



**SOUTH-EAST
TRANSNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF MICROBIAL SCIENCES**

June 10-13, 2026 | Belgrade, Serbia

MicroFusion, Big impact

microbiology, health
& environment in harmony



SETCoMS

&



MIKROMED
REGIO

www.setcoms2026.ums.rs

1ST SOUTH-EAST TRANSNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MICROBIAL SCIENCES

(SETCoMS 2026 & MIKROMED REGIO 6)

**Dear Participants, Esteemed Colleagues, Researchers, Professionals,
Innovators, and Friends,**

On behalf of the scientific and organizing committees of the Congress, we would like to cordially invite you to participate in the:

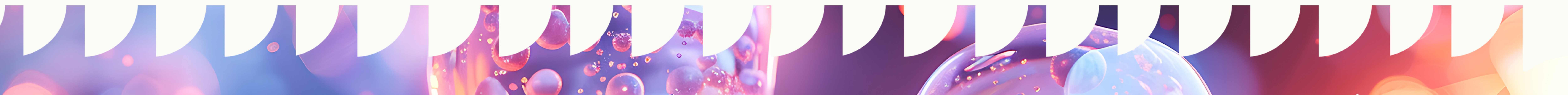
**1st SOUTH-EAST TRANSNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MICROBIAL SCIENCES
(SETCoMS 2026 & MIKROMED REGIO 6)**

"MicroFusion, Big Impact — Microbiology, Health & Environment in Harmony"

which reflects our commitment to integrating diverse microbial disciplines to generate impactful solutions across fundamental human and planetary domains. The importance of this **SETCoMS 2026** lies in its recognition that modern microbiology can no longer operate in isolation.

It mandates the "MicroFusion" of scientific disciplines to achieve a **"Big Impact"** across the essential domains of human health and global sustainability, striving for **"Harmony"** between these areas. Holding the event in **Belgrade, Serbia**, further solidifies its role as a regional hub for scientific exchange. **The Southeast Europe-SEE regional focus** of the event and the overall initiative is intended, in the long term, ensure a larger professional arena for exchange and growth, as well as greater potential for partnerships and end users in a region **facing similar challenges in science, development, and overall societal dynamics.**

This event is of paramount importance, serving as a vital nexus for regional and international expertise to generate real-world impact across scientific, health, environmental, and policy sectors. The necessity for this transnational **SETCoMS 2026** is rooted in three critical areas: **integration, crisis response, and sustainability.** The scientific program has been meticulously structured into **four foundational pillars**, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of the current frontiers in microbial science:



We strongly believe that the **SETCoMS 2026** will be an excellent place to exchange and combine scientific ideas among experts and participants, with great opportunities to start new international collaborations and joint scientific projects.

Attendees are encouraged to participate due to opportunities for **specialized learning, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and networking** with industry partners. The conference includes diverse formats such as **Keynote Sessions** featuring leading experts and **Integrated Plenary Sessions** that focus on interdisciplinary trends.

Other interactive formats include **In-Depth Symposia**, spontaneous **Panel Discussion Sessions**, and **Workshop Sessions** with limited capacity.

Additionally, the schedule incorporates quick-paced **Offered Flash Talks** for concise presentations and dedicated **Poster Viewing Sessions** in the exhibit area, with invitations open for the community to submit proposals for symposia and workshops.

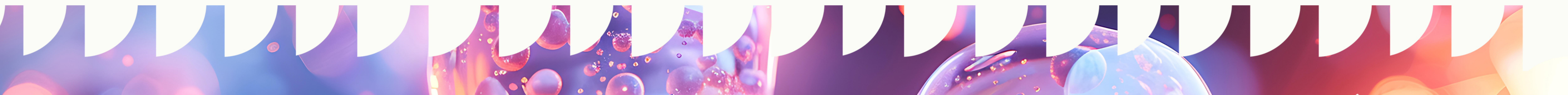
The key motivations for attendance, as outlined by the conference organizers, include:

Specialized Knowledge and Professional Development: Attendees are motivated to **dive deeper into their field with carefully curated content**. This goal is supported by various session formats designed to deliver in-depth information:

- **Keynote Sessions** feature leading experts who present cutting-edge research and insights in microbiology, highlighting important advances, emerging trends, and breakthrough discoveries, providing a comprehensive overview of the field.
- **In-Depth Symposia Sessions** address key issues and research on specific microbiological topics, presenting different knowledge and viewpoints from leading experts.
- **Workshop Sessions** are interactive training sessions focused on specific topics, software, or equipment, often presented in a lecture format followed by small group discussions and Q&A periods.

Cross-Disciplinary Connections and Innovation: A major motivation is to **collaborate with experts from related domains to spark innovation**.

- **Integrated Plenary Sessions** specifically highlight interdisciplinary topics of broad interest and emerging trends in microbiology.
- **Panel Discussion Sessions** are structured to encourage spontaneous interaction between the panellists, and between the panellists and the audience.
- The **SETCoMS 2026** provides opportunities to share ideas, as seen in the **Flash Talks and Idea Pitch Sessions**, where speakers present concise pitches on their ideas, research, technology, methods, and skills, emphasizing key findings and generating interest.



1. Integration and Transnational Collaboration: As the inaugural South-East Transnational Congress, this event emphasizes the crucial need for **"MicroFusion"**—the integration of specialized microbial fields—to address challenges that transcend national borders.

The alignment of diverse research, from **Microbial Evolution and Comparative Genomics** to **A Stable Regulatory Foundation for the Circular Bioeconomy**, is essential to maximize our collective **"Big Impact"**. The Congress provides necessary **Opportunities for European and World Collaboration** and the crucial transition **From Data to Action**.

