

CZ-SK webinár k výzve TWINNING 2026

5.2.2026

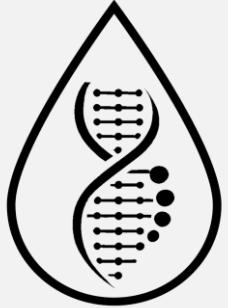
Projekt FORGENOM II

Doc. RNDr. Tomáš Szemes, PhD.

Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave



**Funded by
the European Union**



FORGENOM II

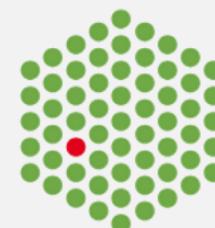
FORGENOM II

FOSTERING EXCELLENCE IN ADVANCED GENOMICS AND PROTEOMICS RESEARCH AT
COMENIUS UNIVERSITY IN BRATISLAVA



SCIENCE PARK
Comenius University
Bratislava

EMBL

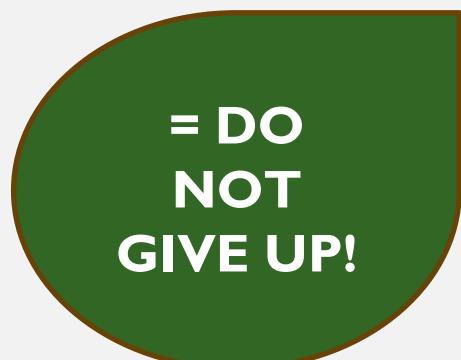


UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
BICOCCA DI MILANO

History

- Decision to submit the project based on prior experience.
- Previous **scientific collaborations** with international partners.
- Previous **project-based collaborations** with international partners.

- ▶ 1st attempt: FORGENOM
- ▶ Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03 – submitted 18. January 2022
- ▶ Results: NON-SUCCESSFUL! (Total score: 11, threshold = 10)
- ▶ 2nd submission:
- ▶ Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 – submitted 28. September 2023
- ▶ Results: SUCCESSFUL! (Total score: 13,50, threshold = 10)
- ▶ Official announcement: 29 January 2024



= DO
NOT
GIVE UP!

Key facts

- ▶ Project number: 101160008
- ▶ Project name: Fostering Excellence in Advanced Genomics and Proteomics Research at Comenius University in Bratislava
- ▶ Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02
- ▶ Topic: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01
- ▶ Type of action: HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions
- ▶ Duration: 1.5.2024 – 30.4.2027 (36 months)
- ▶ Participants

1	UNIVERZITA KOMENSKEHO V BRATISLAVE	741 575 €
2	EUROPEAN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY	370 800 €
3	UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA	386 050 €
	TOTAL	1 498 425 €

1st evaluation - shortcomings

EXCELLENCE

- Insufficient detail linking actions to challenges.
- Training content and personnel expertise not specified.
- Coordination and support measures too general.
- Access to new research areas and mobility interactions unclear.
- Gender equality addressed partially; clinical study balance not considered.

IMPACT

- Long-term success uncertain; impact on objectives not detailed.
- Trainings, visits, and meetings lack specific topics.
- Hackathons and Biomed Living Lab not sufficiently explained; roles and relevance unclear.
- Plans for researcher mobility and commercialization are limited.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Budget for Work Package 4 (broad clinical research component) is not entirely convincing.
- WP2 work plan does not explain why 8 months are needed to develop the scientific strategy.
- Topics of study or mentoring visits are not specified.
- Deliverables and milestones for WP4 lack specifics to demonstrate their merits.
- Work plan is unclear on how specific WP4 tasks (joint research project) will be carried out and which methodology will be used.
- Risks are not classified on a low-medium-high scale (minor shortcoming).



