



BioICEP  解塑再用
Bio Innovation of a Circular Economy for Plastics

June 2023



Belgrade BioInformatics Conference 2023

The **Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference (BelBi2023)** was held in Belgrade, Serbia from 19-23rd of June, as a hybrid event. This five-day conference included keynote and invited talks by experienced experts, oral and poster presentations, and workshops. The main goal of the BelBi conferences is to foster contacts between scientists to share experiences, disseminate the latest information on advances in their fields, gain and increase the visibility of their research, and bring young researchers together with peers and senior colleagues. Dr. Milica Ciric has presented her research in a scope of BioICEP project with the poster: "**Groundwater and soil as a reservoir for polyurethane-degrading bacteria**".



9th EnviroChem 2023 Chemistry and Environmental Protection Symposium

The 9th **EnviroChem 2023 Chemistry and Environmental Protection Symposium** organized by Environmental Chemistry Section of the Serbian Chemical Society was

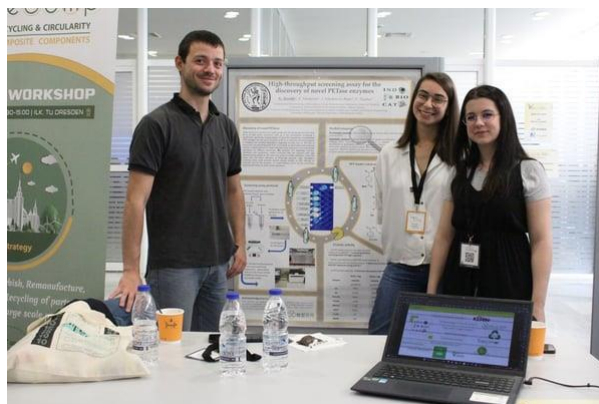
held in Kladovo, Serbia from 4 to 7th of June 2023. Researchers, scientists and experts, who deal with various fields of environmental chemistry, recognized the possibilities that the Symposium provides, which is a unique opportunity to exchange their ideas, the latest scientific achievements or technological innovations with colleagues, which is why the number of participants has grown over the years. This year, our IMGGE partners presented several studies on this event: Marija Nenadovic (poster: “**Exploring PhaZ depolymerase sequence space for the bio-cyclable loop for biopolymers**”), Marija Ljesevic (oral presentation: “**Microbial degradation of bis (2-hydroxyethyl) terephthalate**”) and Branka Loncarevic (oral presentation “**Exopolysaccharides from microorganisms which degrade BHET: Optimization of production**”). Dr Jasmina Nikodinovic-Runic took part in a side event called “Science Bar”, a conceptual place where experts, researchers and the interested public meet to exchange ideas and information in an informal way. Dr Nikodinovic moderated the discussion in the section: “**From microplastics to bioplastics**”.



BiolCEP at the ChemExpo

Partners from NTUA have attended the event titled: “**ChemExpo - 10 years of Chemecon**” that took a place in Serafio in Athens on 12th of May. PhD students Romanos Slaperas and Christina Pentari shared their experience in research concerning biotechnological plastic degradation and discovery of novel plastic-degrading enzymes.

Over 300 young students studying Chemical Engineering as well as major Greek industries attended this event.



BiolCEP at the Plastics Recycling Show 2023

On 10 and 11 May, our colleagues from AIMPLAS Eva Verdejo, Santiago Llopis, Mar Porcar and Sonia Albein visited Plastics Recycling Show Europe 2023, held in Amsterdam. PRS is the dedicated exhibition, conference and awards for plastics recycling in mainland Europe. The biggest names in recycled materials, recycling machinery and services were on display, showing the latest innovation in the industry. The free conference with key industry figures addressed the latest opportunities and challenges that face the plastic recycling industry in Europe. The event covered the supply chain from design for raw materials, design for recycling, collection, sorting and recycling of industrial, commercial, agricultural, post-consumer and ocean plastic through to the recycled polymer being designed and incorporated into new products and applications.



BIOICEP at the World Bio Markets 2023

Pablo Ferrero gave a presentation about the goals and development of the BioICEP project and the role of AIMPLAS at the **World Bio Markets** event, held in The Hague on 10-11th of May. He also presented the center's bioassays laboratory, which focuses on ensuring the safety of food contact materials through cytotoxicity and genotoxicity assays.



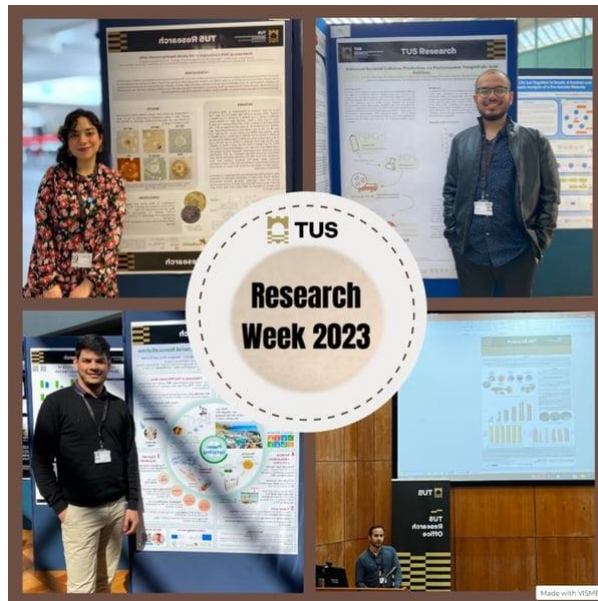
BIOICEP project held online webinar: "*Europe towards a Circular Society*"

BioICEP project held online webinar "***Europe towards a Circular Society: Circular Plastic Challenge***". The event was a complete success and more than 65 people attended it. We counted on the participation of different guest European projects, who talked about their goals, technologies and results up to date and their relation with the circular economy towards a greener Europe. Our guests were MIX-UP, BUDDIE-PACK, UPLIFT, BIOPLASTICSFEUROPE, ECOPLASTIC and PRESERVE projects.



