

2nd Annual Conference of the MiCropBiomes COST Action

Limassol 17-19 June 2025

(please see more at <https://microbiomes.eu/>)

Welcome

The second Annual Conference of the MiCropBiomes COST Action CA22158 “Exploiting Plant-Microbiomes Networks and Synthetic Communities to improve Crops Fitness” will be held in Limassol, Cyprus, on 17 - 19 June 2025, including working group meetings. We expect 60 - 70 participants.

The MiCropBiomes COST Action MC Meeting will also be held on 19 June 2025.

The conference will be held at the [Cyprus University of Technology](#) (CUT) in Limassol.

CUT is a public university established in 2004. Its first intake of students took place in the academic year 2007-08. CUT is a prominent institution in Cyprus, recognized for its excellence in research and innovation across various disciplines, including Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Management, and Information and Communication Technologies. The university actively participates in over 340 research projects, many of which receive substantial funding from national and international sources.

Distributed throughout the heart of the city of Limassol, CUT's modern facilities are seamlessly integrated into the city's historic center, offering a unique academic environment. The university comprises six faculties, including the Faculty of Geotechnical Sciences and Environmental Management, which houses the Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology, and Food Science. This department is at the forefront of research in sustainable agriculture, food quality, and environmental management.



Tassos Papadopoulos Building (Venue): <https://maps.app.goo.gl/qC5U9Zebq8XdZULr9>

Venue

All the meetings will be held at the premises of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) (<https://www.cut.ac.cy/?languageId=1>), at the “Tassos Papadopoulos” Auditoriums and Halls.



Topics and Working Groups

The conference will address the main topics of the MicroBiomes Cost Action and cover the focus of its five Topics of the Working Groups:

- WG1-** Exploiting Plant-Microbiome molecular crosstalks: diversity, distribution and eco-evolutionary perspectives
- WG2-** Crop-Microbiome assembly dynamics under specific environments
- WG3-** Crop microbiomes and plant diseases: from dysbiosis to increased defenses
- WG4-** From current microbial inoculants to synthetic communities
- WG5-** Communication, and engagement with society

Organization and Scientific Committees

The organization is coordinated by Dr. Iakovos Pantelides and Dr. Loukas Kanetis from the CUT.

Scientific Committee

Scientific Committee	Role	WG	F/M	ICT	Country
Conceição SANTOS	Chair		F	Yes	PT
Francesco SPINELLI	Vice-Chair	3	M	No	IT
Ahmed ABDELFATTAH	Group Leader	1	M	Yes	DE
Ellodie VANDELLE	Group Leader	2	F	No	IT
Joël POTHIER	Group Leader	3	M	No	CH
Anna BONATERRA	Group Leader	4	F	No	SP
Caroline DE TENDER	Group Leader	5	F	No	BE
Gabriele BERG Tanja BERIĆ	Group vice-Leaders	1	F F	No No	AU RS
Gordana RACIC	Group vice-Leader	2	F	Yes	RS
Renata ARTIMOVÁ	Group vice-Leader	3	F	Yes	SK
Claire P-COMBARET	Group vice-Leader	4	F	No	FR
Ralf KOEBNIK	Group vice-Leader	5	M	No	FR
Ivan Nikolic					
Iakovos PANTELIDES	MC member	4	M		CY
Loukas KANETIS	MC member	3	M		CY

Local Organization

Local Organization
Dr. Iakovos PANTELIDES
Dr. Loukas KANETIS
Dr. Maria-Dimitra TSOLAKIDOU
Stavroula DIMITRIADI
Styliana EFSTATHIOU