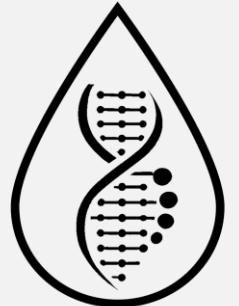
LESSONS
LEARNED

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



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- Improve access to excellence at **Comenius University (CU)**
- Enhance the research profile of the institution and its staff
- Focus areas: **genomics, bioinformatics, proteomics**
- Achieved through targeted **networking, mentoring, and training**
- In collaboration with leading institutions: **EMBL** and **University of Milano-Bicocca (UNIMIB)**



FORGENOM II

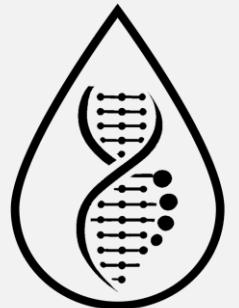
„Enhancing Genomic Research in Slovakia“



Funded by
the European Union

Enhancing Genomic Research in Slovakia

- **Genomics, proteomics & bioinformatics** address major societal challenges (personalised medicine, pandemic preparedness incl. COVID-19)
- **FORGENOM II** strengthens research capacity at **Comenius University (CU), Bratislava**
- Tackles key gaps in:
 - international collaboration
 - access to advanced know-how
 - use of state-of-the-art approaches
- Boosts **scientific excellence, research quality, visibility & competitiveness** through targeted **twinning activities**:
 - career development
 - knowledge transfer
 - capacity building & networking
- Long-term impact via cooperation with **EMBL** and **University of Milano-Bicocca**



FORGENOM II

FORGENOM II

https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101160008

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HORIZON EUROPE

Fostering Excellence in Advanced Genomics and Proteomics Research at Comenius University in Bratislava

Fact Sheet

Objective

Genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics play an increasingly important role in the current societal challenges. These scientific fields bring tools and technologies that can significantly improve the health of citizens. In personalized medicine it contributes to the development of more targeted personalized drugs, therapies and interventions for serious diseases (cancer, rare diseases). Genomics has also a significant role in the data-driven COVID-19 pandemic response. Genomics and bioinformatics in Slovakia has rapidly developed also thanks to the Comenius University in Bratislava (CU). Nevertheless, the CU's capacity and expertise still lags behind the leading research institutions.

The main aim of the TWINNING project FORGENOM is to improve access to excellence at the Comenius University Science Park (CUSP) and raising the research profile of the institution and its staff in the field of biomedical genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics via targeted networking and mentoring and training activities with internationally leading research institutions in the area of genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics – European Molecular Biology Laboratory and Milano-Bicocca University.

By networking activities with global leaders will be developed the potential of the Comenius University to become European-wide known centre with increasing R&D contributions and achievements. These will increase the visibility of the team from CU in European and international scientific

