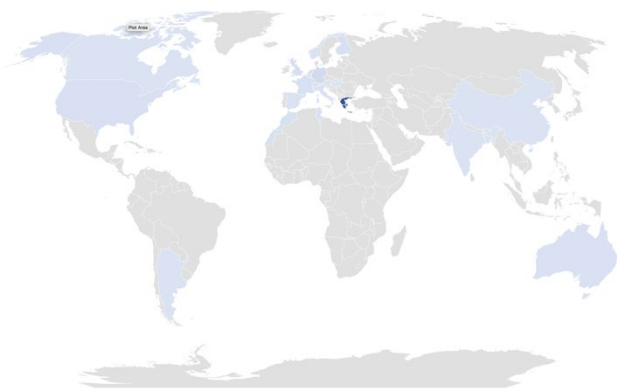


**Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the MikroBioKosmos Society held at the Institute of Chemical Engineering Sciences (ICE-HT), Patras, Greece**

**by  
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The 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the MikroBioKosmos society titled ‘Microbial Communities as growth engines for Greece’ took place in Patras between the 18-20<sup>th</sup> April 2019 with great success. The conference was attended by 250 members of the MikroBioKosmos society. The conference had an international audience with attendees from 24 different countries (Figure 1).

The aim of the conference was the promotion and exchange of scientific information in microbial ecology, enabling participants to interact and discuss some of the latest advances in the field, as well as providing information on International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME); one of the sponsors of the event. The five best poster presentations were awarded an ISME Presentation award with a voucher of 100 euro for scientific books and a free membership.



**Figure 1** Participant distribution with Germany, Cyprus, UK and Morocco the countries with the most submissions.

The five awards were given to:

1. **Maria Christodoulou** for the study **Cyanobacteria as a source of novel bioactive compounds** by Christodoulou M., Jokela J., Wahlsten M., Humisto A., Shishido T-K., Herfindal L., Sivonen K. (She also received a free membership)
2. **Nesrine Souai** for the study **High-throughput amplicon sequencing reveals potential impact of maintained Tacrolimus therapy on fecal microbiome after kidney transplantation** by Souai N., Zidi O., Mosbah A., Asimakis E., Kosai I., Manna J., Cherif A., Tsiamis G. and Kouidhi S.
3. **Vasiliki Savvopoulou** receives the Best Poster Presentation Award for the study ***In silico* reconstruction of the protein-protein interaction network of *Moorella thermoacetica*, used for the non-photosynthetic CO<sub>2</sub> bioconversion into useful chemicals** **Microbial arylamine *N*-acetyltransferases: From xenobiotic detoxification to antibiotic biosynthesis** by Savvopoulou V., Chasapis C., Vlamis A. & Klapa M.I.
4. **Evanthia Kontomina** for the study **Microbial arylamine *N*-acetyltransferases: From xenobiotic detoxification to antibiotic biosynthesis** by Kontomina E., Patriarcheas

D., Papavergi M., Zourlantoni K., Eleftheraki A., Tzimotoudis D., Garefalaki V., Li P., Minchin R., Márialigeti K., Glenn A., Fylaktakidou K., Fakis G., Boukouvala S.

5. **Nikoleta Giarimoglou** for the study **The role of staphylococcal-specific *glyS* T-box domains in transcription regulation and antibiotic binding** by Giarimoglou N., Stamatopoulou V. Li S., Apostolidi M., Zhang J. and Stathopoulos C.

The conference accepted a record of 143 submissions in five thematic session. More specifically for the session in Environment we accepted 57 submissions, in Agriculture 42, in Biotechnology-Energy 44, in Food-Nutrition 36 and in Molecular Mechanisms-Model Microorganisms 23.



Highlights of the conference include the organization of a workshop on the “Analysis of Microbial NGS data”. The workshop was attended by 30 PhD students and post-docs and it was extremely well received, the Keynote lecture delivered by **Prof. John Klironomos** from the University of British Columbia on the “Feedback with soil microbes drives plant community composition in temperate ecosystems”.

Finally, this year two special events were organized. The first included the organization of a round table entitled “From research to commercial applications”. In this session four companies, Andromeda SA, Phytothreptiki, Bio-Wastewater Innovation and PPC SA presented their R&D plans followed by a discussion on how the gap between academia and industry can be bridged. The second special event was organized during the last day of the conference with the main aim to enhance the interactions and the ways that the scientific community can exploit the National Infrastructures.