Program 17th - 19th June 2025

	Tuesday 17 th June			Wednesday 18 th June		Thursday 19 th June
8h30						
9h00	Registration		WG2 Chair E. Vandelle/G. Racic	Invited Lecture		MC MEETING
9h15						
9h30	Welcome			Oral Communication		
9h45				Oral Communication		
10h00	Invited Lecture			Oral Communication		
10h15	WG1 Chair A. Abdelfattah/G. Berg	Oral Communication	Oral Communication			
10h30		COFFEE BREAK	General Discussion			
10h45		COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK			
11h00		Oral Communication				
11h15	WG5 Chair C. De Tender/R. Koebnik	Oral Communication	Invited Lecture		Social Program visit to the Archaeological Site of Kourion	
11h30		Oral Communication				
11h45		Oral Communication	Oral Communication			
12h00		General Discussion	Oral Communication			
12h15	POSTER SESSION		Oral Communication			
12h30			General Discussion			
12h45						
13h00	LUNCH		LUNCH			
13h15					FAREWELL	
13h30						
13h45						
14h00	WG3 Chair J. Pothier/R. Artimova	Invited Lecture	WG MEETINGS PARALLEL SESSIONS	Room 1	Room 2	
14h15		Oral Communication		WG1/WG2	WG3/WG4	
14h30		Oral Communication				
14h45		Oral Communication				
15h00		Oral Communication				
15h15	General Discussion					
15h30	COFFEE BREAK		COFFEE BREAK			
15h45						
16h00	WG4 Chair A. Bonaterra/C.P. Combaret	Invited Lecture	WG MEETING PLENARY SESSION	All WGs		
16h15		Oral Communication				
16h30		Oral Communication				
16h45		Oral Communication				
17h00		Oral Communication		Action Chair C. Santos	Glossary/Terminology Session	
17h15	Oral Communication					
17h30	General Discussion		POSTER SESSION & GROUP PICTURE			
17h45						
18h00						
18h15						
20h00	Dinner					

How to participate and Deadlines

Participation in the 2nd Annual Conference of the MicropBiomes Cost Action requires

- a) Pre-registration, as the number of places is limited. To do this, all those wishing to participate must complete the online form and submit a 250-words abstract for an oral or poster presentation. **DEADLINE: 18 APRIL 2025**
- b) Alternatively, corporate participants can upload a short letter outlining their interest in the conference.

All applications will be subject to a selection process by the Scientific Committee.

Applicants will be informed of the decision by **28 April 2025**.

Please note that completing the form does NOT guarantee you a place at the conference.

Reimbursement

Participants (in particular early-stage researchers and colleagues from inclusiveness target countries) can be reimbursed for their travel, accommodation and subsistence costs by the MicropBiome COST grant. Reimbursement requests must be submitted using the online form.

Reimbursement decisions will be made by the Scientific Committee.

Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will all be reimbursed, in line with the [COST Travel Reimbursement Rules](#).

All receipts/bills must be submitted for processing as soon as possible and no later than 30 days after the end of the conference. After this deadline it will not be possible to submit a claim for expenses.

Costs

As mentioned above, the conference will take place at the premises of the CUT.

The **Local Organizer Support (LOS)** will cover:

- (a) All coffee breaks
- (b) The conference dinner *
- (c) Conference materials (including a bag, badge and PDF abstract book)
- (d) Access to social event: The visit to the Archaeological Site of Kourion

(<https://www.visitcyprus.com/discover-cyprus/rural/sites-monuments/kourion-archaeological-site-2/>)

** Dinner is not included for those attending at their own expense*

Upon on-site registration, all participants will be required to pay €15 per lunch (€30 in total for lunches on June 17th and 18th), which will be provided on-site during the conference. Please note that payment will be accepted in cash only.

Recommended Hotels

S Paul City Hotel 4* (2 min walk from the venue)

From 16/6/2025 to 20/06/2025

Standard Room

Single Occupancy: €132.00 / per room / per night including breakfast

Double Occupancy: €165.00 / per room / per night including breakfast

Deluxe Room

Single Occupancy: €143.00 / per room / per night including breakfast

Double Occupancy: €180.00 / per room / per night including breakfast

Superior Room

Single Occupancy: €162.00 / per room / per night including breakfast

Double Occupancy: €203.00 / per room / per night including breakfast

Superior Sea View Room

Single Occupancy: €168.00 / per room / per night including breakfast

Double Occupancy: €209.00 / per room / per night including breakfast

Availability is subject to change without prior notice.

