from various biomedical fields joined the school (genomics, neurosciences, molecular medicine, cancer research, etc.) ensuring the interdisciplinary character of the discussions and group exercises, which allowed for broad considerations and their greater update.

The school played a crucial role in the development of the DATAETHICS 3rd e-course, with the recording of all lectures to capture the sessions for the production of the e-course. This allowed the consortium to create insightful and comprehensive content. The valuable feedback received from participants through pre- and post-event surveys, as well as recorded testimonials, served as a guiding force in designing the Winter School 2022/2023.

The programme is available [HERE](#)

### 2.3.b Eurolife DATAETHICS Winter School 2022/2023

**The Eurolife DATAETHICS Winter School 2022/23** titled: *“ETHICAL AND REGULATORY CHALLENGES IN THE ERA OF OPEN SCIENCE: Data Sharing in Life Sciences & Health”*



23-27 January 2023

A cohort of 30 students, hailing from DATAETHICS Partner institutions actively participated in the comprehensive 5-day program. The focus of the event was to engage in meaningful discussions on the vital intersection of ethical and scientific considerations in the curation and handling of Biomedical Big Data (BBD) within educational frameworks.

Throughout the program, participants delved into topics such as the European Health Data Space, the reassessment of Open Science principles, and the ethical dimensions surrounding the utilization of BBD. The school provided a platform to scrutinize research practices, encompassing expanded use of medical records, widespread data sharing, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Recognizing the evolving landscape, the school emphasized the necessity for updates to conventional ethical considerations, especially in relation to patient data.

The discussions underscored the need for a new bioethical approach that strikes a balance between individual rights and the broader public good. DATAETHICS acknowledged the imperative for adapting current ethical and regulatory frameworks to address accessibility, control, privacy, transparency, security, accountability, and justice in the context of health data empowerment, data protection, and AI.

The interdisciplinary nature of the school was evident in the diverse backgrounds of participating students, spanning genomics, neurosciences, molecular medicine, cancer research, and other biomedical fields. This diversity facilitated broad considerations and a more comprehensive understanding of the ethical dimensions associated with handling and curating BBD. Feedback from the majority of participants indicated an increased awareness of the importance and methodologies involved in adopting an ethical approach to decision-making in their respective fields.

The school played a crucial role in the development of the DATAETHICS 4th e-course, with the recording of all lectures to capture the sessions for the production of the e-course.

The programme is available [HERE](#)

### 2.3. Eurolife Lecture Series

The Eurolife Lecture Series are the initiative of the Eurolife Education Alliance towards Bachelor students in biology/biochemistry. Lectures are organised by the partner institutions. This new initiative is addressed at freshmen from the Eurolife Universities. The typically 45-50-minute lectures are offered by academics, who are widely known for their work in the field. Each lecture is followed by a face-to-face discussion. The lectures facilitate and encourage educational and scientific interactions with the goal to contribute towards developing new pan-European standards of excellence in life science education and to increase institutional collaboration.

The first (1<sup>st</sup>) series were organised by the University of Strasbourg and approximately 600 bachelor students in biology/biochemistry took part in the lectures between September – December 2018.

[Programme in English HERE](#)

[Programme in French HERE.](#)

The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) series were held in 2019 and were offered to freshmen from two Eurolife partner universities: University of Strasbourg & Medical University of Innsbruck. The series were a success and attracted large audiences of students.

The lectures were held in September - December 2019 in Strasbourg and each lecture was followed by a face-to-face discussion. This year, four scientists from the Eurolife partner universities took part in the series at UNISTRA:

- Joern Pütz, UNISTRA
- Christoph Schwarzer, MUI
- Ross McManus, TCD
- Xavier Gasull, UB

[Programme in English HERE](#)

The fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) series were held online in September – December 2020. Four scientists from the Eurolife partner universities took part in the online series:

- Joern Pütz, UNISTRA
- Christoph Schwarzer, MUI
- Ross McManus, TCD
- Xavier Gasull, UB



[Program in English](#)

[Program in German](#)

The fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) series were held online in September – December 2022.  
Five scientists from the Eurolife partner universities took part in the online series:

- Johann Bühm, Lecture: *“Calcium Imbalance & Human Disorders”*, UNISTRA
- Christoph Schwarzer, Lecture: *“Gene therapy of focal Epilepsy”*, MUI
- Ross McManus; Lecture: *“Genomics and related inflammatory”*, TCD
- Akis Papanonis, Lecture: *“How to chromosomes fold & how do they age? Insights from genomics”*, UMG
- Xavier Gasull, Lecture: *“How we detect pain, touch or temperature”*, UB

- [Program in German](#)

- [Program in English](#)

The Eurolife Lecture Series pave students' way from Eurolife Lecture Series to Eurolife Student Mobility Program or other Eurolife initiatives. Already as a result of the participation in this initiative, one Bachelor student spent 2 months at Trinity College Dublin under the supervision of Prof. Ross McManus and further three Master students visited Leiden University Medical Center in year 2020.

### **3) Eurolife Distinguished Lecture Series**

The Eurolife Distinguished Lecture Series (EDLS) offers a platform for inviting distinguished researchers from other Eurolife institutions to present cutting-edge research at one host Eurolife University.

The format of the series allows for an active dialogue between lecturers, researchers and students, and fosters awareness and branding in partner institutions.

The topics of the lectures cover Eurolife key research areas: neuroscience, imaging, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, inflammation, genetics of complex diseases, and international health.

### **4) Research**

#### **4.1. Eurolife Postdoc Mobility and Knowledge Exchange Grants**

### Former Short-term Research Exchanges

This action is addressed to junior scientists. In 2019, the name of this scholarship program changed to Eurolife Postdoc Mobility and Knowledge Exchange Grants. In 2022, Eurolife held the 8<sup>th</sup> call. The goal of the call was to facilitate exchanges aiming at further development of the research collaborations between Eurolife member organisations.

The grants support travel and living expenses for junior researchers (Postdocs within the first 8 years of employment after having received their PhD) to work in another Eurolife institution and perform research for a period equal to or longer than 2 weeks (10 working days). In 2022, Eurolife offered 18 grants and the amount of support per grant was EUR 1,500 per researcher. Each Eurolife institution conducted its own selection

The call was published respectively on 6 October 2022 for mobility between 1 March – 31 December 2023.

Three researchers were granted support:

Institution	
Home University	Host University
University of Barcelona	University of Edinburgh
Karolinska Institutet	University of Edinburgh
Trinity College Dublin	University of Edinburgh

The table presents the distribution of grants in the 8<sup>th</sup> round between the partner universities.

#### 4.2. Eurolife Scholarship Program for Early Career Researchers

The Memorandum of Understanding between Eurolife partners for the Exchange of Early Career Researchers was signed at the end of 2017. The scholarship facilitates research stays in laboratories of other Eurolife partners. Each institution (in case of having available funds for this initiative) adopts its own procedure and regulations. The Eurolife Coordinator has now also developed a template *Bilateral Agreement* for the purpose of this action.

