

COUNTRIES FROM THE VISEGRÁD REGION AND CROATIA ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON NOVEL DRUG CARRIERS MADE FROM ALGAE

Scientists from the Visegrád region (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) and Croatia are working together to develop tiny drug carriers from algae. Algae are small, single-celled aquatic organisms that can be transformed and loaded with drugs to serve as an alternative carrier system. To achieve this goal, a new regional research cooperation between the neighboring countries has been launched, facilitating access to specialized research equipment and expertise, the exchange of scientists, young researchers and the training of students, providing them with valuable experience and knowledge in an interdisciplinary field. The scientists believe that by working together, they can accelerate progress and overcome the challenges of developing an effective and safe drug delivery system made from sustainable and environmentally friendly materials. To find out more, watch the explanatory video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0pQnmjXI74> which was created as part of the COST ACTION CA18238 Ocean4Biotech, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

The Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Centre of Algatech in Trebon, co-organized and hosted the final workshop of the project on 14 March 2024. The project is coordinated by Dr. Nadica Ivošević DeNardis (Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia), while the partner representatives are from four countries: Prof. Dr. Ondrej Prasil (Centrum Algatech, Trebon, Czech Republic), Dr. Tibor Pali (Biological Research Center, Szeged, Hungary), Dr. Joanna Zemla (Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Science, Krakow, Poland) and Dr. Maria Klacsova (Faculty of Pharmacy, Comenius University Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia). The project "Research Network VF – Croatia for the Development of Novel Drug Carriers from Algae" (Grant No. 22220115) is co-financed by the governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrád Grants from the International Visegrád Fund. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.



Text and photo: Dr. Nadica Ivošević DeNardis, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb and prof. Ondřej Prášil, Institute of Microbiology – Centre ALGATECH, Třeboň.

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