Project Information

FORGENOM II
Grant agreement ID: 101160008

EC signature date
19 April 2024

Start date
1 May 2024

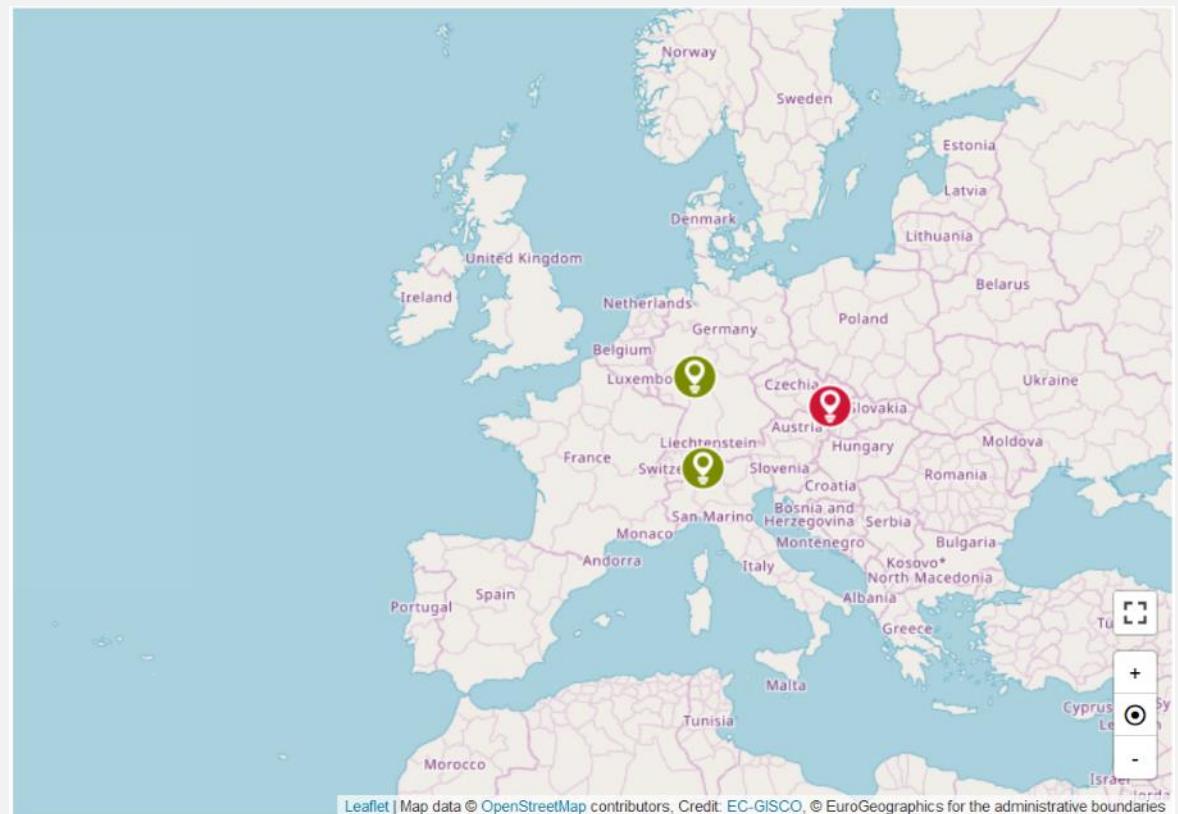
End date
30 April 2027

Funded under
Widening participation and spreading excellence

Total cost
€ 0,00

EU contribution
€ 1 498 425,00

Coordinated by
UNIVERZITA KOMENSKEHO V BRATISLAVE
Slovakia



https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101160008

5 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

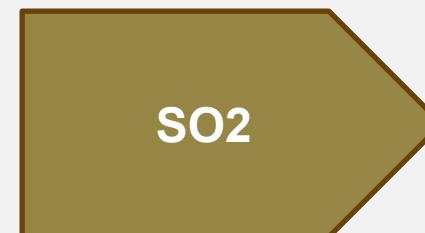
► **SO1: Scientific Excellence & Innovation Capacity**

- Targeted twinning for career & institutional development
- Comprehensive scientific strategy
- Exchange of best practices & networking with advanced partners
- Increased mobility of researchers (expert visits, staff exchange)
- schools, joint workshops & conferences
- Joint scientific publications



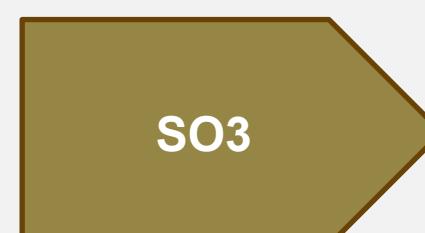
► **SO2: Research management**

- Upgrade research management unit at CUSP
- Mentoring, tailored trainings & webinars
- Expert visits
- Soft skills development. Key topics: Horizon Europe grant management; Open science & data management; Ethics & research integrity; Gender Equality in Research



► **SO3: Technology Transfer & Industry Collaboration**

- Professionalisation of technology transfer services
- Strengthened academia-industry collaboration (focus on SMEs)
- Increased awareness of IPR protection
- Improved career permeability between sectors
- Mentoring, trainings, webinars & best practices
- Soft skills development



5 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

► **SO4: Research & Innovation**

- Development of genomics, bioinformatics & proteomics domains
- Collaboration with excellent international partners
- Exploratory research in: Precision medicine; Non-invasive cancer prevention, diagnostics & monitoring; Proteomic approaches to disease characterisation & treatment.
- Expected outcomes: Identification of cancer biomarkers; Computational genomics for novel treatment options; Community building & networking in bioinformatics.



