

# **EUROLIFE Report 2017**

**5 February 2018**

It is my pleasure to introduce this year the Annual Report on the activities and achievements of the Eurolife network. Eurolife has the mission to promote an advanced scientific and educational progress in all fields of biomedicine and medicine. Eurolife institutions are world leaders in higher education and have a strong commitment to internationalisation as confirmed through their active global policies.

This year, Eurolife has increased in size due to the incorporation of Semmelweis University, a biomedical-oriented institution of higher education. The Hungarian public university is highly ranked by domestic and international evaluators as well. Moreover, almost third parts of their 11,000 students are international and come from 78 countries. This reaffirms that Eurolife institutions are firmly open to the world.

We are striving to encourage the emergence of promising young talents and hence to become even more attractive for excellent students. This commitment is being fulfilled in part through the Eurolife mobility programme, which gives BSc and MSc students the opportunity to carry out the practical part of their studies at one of the other Eurolife institutions. Similarly, the short-term Eurolife research exchanges programme supports research internships for junior scientists.

Understanding the great opportunity that summer schools represent for MSc and PhD students, the network has supported the organisation of the first Eurolife Summer School which was devoted to the antimicrobial drug resistance field. One of the main aims of this course was to strengthen ties among Eurolife universities. This year's edition marked the launch of this initiative with the participation of around 35 students from 13 countries.

We recognize that the success of the network is founded on an active partnership between all Eurolife institutions. I will be delighted to see how the aspirations and actions set in motion during the UB coordination period influence the new Chair. I know he will strive to achieve the maximum impact with the resources entrusted to him.

The University of Barcelona ends its mission as Eurolife coordinator very pleased. We have been extremely fortunate to work with such passionate and inspiring colleagues. They have been instrumental to the success of the network and their continuing support will be central to a successful and rewarding future.

I am absolutely confident that the commitment of the Eurolife partners will continue to contribute to enhancing the international position of the network.

Professor Francisco Ciruela  
Chair of Eurolife (2017)

Barcelona, January 2018

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## 1) Introduction

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:

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

Semmelweis University (Budapest, Hungary) joins Eurolife according to the decision taken in the Eurolife Steering Committee meeting, which took place on November 9, 2016 in Göttingen (Germany). Semmelweis University became a full member of the network on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## 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

## **Governance and management**

During 2017, the University of Barcelona remained as the Eurolife coordinating institution. Thus, Prof Dr Francisco Ciruela (UB rector's Delegate for Research Strategy Actions and LERU Senior Officer for the UB from February 13, 2017) has been the Chair of the network throughout the year.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Eurolife Collaboration Agreement, valid for the period 2015-2017, has been reviewed and amended. The 6<sup>th</sup> Eurolife Collaboration Agreement (2018-2020) has been signed at the end of 2017.

### ***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
2018-2020	University Medical Center Göttingen

### ***Changes in the Steering Committee***

New Eurolife representatives have been appointed during 2017: Prof Dr Francisco Ciruela (UB rector's Delegate for Research Strategy Actions and LERU Senior Officer for the UB) from University of Barcelona, Prof Dr Lennart Nilsson (Pro-Dean and Vice-Chair of the Board of Doctoral Education) from Karolinska Institutet and Prof Dr László Hunyady (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine) from Semmelweis University.

### ***Changes on the Administrators***

New Eurolife representatives have been appointed during 2017: Ms Ginevra Triolo (Project Manager at the Department for Interational Realations / EU-Liaison Office) from University Medical Center of Göttingen, Ms Ágnes Fésüs (Directorate of Innovation) from January 2017 to September 2017 and Dr Karolina Kalocsai (Directorate of Innovation) since October 2017, both from Semmelweis University.

## **2) Activities**

### **Philosophy of joint activities**

The Eurolife institutions undertake joint activities, preferably involving all parties. However, institutions may choose not to participate or participate only to a small degree in the different proposed activities. This can be the case where the joint activity is not in line with the strategy of the institution, when finances for the activity cannot be arranged, or when the institution is subject to rules that prevent it from complete participation. This is the case for the Eurolife scholarship for early career researchers, where not all

institutions have funding available to provide the scholarship, but all institutions are, in principle, willing to receive candidates.