BioICEP on TUS Research Week 2023

On Thursday 20th of April, a range of sessions were hosted onsite in Athlone with pop-up stands in the canteen area, as well as a showcase of over 140 posters from TUS Postgraduate Students. Selected number of posters were displayed in the main canteen area, with students being invited to present their research in quick-fire sessions. The core ethos of TUS Research Week is to create an engaging platform, where the huge range of innovative projects and initiatives from areas such as Technology, Engineering, Business and Science will be showcased to the wider student body, industry and beyond. Fostering a culture of collaboration, in addition to stimulating creativity, creating real-world impacts and fostering economic development in a regional, national and international capacity. Awards were presented for categories including 'Best Impact' 'Best Presentation' and 'Best Overall Poster'. PhD students involved in BioICEP project have presented their research: Diana Garza ("***Streptomyces sp. DG19: A promising strain with polymer degrading enzymatic ability***"), Henrique Pereira ("***Enhanced Bacterial Cellulose Production via Post-consumer Terephthalic Acid Addition***"), Jeovan Araujo ("***Upcycling of PET/TPS Plastic into Bacterial Nanocellulose***") and Dr. Eduardo Garcia Lanzagorta ("***Development of biocompatible polymer system with enhanced antimicrobial properties via triangular silver particles and curcumin synergy***"). Diana Garza won the best mid-stage research award while Jeovan Araujo won the best art and design poster category.



BiolCEP at the *Biotechnology for a circular bioeconomy* Virtual Conference

Dr. Marijana Ponjavic from IMGGE has presented her work in the scope of the BiolCEP project at the "***Biotechnology for a circular bioeconomy: carbon capture, waste recycling and mitigation of global warming***" Virtual Conference was organized by the European Federation of Biotechnology and Asian Federation of Biotechnology on 28 – 29th of March, 2023. Some of the speakers at the events were top European and Asian scientists, including Michael Köpke from LanzaTech, USA. Dr. Ponjavic has shared her research through a flash presentation with the title: "***Revalorization of biodegradable polymers to valuable bacterial nanocellulose***". This work has been achieved thanks to the collaboration between TCD and IMGGE partners.



IMGGE lecture about plastics to talented high school students

Our IMGGE partners organised a lecture for high school students attending “**Biology and Chemistry Program**”. Dr. Jasmina Nikodinovic-Runic presented BiolCEP project and discussed plastic pollution problems and potential solutions. 40 students took participation in this event at the Institute for molecular genetics and genetic engineering in Belgrade, Serbia on 22nd of March 2023.



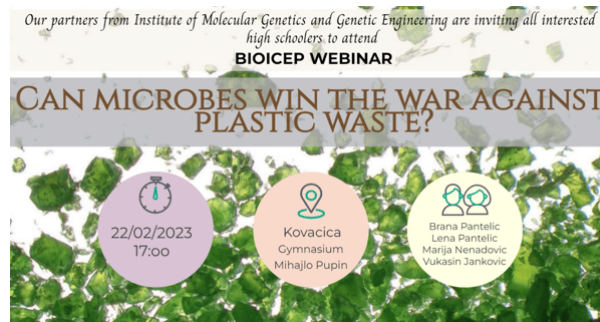
Dr. Jasmina Nikodinovic-Runic presented BiolCEP on “Project administration and management - examples of good practice”

[Project PFAStwin](#) organised a seminar called Project administration and management - examples of good practice. Among the others, the seminar was held by Dr Jasmina Nikodinovic-Runic. The seminar was held in the Conference Hall of the Faculty of Chemistry in Belgrade, 24. March 2023.



BioICEP webinar *Can microbes win the war against plastic waste?*

Partners from IMGGE have organised the workshop titled: "***Can microbes win the war against plastic waste?***" that took a place in Serbian high school "Mihajlo Pupin" in Kovacica on 22nd of February. PhD students Brana Pantelic, Lena Pantelic, Marija Nenadovic and Vukasin Jankovic shared their experience in research concerning plastic waste utilisation and gave insight on problems and potential solutions through a series of presentations. Over 50 students attended this event.



BioICEP project's fourth General Assembly

In January 2023, our partners from AIMPLAS have organized fourth BioICEP General Assembly in their facilities in Valencia, Spain. All European partners have attended in person, while Chinese partners presented their updates through pre-recorded video

presentations. Our partners had the opportunity to visit ACTECO partner facilities during this event.



Our latest technical papers

Color Stability Enhancement of Curcumin Bioplastic Films using Natural Hybrid Fillers of Montmorillonite and Revalorized Cellulose

[Read it](#)

Triggering and identifying the polyurethane and polyethylene-degrading machinery of filamentous fungi secretomes

[Read it](#)

Bacterial nanocellulose as green support of platinum nanoparticles for effective methanol oxidation

[Read it](#)

Study of PLA pre-treatment, enzymatic and model-compost degradation, and valorization of degradation products to bacterial nanocellulose

[Read it](#)

Biodegradation of vulcanized rubber by a gut bacterium from plastic-eating mealworms

[Read it](#)

Biodegradation of polyurethane by the microbial consortia enriched from landfill

[Read it](#)

Discovery of a polyesterase from *Deinococcus maricopensis* and comparison to the benchmark LCCICCG suggests high potential for semi-crystalline post-consumer PET degradation

[Read it](#)

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