



NEWSLETTER ^{#ISSUE 4}

“Bringing Excellence
to Transformative
Socially Engaged Research
in Life Sciences
through Integrated Digital
Centers” 2022-2025



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September 2024



Meet BETTER Life partners

CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE (CZU)
Czechia



MARTIN LUTHER UNIVERSITY HALLE-WITTENBERG (MLU)
Germany



MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT
HALLE-WITTENBERG

UNIVERSITY OF CAMERINO (UNICAM)
Italy



**ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR ENGAGED AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITIES (ACEEU)**
Germany



ESTONIAN UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES (EMU)
Estonia



DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITY (DU)
Latvia



POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES (PULS)
Poland



HELIXCONNECT EUROPE (HELIXCONNECT)
Romania



EDUCONS UNIVERSITY (EDUCONS)
Serbia



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Enhancing Collaboration: BETTER Life Project Unites Early Career Researchers and Non- Academic Sectors Through Digital Innovation



BETTER Life Project addresses the lack of collaboration between early career researchers and the non-academic sectors by designing tools, standards, and framework conditions. These tools will help implement the solutions in the regional ecosystems. We are offering a Digital Centre with hands-on toolkits for supporting #socialengagement of early career researchers (<https://www.better-life-digital.eu/>). All our toolkits are publicly available here: <https://www.better-life-digital.eu/toolkit/>.

The Helixconnect Europe team, Emilia Binchiciu and Adrain Solomon, recently visited and continue to collaborate with the Educons University team —Dr. Andrea Andrejevic Panic, Dr. Gordana Racic, Danica Mulić, Dr. Vladan Rankov, and Dr. Aleksandra Rankov, in order to expand the BETTER Life project offerings with a state-of-the-art #AI-assisted tool designed specifically for #EarlyCareerResearchers and students.

ACEEU contributes a conceptual engagement path that will guide the tool development along the main phases of SER in collaboration with Helixconnect and Educons. This innovative tool is optimised to understand ECR strengths and areas for growth, making their academic and career journey more targeted and effective

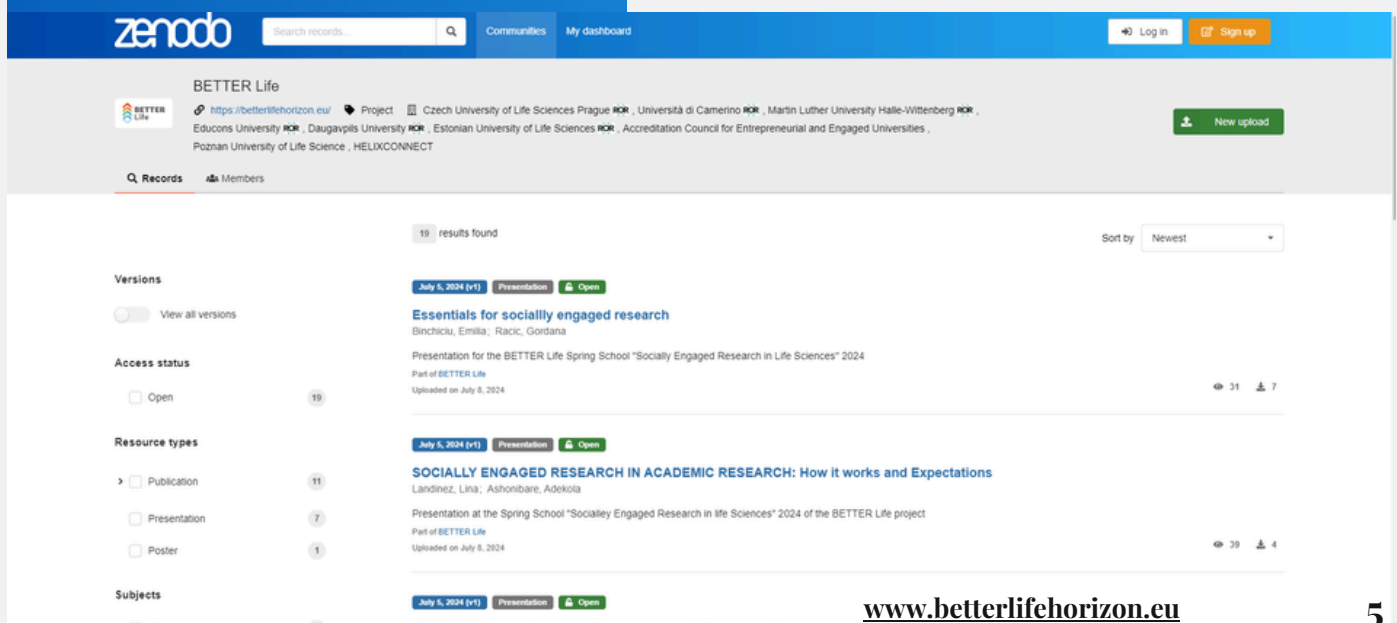
zenodo

BETTER Life on Zenodo

The BETTER Life project is now proudly featured on Zenodo, a leading open-access repository, where it continues its mission of advancing socially engaged research in life sciences. By hosting its resources on Zenodo, the project offers free access to a wealth of scientific data, reports, publications, and other valuable materials.