## **General**

Eurolife representatives have had the chance to listen to several speakers from the different Eurolife institutions at the meetings that have been organised during the year.

- Research and teaching at UNISTRA. Prof Joern Pütz, Acting as Vice-President for Franco-German affairs, biochemist, and UNISTRA representative at the Eurolife Education Alliance.  
*Steering Committee Meeting*. Strasbourg, May 2017.
- Institute of Neurosciences of the UB. Dr Cristina Pulido, Research Promotion Officer of the institute.  
*Administrators' Meeting*. Barcelona, October 2017.
- Institute of Biomedicine of the University of Barcelona (IBUB). Prof Marçal Pastor, Director of the IBUB.  
*Steering Committee Meeting*. Barcelona, October 2017.

### **a. Eurolife Education Alliance (EEA)**

Recognising the need for increasing collaboration and mobility of undergraduates and master students within Europe, Eurolife established the Eurolife Education Alliance (EEA). The EEA is working towards streamlining of educational policies.

#### ***Changes on the Eurolife Education Alliance***

A new Eurolife representative has been appointed: Prof Dr András Matolcsy (Director of the 1<sup>st</sup> Department of Pathology and Experimental Cancer Research) from Semmelweis University. Furthermore, Dr Amparo Cortés (UB) has been designated Chair of the EEA in 2017.

### **i. Mobility programmes**

During the year, a six-step proposal to improve and expose EEA cooperation to boost student and academic staff mobility has been widely developed.

Eurolife institutions have been encouraged to update previous Erasmus+ agreements or to sign new ones. Furthermore, in order to stimulate student exchange, it was decided to award a small grant to students that perform a research internship in a partner institution. Therefore, a maximum of three (3) undergraduates or master students per institution and academic year are selected for internal scholarships for stays at one Eurolife partner institution that have agreed to host them. These students, that are internally selected based on their academic merit, are awarded 500€ after the internship is finished.

In the academic year 2016-2017, four (4) bachelor and master students have been granted scholarships. Moreover, seven (7) students that will perform a research exchange at one Eurolife institution in the academic year 2017-2018 have been granted scholarships during the year 2017.

Regarding the exchange of BSc and MSc students via the Erasmus+ programme, in the academic year 2016-2017, sixty-one (61) bachelor and master students have participated in the Erasmus+ mobility programme between Eurolife institutions.

Not all the universities contribute equally to the intra network student mobility.

## **ii. Eurolife Summer School 2017**

The topic of the First Eurolife Summer School was “**Antimicrobial Drug Resistance – Research and Innovation**” and was held from July 10-14, 2017 at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Barcelona. Prof Jordi Vila from the UB and the Institute of Global Health of Barcelona (ISGlobal) organized the course which was addressed to Master and PhD students.

The Eurolife partners ran internal calls in order to select students to take part in the course. The network sponsored 27 grants (registration fee) to attend the Summer School. Finally, 25 students were selected. The registration included all course materials, accommodation and some meals.

## **iii. Eurolife Summer School 2018**

In order to select a suitable summer 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 call for proposals for the second **Eurolife Summer School 2018** has resulted in three applications, accidentally all from LUMC. Finally, the proposal by Prof. Peter ten Dijke entitled “**Molecular Mechanisms in Cancer – Translating Discoveries into Personalised Therapies**” was selected. The proposal presents the most complete and high-level programme, includes intensive interaction with professors from other Eurolife partners, as well as pitch presentations by the students, and targets one of the main Eurolife research themes (i.e. Oncology). The course will be held in Leiden from July 9-13, 2017.

Each of the nine Eurolife institutions can select up to three of their MSc/PhD students to join this Summer School. Eurolife will cover the attendance fee for these 27 participants (including accommodation and meals).

## **b. Eurolife Distinguished Lecture Series**

The Eurolife Distinguished Lecture Series (EDLS) offers a platform for inviting distinguished researchers from other Eurolife Universities to present cutting-edge

research at one host Eurolife University. The format of the Series allows 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.

In 2017, three EDL were organised. An overview of the lectures is given in the table below.

**"Cell circuits of viral infection and therapeutic targets"**

Prof Thomas Baumert, Professor of Medicine, Head of the Inserm Research Institute for Viral and Liver Diseases (Inserm U1110), Director of the Laboratory of Excellence HEPSYS at the University of Strasbourg and Chair of Hepatology at the Centre for Digestive Disease and Hepatology at the Strasbourg University Hospitals. University of Strasbourg, France.