SO4

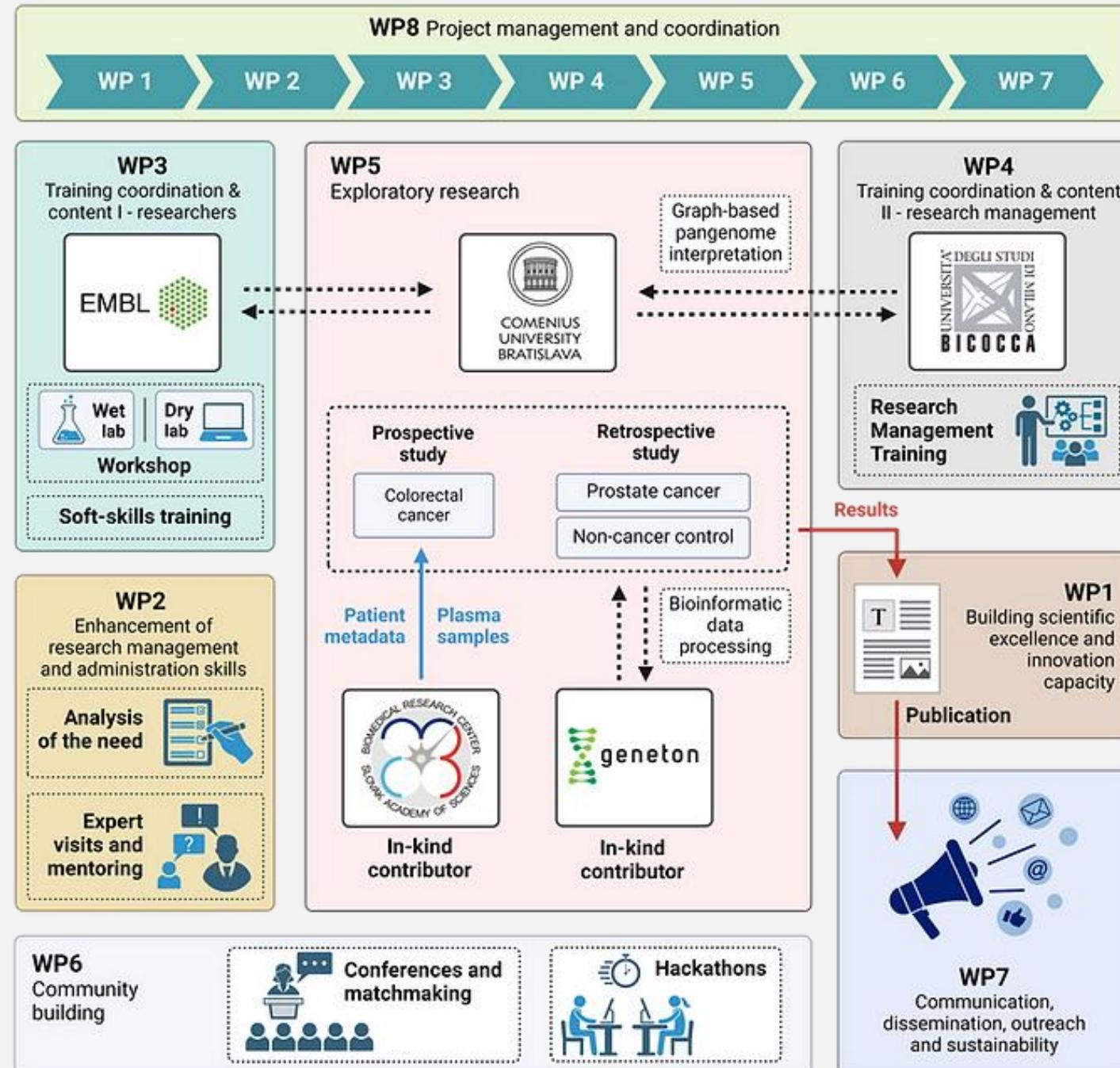
► **SO5: Outreach & Visibility**

- Outreach to expert community & general public
- Increased awareness of FORGENOM II and its achievements
- Enhanced international visibility & attractiveness of CUSP
- Engagement of diverse stakeholder groups
- Promotion of genomics & proteomics for societal and health challenges
- Strengthening public trust in science



