

Thessaloniki, 18 June 2025

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Successful ELIXIR Annual Meeting Held in Thessaloniki Participation of 400 Scientists from Europe, Canada, and Australia**

The **11th annual ELIXIR meeting** took place in **Thessaloniki** from **June 2–5, 2025** with the participation of over **400 scientists and researchers** from across Europe, Canada, and Australia. ELIXIR is the **European Research Infrastructure for the Management and Analysis of Biological Data**, representing **22 countries**, with **INAB/CERTH** playing a key role as a member of the **Greek ELIXIR Node** and supporting the event's organization.

The main event, the **ELIXIR All Hands Meeting**, was hosted at the **Porto Palace Hotel** and organized by the **ELIXIR Hub** (coordinator of the European ELIXIR Infrastructure) with support from **INAB/CERTH**. Opening remarks were delivered by the **Deputy Minister of Development, Stavros Kalafatis** and the **Deputy Regional Governor for Digital Governance of Central Macedonia, Nikolaos Tzollas**.

The primary goal of the annual meeting was to **coordinate research and technological activities** across the broader infrastructure, covering a wide range of topics from **cancer research, biodiversity, and food security**, to **horizontal technological infrastructure** such as **FAIR data management, workflows, and research software**.

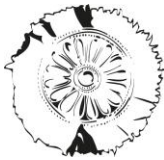
The **working sessions** went beyond traditional conference presentations, focusing instead on **collaborative discussions** on topics of shared interest, with participants frequently working in smaller groups to explore and solve specific research questions.

Special attention was given to **two keynote speeches**:

- **“Scaling Together – Canada’s Genomics Strategy for Collaboration Through Shared Data”** by **Naveed Aziz** (VP R&I, Genome Canada)
- **“Decoding Phenotypes at the Cell Type Level”** by **Irene Papatheodorou** (Earlham Institute/ELIXIR UK)

### **Active and Multifaceted Contribution by INAB/CERTH and Dr. Fotis Psomopoulos**

**Dr. Fotis Psomopoulos**, Principal Researcher at INAB/CERTH and **Deputy Head of the Greek ELIXIR Node**, played an active role in both **general event support** and **coordination/participation in eight specialized sessions**, covering topics such as:



- Quality and sustainability of research software
- “Digital twins” infrastructure
- The **DOME standard** and its application to machine learning solutions in cancer
- FAIR principles in data, software, and training
- Strategic planning for ELIXIR training through 2028
- Building an ecosystem for **FAIR Artificial Intelligence**
- Use of ontologies in cellular and molecular research
- Software Management Plans

### Three Satellite Events at CERTH Facilities

As part of the broader meeting, **three parallel satellite events** took place at CERTH facilities:

1. **ELIXIR Train-the-Trainer Workshop (May 29–30)**: Trainers from Greece, Germany, and the UK taught participants best practices for teaching in the life sciences.
2. **ELIXIR Odyssey F2F Workshop (May 30 – June 1)**: A collaboration between Greece and Norway focused on developing a molecular biodiversity data search platform, with 12 participants from CERTH, Democritus University of Thrace, HCMR, and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.
3. **ELIXIR STEERS F2F Meeting (June 6)**: Gathering of 15 representatives from Greece, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Belgium, France, and Italy. This activity is closely linked to the **EVERSE project of EOSC**, coordinated by INAB/CERTH.

Participants also had the opportunity to explore **Thessaloniki and the surrounding region**, including guided tours, visits to archaeological sites and museums, and a trip to the **Macedonian Tombs at Aiges**.

The **next ELIXIR annual meeting** will be held in **Lyon, France, in June 2026**.

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