Host: *University of Strasbourg, France.*

Date: 15th May 2017

This EDL was included within a **Eurolife Minisymposium** organised by the *University of Strasbourg* which was held during the Eurolife meeting (Strasbourg, May 2017).

The minisymposium included the following presentations:

- **"Genetics of graft-versus-host disease"**  
Dr Raphael Carapito. Research Unit UMR1109: Molecular Immuno-Rheumatology. Faculty of Medicine, Inserm - University of Strasbourg.
- **"Functional analysis of macrophages and dendritic cells of skin and draining lymph nodes"**  
Dr Christopher Mueller. Research Unit UPR3572: Immunopathologie et Chimie Thérapeutique. IBMC du CNRS, University of Strasbourg.
- **"Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and the metabolic hypothesis"**  
Dr Gonzalez de Aguilar. Research Unit UMR1118: Central and Peripheral Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration. Faculty of Medicine, Inserm - University of Strasbourg.
- **"Staphylococcus aureus as a model bacteria to analyze persistence, virulence, and antibiotic resistance"**  
Dr Pascale Romby. Research Unit UPR9002: Architecture et réactivité de l'ARN IBMC du CNRS, University of Strasbourg



**“Monoamines and Galanin: Coexisting and Role in Depression “– Eurolife Lecture / Farewell event**

Prof Dr Tomas Hökfelt, Professor Emeritus of Histology Neurology at the Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Host: *Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria.*

Date: October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017



**”5 – HT1BR/p11 and GPR37 as targets in Parkinson’s disease”**

Prof Per Svenningsson, Professor of Neurology at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience at the Karolinska Institutet and in the Department of Neurology at Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden.

Host: *University of Barcelona, Spain.*

Date: October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017



This EDL has been included in a **Eurolife Minisymposium** entitled “A Journey Through Neuroscience”, that was organised by the *University of Barcelona*, the *Institute of Neurosciences* of the UB and the master’s degree program in *Neurosciences* and was held during the Eurolife meeting (Barcelona, October 2017).

The minisymposium included the following presentations:

- **“Tight temporal coupling between synaptic rewiring and the emergence of behaviour”**  
Dr Artur Llobet, Department of Pathology and Experimental Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Institute of Neurosciences, UB. Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBELL).
- **“Evaluation of neuroprotective new chemical entities in *in vivo* models of aging and senescence: Targeting 11 $\beta$ -Hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase 1 and I2-Imidazoline receptor”**  
Prof Mercè Pallàs, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutic Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences, Institute of Neurosciences, UB.
- **“Healthy aging and cerebrovascular disease”**

Dr Maria Mataró, Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology, Faculty of Psychology, Institute of Neurosciences, UB.

- **“Pluripotent stem cells for modeling neurodegenerative disorders and cell replacement strategies”**

Dr Josep M. Canals, Department of Biomedicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Institute of Neurosciences, UB. Director of Creatio.

### c. Research

Several initiatives have been developed during 2017. The scope of these includes actions at different levels (junior and senior research staff) at the Eurolife universities.

#### i. Short-term research exchanges

This action is addressed to junior scientists. The goal of the call “Short-term Eurolife Research Exchanges – 2nd round” was to facilitate further research collaboration between Eurolife member organisations. The grants support travel and living expenses for junior researchers (post-docs within the first 8 years of employment after having received their PhD) to work in another Eurolife laboratory and perform research for a period equal or longer than 2 weeks (10 working days) between 1 May 2017 and 31 December 2017. The number of grants was limited to 9 and the amount of support per grant was 1,500€ per researcher. Each university conducted its own selection. The call was published at the beginning of 2017 and the final decision was taken on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Seven (7) researchers were granted support: 1 from SE, 1 from UB, 1 from UMG and 4 from LUMC.