Zenodo's platform ensures that the resources are preserved and accessible for the long term, supporting the BETTER Life Project's goals of transparency, accessibility, and impact. As the project continues to grow, new content will be regularly added making Zenodo a key hub for those engaged in creating a better, more sustainable future.

Visit the [BETTER Life Community on Zenodo](#) to access the latest research and contribute to this vital initiative.



The screenshot shows the Zenodo interface for the BETTER Life project. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'Communities' and 'My dashboard'. The main header includes the Zenodo logo and a search bar. Below this, the project name 'BETTER Life' is displayed along with its URL and a list of participating institutions: Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Università di Camerino, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Educons University, Daugavpils University, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities, Poznan University of Life Science, and HELIXCONNECT. A 'New upload' button is visible on the right.

The main content area shows search results for 'BETTER Life'. It indicates '19 results found' and a 'Sort by' dropdown menu set to 'Newest'. The results are filtered by 'Versions' (19), 'Access status' (Open), and 'Resource types' (Publication: 11, Presentation: 7, Poster: 1). The first result is 'Essentials for socially engaged research' by Binchiciu, Emilia; Racic, Gordana, presented on July 5, 2024. The second result is 'SOCIALLY ENGAGED RESEARCH IN ACADEMIC RESEARCH: How it works and Expectations' by Landinez, Lina; Ashonibare, Adekola, also presented on July 5, 2024.



BETTER Life Annual Meeting in Halle, Germany

From May 14 to 16, 2024, the BETTER Life Annual Meeting in Halle, Germany, brought together all consortium members for a vibrant series of discussions, workshops, and networking sessions.

The first day featured a Reporting Review by CZU, followed by PULS leading a session on Think Tank and Mentorship initiatives, emphasizing innovation and professional development. A key highlight was the collaborative evaluation of Bootcamps involving all Higher Education Institutions. Participants then engaged in comprehensive updates on the Digital Centre of Excellence Toolkits 1-10, fostering interactive discussions. The day concluded with reflections on the Spring School initiative and a networking dinner enhancing professional connections.

The second day focused on planning the Summer School, with CZU spearheading discussions on ideas and practical arrangements. ACEEU facilitated a session on publication opportunities within the Triple Helix framework, opening new avenues for research dissemination. EDUCONS presented on WP5 activities, while DU led a session on dissemination strategies. The event culminated with an interactive workshop under WP7, facilitated by ACEEU and HELIXCONNECT, encouraging innovative brainstorming and collaboration.



The Annual Meeting 2024 provided valuable insights and strengthened professional networks. Attendees departed with a revitalized sense of direction and an abundance of fresh connections, eager to translate the shared ideas and strategies into action. Keep connected with the BETTER Life community via our website and social media platforms for continuous updates and avenues to contribute towards shaping the future of BETTER Life.

JOIN US SEPTEMBER 18-20

2024 ACEEU Europe-Africa Forum

📍 Location: Lisbon, Portugal

ACEEU Event in Lisbon with BETTER Life as a main partner

We are elated to announce the partnership of the BETTER Life project with ACEEU for the 2024 ACEEU Europe-Africa Forum (<https://forum.aceeu.org/europeafrica2024/>)!

Join us in the vibrant city of Lisbon, Portugal from September 18 to September 20, 2024 for an engaging and rewarding experience.

This year's theme is "Engaged Research and Intrapreneurship for Societal Impact: Creating Legacy Through Action" in order to boost synergy with the BETTER Life project's focus. Prof. Michal Lošťá from the BETTER Life's consortium will participate in a discussion panel on "Engaged Research for Societal Impact." He will share insights of the project and its contribution to engage research for societal impact.



2024 ACEEU Forum Europe-Africa

"Engaged Research and
Intrapreneurship for Societal Impact:
Creating legacy through action"

Stay tuned for more exciting updates in our upcoming newsletters — there's much more to come!

