

Events/News

1st annual meeting (AIT, November 2017)

Out of the total of eleven early-stage researchers that are set to be recruited into the MICROMETABOLITE project, prior to November 2017 the project coordinators picked eight aspiring early-stage researchers. Along with project coordinators, these young scientists participated in the first annual coordination meeting of MICROMETABOLITE, which was held in Vienna/Tulln, Austria, November 8-9, 2017. The meeting was hosted by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, the coordinating institution of the project. Topics discussed included the management of the project, electing a 1st year early-stage researcher representative, secondment plans for the early-stage researchers, as well as discussions on individual work packages within the project.



ESRs with their respective supervisors, 1st annual meeting, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology

Network-wide training event on IP issues (AIT, November 2017)

After the annual meeting, the early-stage researchers took part in the first network-wide training event, on the topic of "Project management", and carried on by Dr Stephen Webb of the RTDS Group, a long-standing EU project consulting company. This training session was only the first out of the planned nine network-wide training events that are meant to expand the expertise of the early-stage researchers outside of their academic fields, thus enabling them to succeed in an ever-evolving world of science, which is inherently interdisciplinary.

MICROMETABOLITE

Research Training Network Microbial
Enhancement of Bioactive Secondary Metabolite
Production in Plants



www.micrometabolite.eu

Newsletter #1

1st annual meeting
ESR recruitment completed
1st MICROMETABOLITE summer school
2nd annual meeting

NWT on IP issues
NWT on ex-situ conservation and
cultivation of natural Greek plants

ESR recruitment completed

As 2018 started, the acceptance of all eleven ESRs into the MICROMETABOLITE project has been completed. A truly international group of young researchers has been formed, as the project now employs ESRs from three different continents; their brief CVs can be found on the project website (<http://www.micrometabolite.eu/index.php/early-stage-researchers>)

Network-wide training event on ex-situ conservation and cultivation of natural Greek plants (HAO, April 2018)

Immediately preceding the summer school in Thessaloniki, a network-wide training event took place at HAO-Demeter. The ESRs received a series of lectures and participated in the workshop organized by the Hellenic Agricultural Organization. A day later, HAO organized a visit to the Botanical Garden of Kroussia, Kilkis, Greece for the ESRs and collection of *Alkanna tinctoria* from two sites near Thessaloniki.



The overall objective of MICROMETABOLITE is to explore interactions between plants and microorganisms involved in the production of secondary metabolites (SM) for introducing novel ingredients in the pharmaceutical and cosmeceutical industry. Effects of microorganisms on the plant metabolome and the biosynthesis of bioactive SM will be studied in the Boraginaceae plant family, aimed at optimising plant cultivation and alkannins/shikonins (A/S) production. Microorganisms will be integrated in plant production systems, and protocols needed for efficient implementation in industry will be elaborated. Thereby a platform will be established that will support long-term interactions between academia and industry.

2nd annual meeting (AUTH, April 2018)

The second annual meeting of the project was held in the conference room of the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, at the seafront of Thessaloniki, Greece. All the 11 ESRs along with their respective supervisors and the members of the Supervisory Board participated in the meeting, which featured discussions on project management issues, introduction of the newly employed ESRs and talks about different work packages within MICROMETABOLITE.



Summer School

Natural Products: Chemistry, Biological Activities
& Technological Applications

1st MICROMETABOLITE Summer School (AUTH, April 2018)

Each year, MICROMETABOLITE will organize a summer school which will serve as a training grounds for the project's early-stage researchers, as well as students/researchers outside of the project that are eager to receive cutting-edge training and knowledge in a wide spectrum of scientific fields. The first of these events, with the title "Natural Products: Chemistry, Biological Activities & Technological Applications" was held in Thessaloniki, Greece, on April 27-29, 2018, with more than 150 participants and in collaboration with the School of Chemical Engineering of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), the Faculty of Engineering of AUTH, the Natural Products Research Centre of Excellence-AUTH (NatPro-AUTH) and the Bioanalysis and Omics Center (BIOMIC) of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation, AUTH (CIRI-AUTH), as well as the Greek node of the METROFOOD-RI.