The selected researchers are listed in the table below:

EUROLIFE Institution	Researcher	Institution	PI host institution	Title	From/to
Semmelweis University	András Terebessy	Trinity College Dublin	Joe Barry	Attitude change towards alcohol after self-intervention	01/06/2017-30/06/2017
University of Barcelona	Ariadna Padró Miquel	Leiden University Medical Center	Johan Den Dunnen	Identification of causal sequence variants in human exomes	30/10/2017-10/11/2017
University Medical Center Göttingen	Donatella Silke Kinzel	Medical University Innsbruck	Markus Reindl	To explore opsonization of human CNS-reactive antibodies by cell-based expression of CNS antigens	04/09/2017-29/09/2017
Leiden University Medical Center	Sven Mieog	University of Strasbourg	Sylvain Gioux	Improvements in Quantification of Near-Infrared Fluorescence Guidance during Cancer Surgery	06/11/2017-17/11/2017
Leiden University Medical Center	Jan Kroon	University of Edinburgh	Brian Walker	Androgen transport in adipocytes: interactions between glucocorticoid and androgen signalling pathways	09/10/2017-25/10/2017

<b>Leiden University Medical Center</b>	Ting Shi	University of Edinburgh	Aziz Sheikh	E-health applications supporting self-management in adolescents with asthma	12/06/2017-26/06/2017
<b>Leiden University Medical Center</b>	Konda Babu Kurakula	University of Barcelona	J. Albert Barberà	Isolation and culturing endothelial cells from pulmonary arterial hypertension patients	20/10/2017-03/11/2017

## ii. Eurolife kick-start grants

A call to promote participation of the researchers in European projects has continued to be open. 40,000€ of the Eurolife funding have been devoted to the action “Kick-start grants to boost Eurolife member collaboration and participation in research projects within the frame of the Horizon 2020 programme”.

The grant, which was intended to be used for covering initial costs for preparing a grant application within H2020, which must include at least 3 Eurolife institutions, was broadened to include other international funding programmes. Since no proposals were submitted during 2017, the call was open until December 31, 2017.

## iii. Eurolife Scholarship for Early Career Researchers

A new Memorandum of Understanding between Eurolife partners for the Exchange of Early Career Researchers was signed at the end of 2017. Since Semmelweis University is not included in the MoU, an annex has been prepared to be signed by them.

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.

## d. Communication

The Eurolife report 2016 was finalised and presented in May 2017.

Regarding the Eurolife website, the agenda and the news sections have been permanently updated. Moreover, the following news items were published on the website during the course of the year:

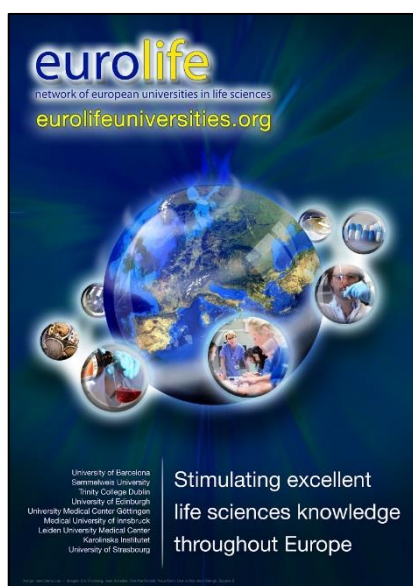
- Extended call. Kick-start grants to boost Eurolife member collaboration and participation in research projects within the Horizon 2020 framework programme. Published *January 10, 2017*.
- Short-term Eurolife Research Exchanges. 2nd round – 2017. Published *January 13, 2017*.
- Semmelweis University joins Eurolife. Published *January 23, 2017*.
- XI International Seminar on the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights: “Big Data in Health”. Published *February 16, 2017*.