### 5) Communication, dissemination of information and promotion

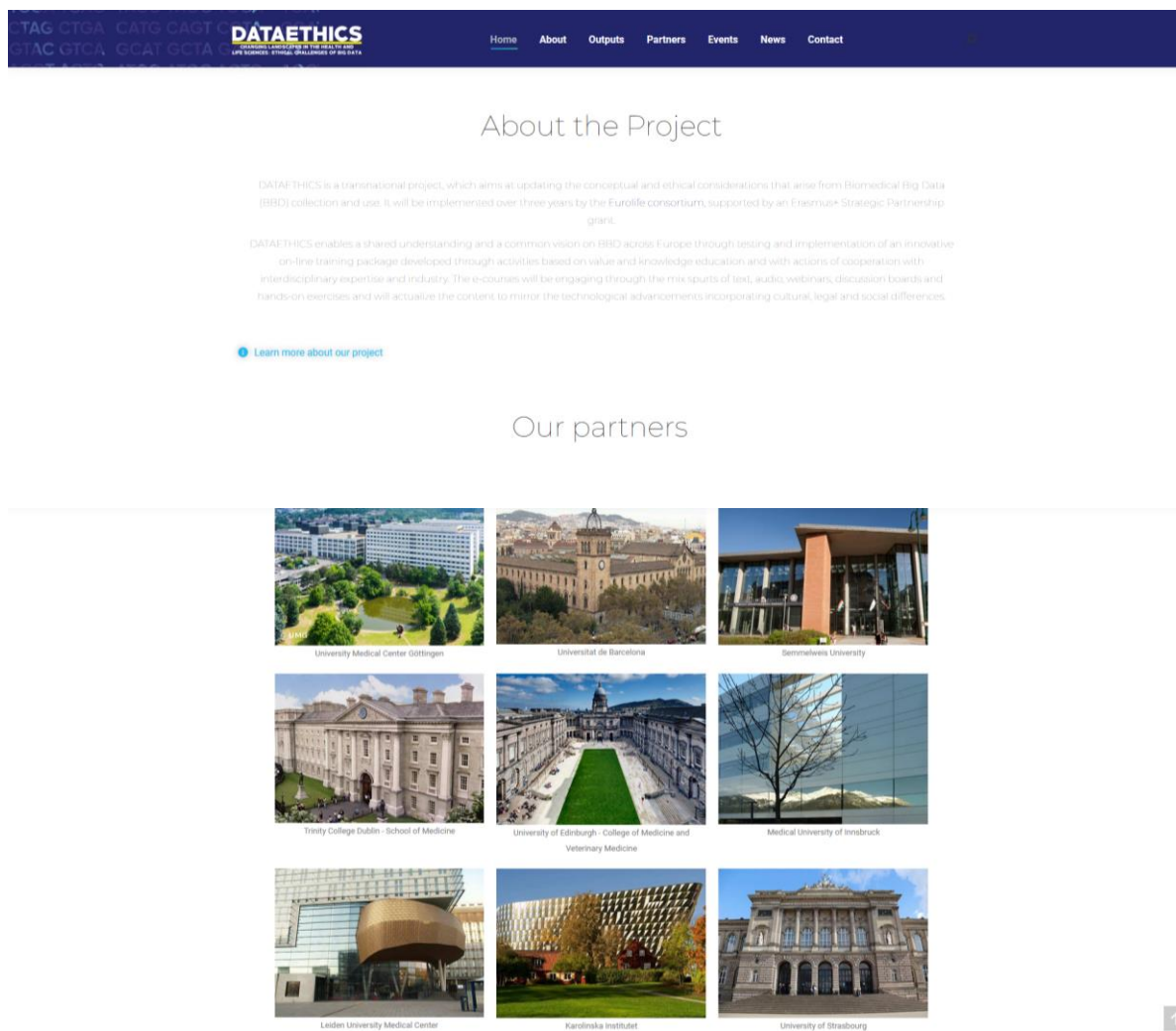
The Eurolife report 2020/2021 was finalised and published in Autumn 2022.

The communication tools of the Network:

- Eurolife semi-annual meetings
- Video conferences
- Eurolife website
- Institutional websites of Eurolife partners
- Emails
- Telephone calls
- Dropbox

Since 2020, Eurolife is also active on Twitter through its two accounts:  
@EurolifeORG  
@DataethicsEL

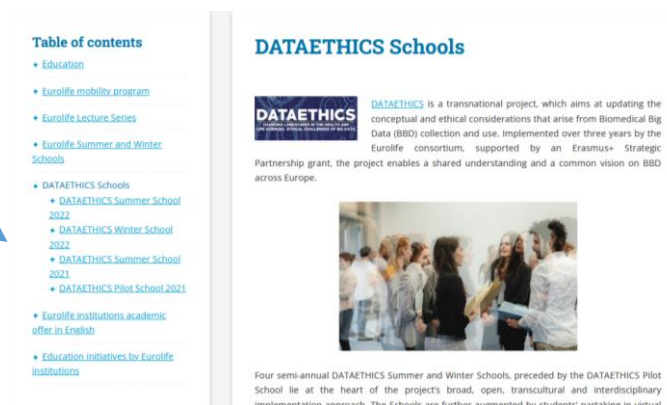
Also, the website of the Eurolife project DATAETHICS offers a new dissemination platform for the network and its activities.



