

FORGENOM

Annual Workshop

Connecting Life Sciences: EMBL & ELIXIR Opportunities for Researchers

Date & Location

11 March 2026 | 13:00 – 16:30



Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava,
Ilkovičova 6, Bratislava, Lecture Hall B1 - 301.

Programme

- Opening of the event | **Jozef Masarik**, vice-rector of the Comenius University in Bratislava | **Peter Fedor**, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences
- EMBL (European Molecular Biology Laboratory) | **Maria Ananchenkova**, Senior International Relations Officer, EMBL | **Vladimir Benes**, Head of the Genomics Core facility, EMBL
- ELIXIR | **Andrew Smith**, Head of External Relations, ELIXIR Europe
- ELIXIR Czech Republic | **Jiri Vondrasek**, Head of ELIXIR CZ
- ELIXIR Slovakia | **Tomas Szemes**, Comenius University in Bratislava
- European Federation of Biochemical Societies (FEBS) | **Zdenko Levarski**, Comenius University in Bratislava
- Coffee & Networking



Coffee break | 14:30 - 14:50



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About the event

This event presents major European life sciences research infrastructures – **European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)** and **ELIXIR**. It aims to introduce researchers, research managers, and early-career scientists to the wide range of opportunities these infrastructures offer for conducting excellent research, accessing cutting-edge technologies, advanced data resources, training, and international collaboration.

This event is organised as an integral part of the **FORGENOM Annual Workshop 2026**.

The FORGENOM Annual Workshop

brings together researchers and students to share scientific results from their research work. The workshop also provides a space to discuss practical aspects of research, such as communication, publication, and open-access strategies. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge, receive constructive feedback, and develop their research and presentation skills in a supportive environment.

The Research Infrastructures

EMBL supports a wide range of life sciences disciplines, including molecular and cell biology, genetics, microbiology, infection biology, environmental biology, and interdisciplinary, technology-driven research.

ELIXIR enables cross-border access to life sciences data and large-scale computational analysis, with a strong focus on bioinformatics, genomics, health data, and systems biology.

ELIXIR Czech Republic coordinates national bioinformatics capacities, provides research data management and training, and supports collaboration in genomics and biomedical research within the European ELIXIR network.

A significant milestone is that Slovakia has become a full member of ELIXIR, and Comenius University in Bratislava coordinates the establishment of the national ELIXIR Slovakia node, strengthening Slovak participation in the European bioinformatics ecosystem.

The programme will also present FEBS and its role in supporting scientific excellence, training, networking, and researcher mobility across Europe. The event offers a platform for information exchange and networking for the Slovak and international life sciences community.



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