- LUMC participates in LEaDing Fellows Postdocs Programme (90 positions) – 1st call is open. Published *February 22, 2017*.
- Eurolife Summer School 2017. Published *February 28, 2017*.
- Marit's experience – Eurolife mobility programme 2016-2017. Published *March 23, 2017*.
- Result. Short-term Eurolife Research Exchanges. 2nd round - 2017. Published *April 20, 2017*.
- Eurolife Minisymposium and Distinguished Lecture at UNISTRA. Published *May 9, 2017*.
- The University of Strasbourg hosts the Eurolife Meeting. Published *May 18, 2017*.
- Cell circuits of viral infection and therapeutic targets. Published *May 29, 2017*.
- Launch of the EUROLIFE Report 2016. Published *June 14, 2017*.
- University of Barcelona holds the first Eurolife Summer School on antimicrobial resistance. Published *July 10, 2017*.
- Summer schools from Eurolife institutions (2016-2017). Published *July 18, 2017*.
- The first edition of the Eurolife Summer School gathered more than 50 students and speakers from more than 15 countries. Published *July 24, 2017*.
- Leiden to be European City of Science in 2022. Published *August 14, 2017*.
- Ilse's experience – Eurolife Summer School 2017. Published *August 29, 2017*.
- Call for proposals 'University of Strasbourg Institute of Advanced Science (USIAS)' Fellowships 2018. Published *September 12, 2017*.
- Eurolife Autumn Symposium: A journey through Neuroscience. Published *October 10, 2017*.
- Monoamines and Galanin: Coexisting and Role in Depression – Farewell Events (Eurolife Lecture). Published *October 16, 2017*.
- UB finishes the coordination of the network holding the autumn Eurolife meeting. Published *October 27, 2017*.
- 5 – HT1BR/p11 and GPR37 as targets in Parkinson's disease. Published *November 2, 2017*.
- LUMC will host the Eurolife Summer School 2018. Published *November 7, 2017*.
- Extended call – International funding programmes. Kick-start grants to boost Eurolife member collaboration and participation in research projects. Published *November 10, 2017*.
- LEaDing Fellows Postdocs Programme: second call is open now. Published *November 13, 2017*.
- Eurolife Scholarship Programme for Early Career Researchers. Published *November 15, 2017*.

- Collaboration between different areas is very important to be competitive and produce new knowledge. Published *November 21, 2017*.
- Short-term Eurolife Research Exchanges. 3rd round – 2018. Published *November 27, 2017*.
- Education for international students at LUMC. Published *December 4, 2017*.
- Eurolife wishes you happy winter holidays. Published *December 20, 2017*.

In addition, the Research section of the website was reorganised for a better display of the contents. Three common research topics (Oncology, Neurosciences and Immunology and Infection) have been included within a new subsection (Eurolife main research themes). For each topic, a selection of research profiles from the Eurolife institutions is presented.

Furthermore, a poster has been designed in order to increase the visibility of Eurolife even more within the Eurolife institutions.



Eurolife poster

Finally, the Eurolife Dropbox has been updated with new documents.

### 3) Facts and Figures

#### a. Student exchanges (Erasmus+ mobility programme between Eurolife institutions)

	2016/2017
Exchange of BSc and MSc	61

	2016/2017	UoE	TCD	LUMC	KI	UMG	MUI	UNISTRA	UB
<b>E</b>	<b>UoE</b>		-	2	-	-	-	-	-

<b>TCD</b>	-		-	2	-	-	-	-
<b>LUMC</b>	9	-		15	-	-	1	-
<b>KI</b>	2	3	7		-	-	-	-
<b>UMG</b>	-	2	-	1		2	-	-
<b>MUI</b>	1	-	-	1	2		-	-
<b>UNISTRA</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
<b>UB</b>	-	-	4	7	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL: 61</b>								

**b. Eurolife mobility program**

	<b>2016/2017</b>
Exchange of BSc and MSc	4

	<b>2017/2018*</b>
Exchange of BSc and MSc	8

**c. EDLS**

<b>Eurolife Distinguished Lectures</b>	<b>2017</b>
	3

**d. Short-term research exchanges**

	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> round -2017</b>
Number of grants	7

**e. Eurolife Summer School 2017**

	<b>2017</b>
Number of grants	25 MSc and PhD students

**f. Website**

	<b>2017</b>
Number of news	30

**g. European research projects**

In total, there are XX active projects (xx in FP7 and xx in H2020) with at least two Eurolife participants. The Eurolife network does not necessarily facilitate these projects.