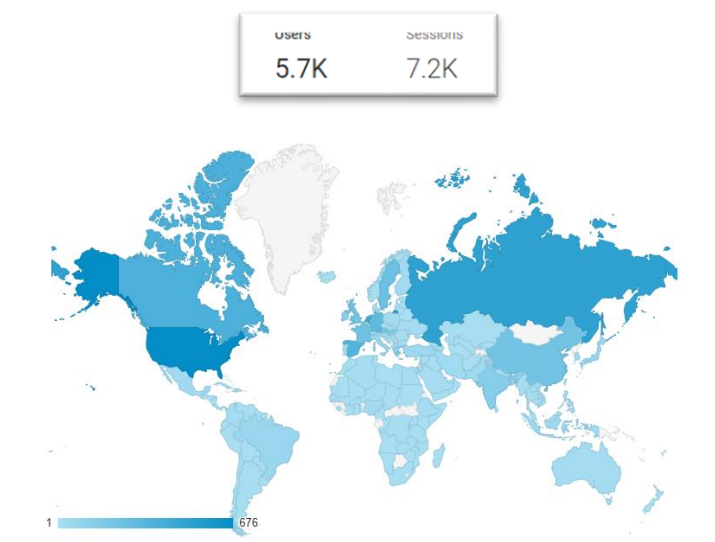
The in-person collaboration between Members is structured around meetings, held at partner institutions on rotation basis. The meetings create a communication platform for members to review the actions of the Network and quality of their implementation, as well as constitute an opportunity to develop and discuss new ideas, projects and enhancements. Regarding the Eurolife website, the agenda and the news sections have been permanently updated.

Eurolife continuously strives to improve the quality of its actions and communication platforms. In 2020, the Eurolife coordinator continued to redesign the individual sections of the Eurolife website to include a more detailed information on the Network and its

founding, as well as to allow for more transparent and effective information-sharing. Additional pages, and headings - also on the newly granted project DATAETHICS - were added to improve the clarity of the content of the website, as well as to provide more appropriate space for the relevant information. Following is a sample of the website enhancements:



According to the feedback received from the partners and grantees, the EuroLife website proves a strong source of information on the activities of the Network. Following is the 2022 annual data on the visits to the EuroLife website, as well as information on location of the users:



The information on the network and its activities, all open calls and testimonials is regularly updated on the institutional partner websites or shared through internal institutional communication channels.

Finally, the EuroLife Dropbox has been updated with new documents and folders.

## 6) Eurolife quality assurance

The Eurolife coordinator designed and implemented a number of quality assurance and monitoring activities.

### Purpose of Quality Assurance and Monitoring

- Revision of the objectives of the Network
- Revision of actions with respect to established objectives → identification of problems → corrective actions
- Success of actions, achievements of objectives and dissemination of Best Practice

Implemented evaluation activities - evaluation methodology based on five development assistance criteria:

1. Relevance of the actions
2. Efficiency of the implementation of the actions
3. Effectiveness of the implementation and actions
4. Impact of the actions
5. Sustainability

The Coordinator has designed and every couple of years implements post-mobility Grantee survey, where she reviews and analyzes the Eurolife mobility actions. The collected results are analyzed by the partnership and further improvements and enhancement of the collaborative activities are discussed accordingly.

The Network also implemented further evaluation tools, to ensure the quality of the implementation of its actions. In 2018, Eurolife introduced Eurolife video testimonials filmed on the occasion of each Eurolife Summer/Winter School. The partnership produced one new video in 2022, filmed on the occasion of the Eurolife DATAETHICS Summer School.

In addition, the survey results upon the completion of Eurolife Summer/Winter Schools were collected by the Eurolife Education Alliance and uploaded into a post-event report, later analyzed and reviewed by the Eurolife members. The findings are taken into an account when planning the next schools.

## 7) Facts and Figures

### Eurolife mobility program

	<b>2021/2022&amp;2022/2023</b>
Exchange of BSc and MSc	14

### Eurolife Postdoc Mobility and Knowledge Exchange grants

	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Round</b>
Number of grants	7

### Eurolife DATAETHICS Schools 2022

<b>Eurolife DATAETHICS Summer School</b>	<b>2022</b>
Number of grants	26
<b>Eurolife DATAETHICS Winter School</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>
Number of grants	30

### Website

	<b>2022</b>
Number of news	7