*Guests can arrange their reservation by sending an email to spaul@spaulhotel.com and including the **promotional code TEPAKJUNE2025** in their email. This code must be mentioned to ensure the reservation is linked to the correct group and that all relevant rates are applied!*

The hotel offers the following payment methods below which the guests can use to pay:

- *Pay upon check-in, cash or visa*
- *Pay via payment link*
- *Pay via bank transfer*

Other recommended hotels/rooms in Limassol, within walking distance of the venue

Hotel	Hotel/Room	Price €, per night (rates from April 6th)	Walk, min
1	Eins rooms - city center	90	1
2	Pier Beach Hotel Apartments 2*	83-111	13
3	Old Port Hotel 3*	143-182	6
4	Heart Hotel 4*	118-156	10
5	Limassol Old Town Mansion 3*	111-142	2
6	Alinea Suites Limassol	147-164	8



Please note: In addition to the recommended hotels, there are many other hotel options in Limassol, though they may either require local transportation or a taxi to reach the venue, or be more expensive.

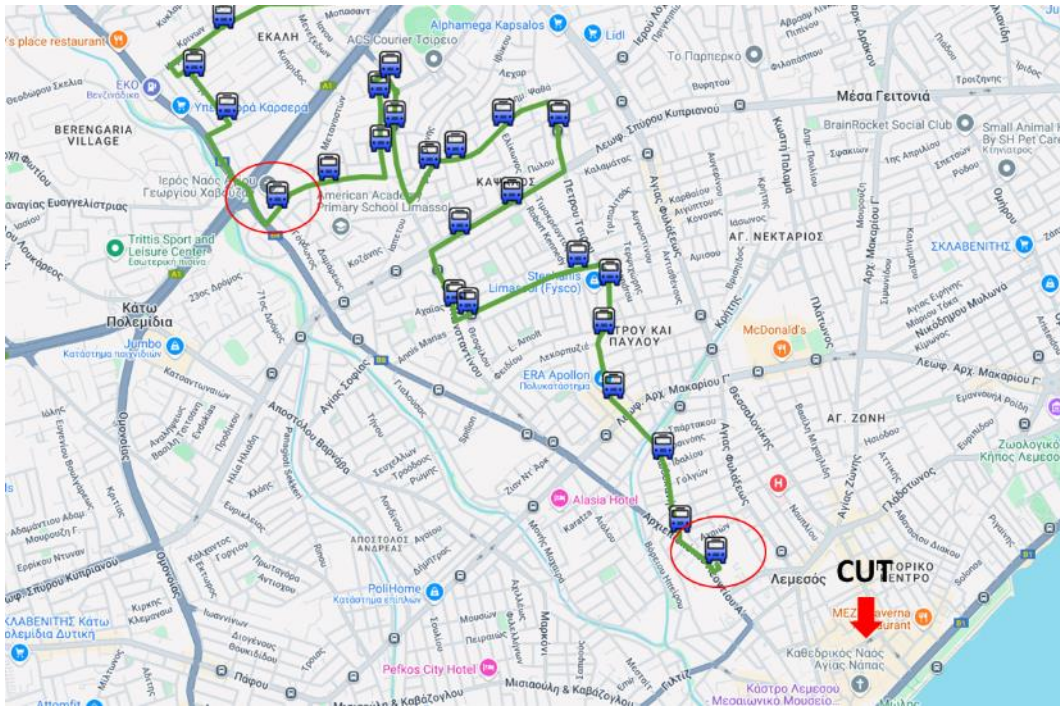
How to get to Cyprus University of Technology

The conference starts in the morning of 17 June. You will therefore need to arrive in Cyprus the day before. The conference will end around noon on 19 June (if you are a MC member).

