Building a Transnational Research Community in Central and Eastern European Life Sciences:

The Contribution of the University of Zagreb School of Medicine to the Alliance4Life_BRIDGE Project

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THE CHALLENGE

Persistent research and innovation gaps between Western and Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries cannot be reduced by funding and policy alone.

Sustainable change requires communities of practice.

THE RESPONSE

Alliance4Life_BRIDGE creates the space for institutions, researchers and society to openly share infrastructures, expertise and responsibility.

Together we build a transnational research community.

THE ALLIANCE AS COMMUNITY SPACE

Connecting progressive institutions, researchers, doctoral candidates, mentors, experts and societal actors across CEE and beyond

INSTITUTIONS ↔ RESEARCHERS ↔ DOCTORAL CANDIDATES ↔ INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS ↔ SOCIETAL ACTORS

Shared governance • Shared expertise • Shared responsability

THREE COMMUNITY-BUILDING COMPONENTS

1 SHARED DOCTORAL EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Opening access to expertise and ensuring transnational peer review in doctoral education.

MENTOR DATABASE
THESIS COMMITTEE DATABASE

International expertise
Transnational peer review

COMMUNITY EFFECT
Openness • Mentorship
Transparency • Research Integrity

2 VIRTUAL RESEARCH CENTRE

Turning distributed expertise into collaboration.

ONLINE SEMINARS
JOURNAL CLUBS
MINI CONFERENCES
COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES
JOINT PROJECT IDEAS & RESEARCH PLANNING
SEED FUND & OPEN CALLS

COMMUNITY EFFECT
Interaction • Knowledge exchange
Collaboration • Shared outputs

3 ALLIANCE-BASED CAPACITY & COMMUNITY BUILDING

Building capacity through shared learning and transnational community.

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME DIRECTORS & EARLY-CAREER MENTORS
WORKSHOPS
SHARED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
COMMON STANDARDS
CAPACITY BUILDING
LEARNING ACROSS INSTITUTIONS

COMMUNITY EFFECT
Training • Shared resources
Integrity • Community

FROM INFRASTRUCTURES TO COMMUNITY TO PRACTICE

ACCESS → Expertise becomes available across borders.

INTERACTION → Researchers meet in virtual and real spaces.

RECIPROCITY → Institutions contribute and benefit mutually.

TRUST → Relationships deepen through shared experience.

SHARED PRACTICE → Common standards and Open Science become practice.

RESEARCH CULTURE → Open and responsible research becomes our culture.

THREE LESSONS FOR OTHER RESEARCH COMMUNITIES

1 OPENNESS NEEDS INFRASTRUCTURE

Shared infrastructures turn Open Science principles into everyday research practice.

2 DOCTORAL EDUCATION SHAPES RESEARCH CULTURE

Doctoral education is a strategic entry point: mentorship, evaluation and integrity shape the future of scholarly communication.

3 ALLIANCES ENABLE COMMUNITY AT SCALE

Transnational collaboration provides expertise, continuity and shared responsibility beyond individual institutions.

FROM TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATION TO SHARED RESEARCH CULTURE

Building a sustainable open scholarly communication community in life sciences

Alliance4Life

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