Some of the 2017 projects which include a collaboration of a minimum of 3 researchers located at the Eurolife partners are:

- **EHVA.** European HIV Vaccine Alliance: a EU platform for the discovery and evaluation of novel prophylactic and therapeutic vaccine candidates. H2020-PHC-2015-single-stage-RTD, Start date: 01-01-2016; End date: 31-12-2020  
MUI – UB – KI-UNISTRA
- **RTCure.** Rheuma Tolerance for Cure. H2020-JTI-IMI2-2016-09-two-stage. Start date: 01-09-2017; End date: 31-08-2022  
KI (coordinator)-LUMC-SE

The table below represents the collaboration (active in 2017) between Eurolife partners in FP7 projects:

	UoE	TCD	LUMC	KI	UMG	MUI	UNISTRA	UB	SE
UoE		1	2	3		1	-	-	-
TCD	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LUMC	-	-		6	1	1	-	-	-
KI	-	-	6		3	1	-	3	-
UMG	-	-	1	3		1	-	1	-
MUI	-	-	1	1	1		-	1	1
UNISTRA	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
UB	-	-	-	-		-	-		-
SE	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
TOTAL	(4)	1 (1)	10 (8)	13(11)	6(4)	4 (4)	0 (0)	5 (3)	1 (1)

\*Numbers in brackets represent the total number of projects, in which each Partner is involved.

The table below represents the collaboration between Eurolife partners in H2020 projects (active in 2017):

	UoE	TCD	LUMC	KI	UMG	MUI	UNISTRA	UB	SE
UoE		1	5	7	-	2	-	5	
TCD	-		-	3	-	-	1	-	1
LUMC	1	1		10	1	2	-	4	1
KI	-	4	10		1	4	3	6	1
UMG	-	-	3	1		-	-	-	-
MUI	1	-	3	5	-		1	4	-
UNISTRA	-	1	-	1	-	1		1	-
UB	-	1	4	4	-	1	-		1
SE	-	1	1	1		-	-	1	
TOTAL	2 (17)	9 (8)	26(17)	32 (22)	2 (2)	9(5)	5 (3)	21 (12)	4 (4)

\*Numbers in brackets represent the total number of projects, in which each Partner is involved.



## h. ERC grants

The table below represents the number of ERC Grants (biomedical research) active in 2017:

	UoE	TCD	LUMC	KI	UMG	MUI	UNISTRA	UB	SE
<b>StG</b>	5	9	5	14	4	-	9	2	3
<b>CoG</b>	1	7	3	6	2	-	6	-	-
<b>AdG</b>	5	6	5	11	2	-	7	1	-
<b>PoC</b>	-	2	1	2	-	-	1	2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

StG: ERC Starting Grants; CoG: ERC Consolidator Grants; AdG: ERC Advanced Grants; PoC: ERC Proof of concept.

## i. Eurolife meetings

- Steering Committee meetings
  - 16 May 2017, Strasbourg
  - 25 October 2017, Barcelona
  - Planned for 2018:
  - 15 May 2018, Budapest
- Administrators and Eurolife Education Alliance (EEA) meetings
  - 15 May 2017, Strasbourg
  - 24 October 2017, Barcelona
  - Planned for 2018:
  - 14 May 2018, Budapest

## 4) Future Challenges

Eurolife institutions will need to address the following main challenges:

- Academic excellence at an international scale

All the institutions will need to work together in order to find ways to not only maintain academic excellence, but also develop innovative, multidisciplinary and transnational approaches in their teaching and research. Eurolife initiatives and activities should contribute to add value by providing opportunities to students and staff that would otherwise not arise.

- Strengthen research ties between the Eurolife institutions

Recent new attempts to stimulate interaction between researchers at the different Eurolife institutions (e.g., “Kick-start grants”) have, until now, not been successful at stimulating new interactions and joint funding. In the coming years, new and creative approaches (e.g., through teacher exchanges, joint summer schools on cutting edge topics), etc. will need to be tested for their potential to facilitate new interactions at a



“grassroots” level directly between individual scientific investigators. Further novel concepts will be needed to maximize the potential of the established Eurolife connections.

- Academic talent and workforce structure

Eurolife institutions will need to attract new talent to reinforce this workforce, and at the same time build a new workforce structure that can support new educational models. Eurolife activities will build on and strengthen existing relationships.

The challenges for the Eurolife representatives are:

- To consolidate the organisation of annual Eurolife Summer/Winter School focused on cutting-edge research.
- To strengthen the Eurolife initiatives initiated during the last years.
- To support an effective and stable student exchange program.
- To increase the Eurolife visibility at the institutions and to constantly keep the website up to date with current information.
- To review the Eurolife General Agreement in order to successfully start a new coordination period (2018-2020).