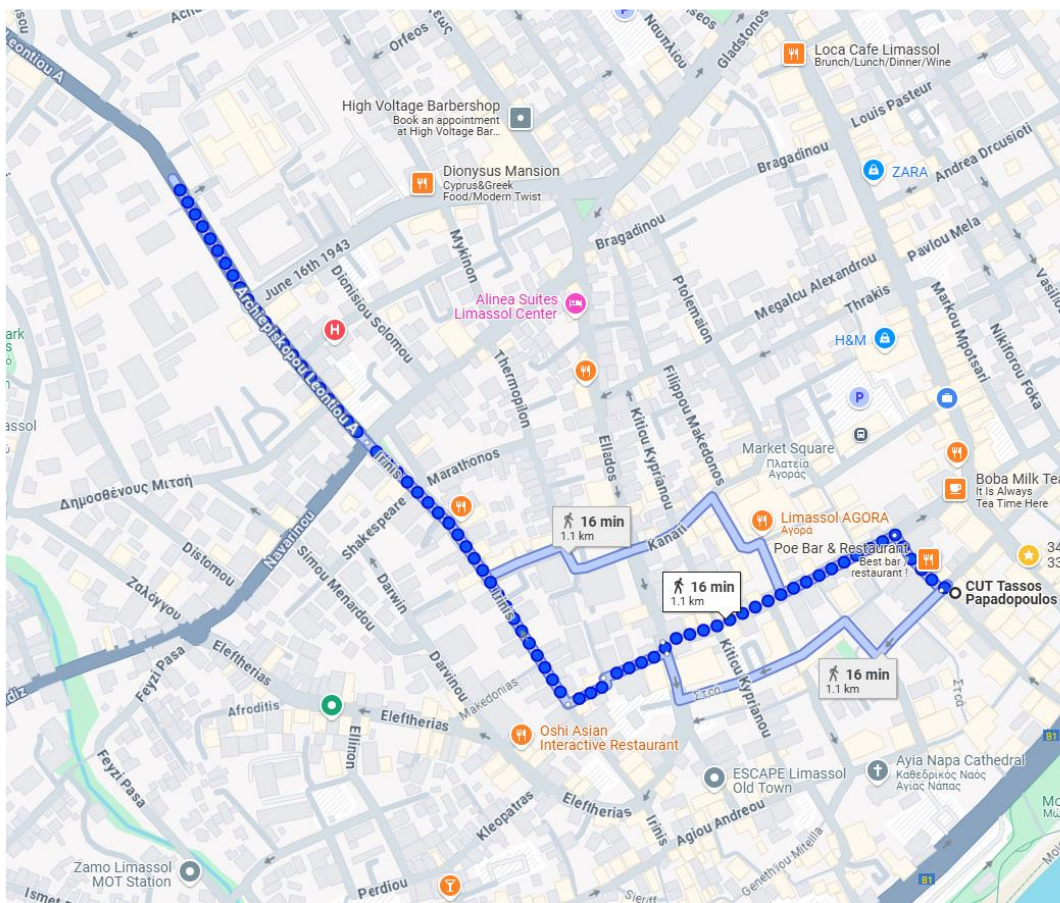
Cyprus has two international airports (<https://www.hermesairports.com/>). In the link below you will find transportation options (taxi, Bolt, shuttle, and bus services) available to and from Cyprus International Airports at Larnaca and Paphos, respectively (with the corresponding contact details): <https://www.hermesairports.com/prepare-your-journey/fly-in/public-transportation>.

Airport Shuttle: The Limassol Airport Express operates frequent and direct shuttle buses from Larnaca and Paphos Airports to Limassol, with a journey time of approximately 50-60 minutes (<https://limassolairportexpress.eu/>).

- The drop-off location in Limassol is **Agios Georgios Havouzas Church (Main Station)**, conveniently located near the city center. From there, attendees can take **Bus No. 4** (<https://limassolbuses.com/el/route-4-road-and-traffic-authority-leontiou-emel-station/>, End station-EMEL Bus Station Leontiou A') or a taxi (10-15 minutes) for a quick and easy transfer to the center of Limassol.