Bohemian Switzerland
National Park

Krkonoše National Park



Kostelec nad Černými lesy

Ecosystem Services, Tourism, Community Engagement and Conservation Strategies in National Park September 9 - 14, 2024

The BETTER Life project consortium is organizing a summer school in the Czech Republic from September 9-14, 2024 focusing on socially engaged research in life sciences and the social benefits of forest ecosystem services. This programme is open to all students regardless of their study field.

Participants will be engaged in a comprehensive curriculum that includes classroom lectures, workshops and field trips in the Czech National Park. The programme covers theoretical and practical aspects of socially engaged research, including challenges and the use of specialized toolkits. Students will address real-life issues in national parks, focusing on the balance between environmental preservation and economic interests.

Key components of the programme include field trips to Bohemian Switzerland and Krkonoše National Parks, where students will examine the impacts of tourism and ski resort expansion on natural environments. Activities will involve data collection, stakeholder interviews and an analysis. Participants will interact with local communities, business owners, and national park representatives to develop practical solutions.

BETTER
Life:
Summer
School



Development of an Internal Project Synergy Map



BETTER Life (BL) works towards uncovering dynamic measures to boost the adoption of project results among partners and ensure the project's long-term sustainability. With a full day of collaboration, co-creation and creativity at Halle University in Germany, an Internal Project Synergy Mapping exercise was conducted last April.

Key measures identified:

- Pool human capital and resources from similar projects to share tools and disseminate results for mutual benefit.
- Seek additional funding through initiatives such as "Hop On" and other grants to support ongoing cooperation and networking.
- Explore opportunities within university alliances in order to advance project goals.
- Host joint clustering activities and events with other projects to inspire and be inspired.
- Consider developing spin-offs or NGO's based on the BL project to sustain its objectives.
- Empower Early Career Researchers (ECR's) using the BL project resources. Together, we can shape the future of research!
- Build impactful networks by connecting ECR's with policymakers, businesses, and citizens. This is how innovation for real-world impact is born.
- Integrate BL tools into educational curricula to enhance teaching methods.

Echoing the synergy approach, ACEEU organized a webinar on July 25, 2024 to foster synergy among five EU-funded projects. The BETTER Life project was presented by Professor Michal Lošťák from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague.

The webinar was a resounding success, spotlighting the following collaborative opportunities to enhance project implementation and outcomes:

- Spread the word by sharing project event and training opportunities with partner networks to enhance collaborative reach.
- Tap into collective expertise by leveraging the strengths of various research groups within the partner network to strengthen future project proposal development.
- Stay in sync by organizing synergy meetings at regular intervals to remain updated on mutually beneficial opportunities.
- Unlock funding opportunities by exchanging information on shared interests.
- Explore opportunities for joint Transnational Project Meetings (TPM's) and Learning, Teaching, and Training Activities (LTTA's), where feasible.
- Expand project impact reach and deepen collaboration by organizing joint conferences;
- Explore the potential for joint publications to share our project results with a wider audience, including quadruple helix actors.

The consortium of the five projects agreed that these collaborative efforts have the potential to significantly enhance our projects' impact.

Driving Regional Innovation: Strengthening Collaboration Between Science and Business for Economic Growth

On June 26, 2024, Daugavpils University hosted a key discussion on fostering collaboration between academia and industry within the framework of Better Life project “Bringing Excellence to Transformative Socially Engaged Research in Life Sciences through Integrated Digital Centers”, WP4 Capacity Building and Community of Practice. The event, organized by Daugavpils University Research and Business Center “REBUS” in collaboration with the Latvian Investment and Development Agency (LIAA) Daugavpils office and the Latgale Planning Region Business Center, focused on leveraging scientific research to fuel business innovation and regional economic growth.

The session opened with remarks from prominent figures, including Daugavpils University Rector Arvīds Barševskis and Andrejs Zelčs from LIAA, who emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between research and business to drive innovation. Stakeholders from academia, government, business, and NGOs shared insights on how collaboration can create synergies that contribute to regional development.

Presentations highlighted available support for entrepreneurs and successful case studies of business-research partnerships that have led to innovative solutions. A key segment of the event involved World Café-style group discussions where participants explored how to align business needs with scientific offerings, enhance the regional innovation ecosystem, and improve collaboration between academia and industry. Participants proposed concrete steps, such as developing networks of facilitators, showcasing research success stories, and creating platforms for matchmaking between businesses and researchers.



The event concluded with open discussions and lab tours, providing practical insights into Daugavpils University’s ongoing research activities. This gathering underscored the importance of sustained dialogue between academia and business to promote regional innovation and economic growth.

www.better-life-digital.eu

www.betterlifehorizon.eu



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