SO5

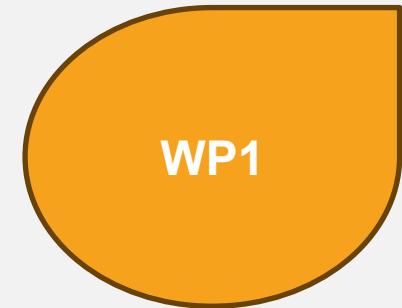
FORGENOM INTERVENTION LOGIC



8 PROJECT WORK PACKAGES

► **WP1 Building scientific excellence and innovation capacity** (led by EMBL)

- Development of a comprehensive **scientific strategy for CUSP**
- Transfer of best skills and know-how from advanced partner institutions
- Strengthening **scientific excellence**, international profile & visibility of CUSP
- Practical actions to improve scientific performance in: genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics
- Research visits to leading partner institutions
- Co-supervision of PhD students & targeted mentoring
- Active participation in international conferences (*led by CU*)
- Coordination of **peer-reviewed publications** (*led by EMBL*)



► **WP2 Enhancement of research management and administration skills** (led by UNIMIB)

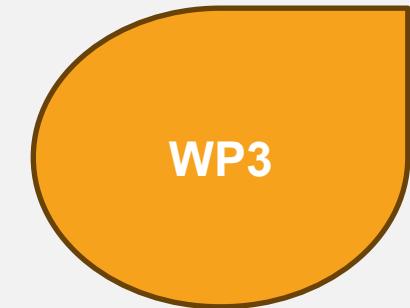
- Strengthening the operation of the **research management unit**
- Improved know-how in **research funding opportunities**
- strong focus on **Horizon Europe**
- Tailored workshops, mentoring & training
- designed according to research professionals' needs
- Development of a **strategy for effective R&D cooperation**
- Technology Transfer Guidelines to support: efficient technology transfer; collaboration with the private sector
- Preparation of an **Exploitation Plan**
- commercial exploitation opportunities
- research-based exploitation pathways



8 PROJECT WORK PACKAGES

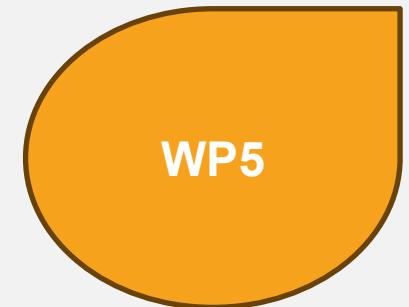
WP3 & WP4 – Training Coordination & Content

- **WP3 – Training for Researchers (led by EMBL)**
- Development of tailored **training plans for researchers**
- Delivery of specialized training events
- Focus on scientific excellence & career development
- Quality assurance of training activities
- **WP4 – Training for Research Management (led by UNIMIB)**
- Development of **training plans for research management staff**
- Delivery of targeted training events
- Capacity building in research management & administration
- Ensuring quality and relevance of trainings



8 PROJECT WORK PACKAGES

- **WP5 – Exploratory Research (led by CU)**
- Exploratory research in **precision medicine**
 - Focus on **non-invasive methods** for: cancer prevention; diagnostics; disease monitoring
- Development of **novel treatment options**
 - based on proteomic approaches

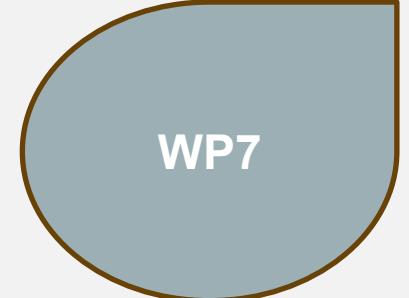


- Joint testing of innovative research approaches
- Strengthening partner engagement & long-term cooperation
- **WP6 – Community Building (led by CU)**
- Building a professional community in genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics
- International interaction with the expert community
- Networking activities via the **FORGENOM Open Office**
- Key community-building actions: summer school; hackathons; conferences; matchmaking events.