–From the EMEL Bus Station Leontiou A' , CUT is 15-minutes walk
 (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/N52Mppa3KLGnsnfK6>)



Taxi: Taxis are readily available outside the airports, and private transfer services can be pre-booked. The trip takes approximately 50 minutes.

Car Rental: Larnaca and Paphos Airports offer numerous car rental options for those who prefer to drive.

Limassol city: tips



- **Old Town and Saripolou Square** – Ideal for exploring traditional shops, enjoying local cuisine, or having a drink in one of the vibrant bars.



- **Medieval Limassol Castle** – A medieval castle in the old town, now a museum showcasing Cyprus' history (<https://www.limassol.org.cy/en/mesaioniko>).



- **Carob Mill Museum** – Located near the castle, it offers insights into Cyprus' traditional agricultural history (<https://www.limassoltourism.com/en/things-to-do/local-experience/arts-culture/museums/carob-museum>).



- **Old Port of Limassol** - A charming harbor which offers a picturesque blend of traditional charm and modern elegance, with waterfront dining, and local shops, ideal for a leisurely walk.



- **Limassol Marina** – A vibrant waterfront with restaurants, cafes, and shops. Perfect for a relaxing stroll.



- **Molos Promenade** – A picturesque seaside park with walking and cycling paths. Great for enjoying the Mediterranean views.



- **Amathus Ruins** – Another important archaeological site, once a major ancient city-kingdom of Cyprus (<https://www.limassoltourism.com/en/things-to-do/local-experience/arts-culture/archeological-places/amathus-archaeological-site/>).



- **Kourion Archaeological Site** – An impressive ancient city with a well-preserved Greco-Roman amphitheater and stunning views of the sea. (Urban Bus 16) (<https://www.visitcyprus.com/discover-cyprus/rural/sites-monuments/kourion-archaeological-site-2/>)



Kourion beach



Pissouri beach



Lady's mile beach



Lady's mile beach



Dasoudi beach



Apollonia beach

- **Beaches** – Limassol has many beaches with shallow, crystal-clear waters and are perfect for swimming and sunbathing, with wide sandy shores and beautiful views.

You can find several restaurants here with typical food

- **Cypriot and Mediterranean cuisine;** Some choices are:
 - Meze taverna restaurant (traditional Cypriot Meze)
 - Karatello tavern (contemporary Cypriot/Greek cuisine)
 - Kipriakon (traditional Cypriot meze)
 - Sykaminia Cook Shop (traditional Cypriot; **this is only for lunch**)
 - Dionysus Mansion (upscale Greek/Mediterranean)
 - Columbia Beach Restaurant (Mediterranean fusion)
 - Forsos Taverna (upscale Cypriot/Mediterranean)
 - PlusSea (fine seafood & Mediterranean)

• Limassol Marina (<https://www.limassolmarina.com/limassol-marina-dining>), Limassol castle plaza, and the narrow streets of the old city (<https://chooseyourcyprus.com/old-town-limassol-2/>); offer several options for lunch and/or dinner.

Practical Information

Getting Around Limassol

Local Buses (EMEL)

€1.50 per ride (day), €2.50 (night). Covers most tourist areas and attractions.

Taxis

Readily available throughout the city. Starting fee ~€3.50 plus €0.75-1.00 per km.

Walking

Old Town and Marina areas are walkable.

Emergency Contacts

Emergency Services (Police, Fire brigade, Ambulance)

112 / 199

Limassol General Hospital

+357 25 801100

General telephone information

11892

Urban buses

+357 25 354050

Airports / Flight Information

77778833

Weather & Tips

June Weather

Average highs of 30°C and lows of 20°C. Sunny with minimal rainfall.

What to Pack

Light clothing, sunscreen (SPF 30+), hat, sunglasses and comfortable walking shoes.

Currency

Euro (€). Credit cards widely accepted, but carry some cash for small purchases.