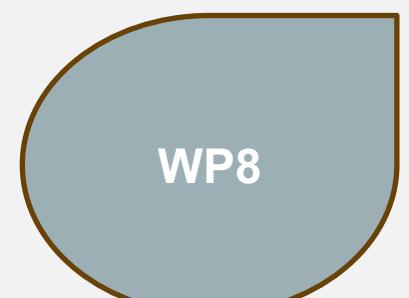
8 PROJECT WORK PACKAGES

- **WP7 – Communication, Dissemination, Outreach & Sustainability (led by CU)**
- Strong communication & dissemination of project results
- Outreach to expert community & practitioners; general public & citizens
- Increased engagement in project activities
- Promotion of interest in science & **trust in science**
- Strengthening the social dimension of life sciences
- Special focus on **gender equality in life sciences**
- Sustainability of FORGENOM: long-term operation strategy; **Business plan** development



WP7

- **WP8 – Project Management & Coordination (led by CU)**
- Overall project and financial management
- Coordination of work packages & tasks
- Ensuring excellence, innovation & quality of results
- Key management activities: contractual issues, project monitoring, internal & external reporting, consortium meetings, data management, support of smooth project implementation



WP8

Kick-Off Meeting Bratislava 29.-30. May 2024



European Researchers' Night



WET LAB and bioinformatics workshops



Research visits



2 PROJECT REVIEWS

Review No	Timing	Location
RV 1	7 November 2025	hybrid
RV 2	36 – April 2026	hybrid



Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02
Twinning

Progress Report



UPCOMING INITIATIVES – www.forgenom.com

Podľa spoločne prepájať

- systémové riešenia,
- inštitucionálne skúsenosti,
- príbehy vedkýň,

a vytvorme priestor pre otvorenú diskusiu v neformálnej atmosfére.

Rodová rovnosť vo výskume

výzvy, nástroje a osobné skúsenosti

25. 2. 2026 | 14. 00 hod. – 16. 30 hod.

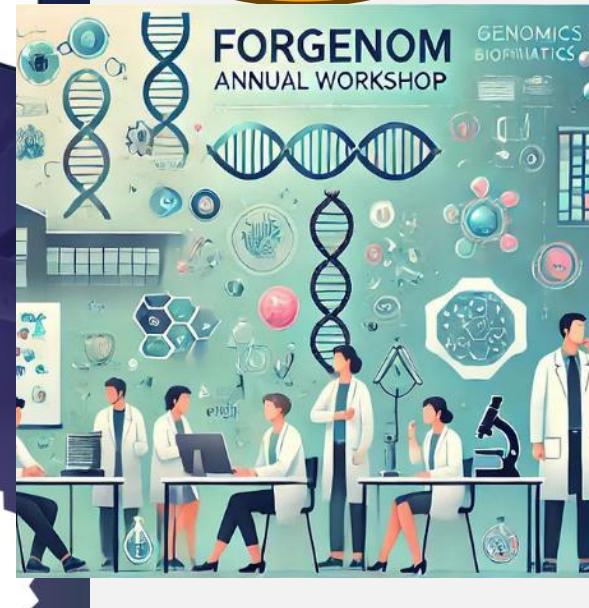
Vedecký park UK v Bratislave, Illkovičova 8, Bratislava

- otvoríme diskusiu o aktuálnom stave rodovej rovnosti vo výskume na Slovensku,
- predstavíme si konkrétnie nástroje a iniciatívy (GEP, návratové schémy, ocenenia),
- zviditeľníme osobné skúsenosti vedkýň v rôznych kariérnych fázach,
- podporíme networking a spoluprácu medzi inštitúciami.

Podujatie je organizované v rámci projektu FORGENOM a je doplnkovým podujatím k Medzinárodnému dňu žien a dievčat vo vede.



**HLAVNÝ
PARTNER**



10-11 September 2026, Bratislava, Slovakia

Project
conference –
September
2026



COMENIUS
UNIVERSITY
IN BRATISLAVA
SCIENCE PARK

Thank you for your attention

tomas.szemes@uniba.sk

www.forgenom.com