2. Addressing Global Health Crises: Under **PILLAR 1: FRONTIERS HEALTH & CLINICAL INNOVATIONS**, the Congress confronts urgent clinical threats, most notably **Antimicrobials & Resistance**.

It is imperative that we accelerate the development of Novel **Diagnostics and Therapies** to combat drug resistance and improve the **Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance**. Furthermore, discussions on Clinical Infections & Vaccines, including **Phage Therapy and Biomarkers**, **Microbial pathogenesis**, and the profound implications of the **Microbiome Breakthrough**—such as the **Microbiota–Gut–Brain Axis**—are vital for advancing public health and **One Health Practices**.

3. Driving Sustainability and Environmental Solutions:

PILLAR 2: ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATIONS & SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS and **PILLAR 3: INNOVATIVE BIOTECH & INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS** highlight the essential role of microbes in securing planetary well-being. This Congress is a critical platform for addressing the effects of **Shifts in Microbial Diversity and Activity Driven by Climate Change, Urbanization, and Pollution**. We must rapidly leverage microbial solutions for **Agricultural Systems Microbiology and Phytobiome Management**, manage risks such as **Plastics and Microbes: Emerging Challenges and Solutions**, and advance **Industrial Microbiology** through **Bioengineering: Synthetic Biology, Metabolic Engineering, Bioproducts and Biofuels**, alongside cutting-edge tools like **Computational Genomics, Artificial Intelligence, and Modeling**.

4. Strengthening the Microbiology Profession: Finally, under **PILLAR 4: MICROBES IN SOCIETY AND THE MICROBIOLOGY PROFESSION**, the Congress ensures that scientific rigor is matched by professional development and societal engagement. We focus on facilitating **Cross-Sector Careers: Academia, Healthcare, Industry, and Government**, and enhancing **Microbiology Communication and Outreach** through initiatives like Microbiology Citizen Science. This commitment is essential for **Bridging Microbiology and Society** and guaranteeing that our innovative work is supported by a robust **Microbiology Policy, Science & Regulatory Compliance**.



Networking and Inspiration: Attendees are encouraged to **get inspired and connect in integrated areas** through shared keynotes and networking opportunities.

- Keynote Sessions offer an opportunity for inspiration and discussion.
- The **Poster Viewing Session** is scheduled in the exhibition area, where participants can visit accepted abstracts, with dedicated time slots highlighting the poster presenters.

Community Influence and Tailored Content:

The conference emphasizes **Community-Driven Design**, allowing attendees to influence sessions tailored to their needs and interests.

- The wider scientific community is explicitly invited to submit proposals for both symposia and workshops.

Exploration of Tools and Technologies:

Attendees can utilize the **Dynamic Exhibit Hall** to explore the latest tools, technologies, and services provided by leading industry partners.

- **Industry Partner Sessions** also provide a platform for companies to showcase their latest research and innovations in microbiology.

We hope you will enjoy the **SETCoMS 2026** programme and find it stimulating and informative. We also hope that you will enjoy the beauty of Belgrade and the Serbian hospitality. We sincerely wish you health, love, and happiness, and look forward to seeing you in Belgrade next June 2026.

We look forward to your active participation in this pivotal event, which is set to define the next generation of microbial research, collaboration, and impact.

So, “SAVE THE DATE” - 10-13 June, 2026 for the 1st SOUTH-EAST TRANSNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MICROBIAL SCIENCES (SETCoMS 2026 & MIKROMED REGIO 6) to meet people, expand your network, and get an insight into new trends in microbiology.

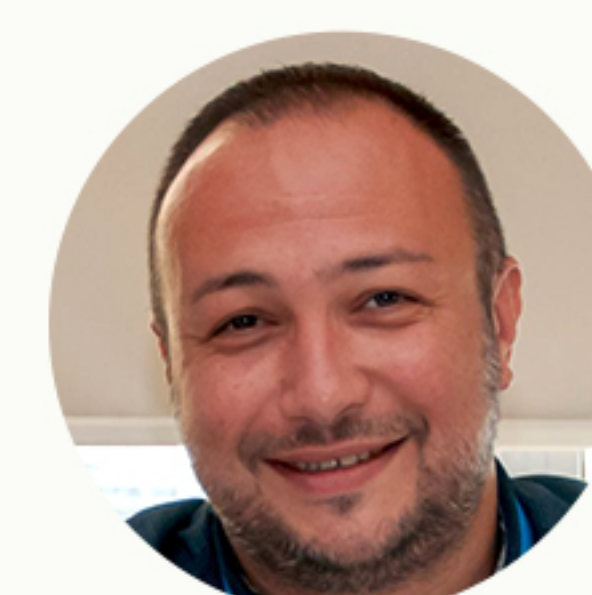
Sincerely,

The SETCoMS 2026 Organizing Committee

Ivica Dimkić

*University of Belgrade -
Faculty of Biology, Serbia*

**Scientific & Organizing
Committee Chairperson**



Dušan Kekić

*University of Belgrade -
Faculty of Medicine, Serbia*

**Scientific & Organizing
Committee Co-Chairperson**



Lazar Ranin

*President of the Serbian
Society for Microbiology*

**Honorary Scientific &
Organizing Committee
Co-Chairperson**





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Why

Attend?



**MicroFusion,
Big Impact**

microbiology, health
& environment in harmony

Specialized Topics

Dive deeper into your field
with carefully curated content.

Community- Driven Design

Influence sessions tailored
to your needs and interests.

Cross-Disciplinary Connections

Collaborate with experts from related domains to spark innovation.

Shared Keynotes & Networking

Get inspired and connect
in integrated areas.

Dynamic Exhibit Hall

Explore the latest tools,
technologies, and services
from leading industry partners.



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Session structure at glance



**MicroFusion,
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Session structure at a glance.



Keynote Sessions

Keynote Sessions feature leading experts presenting cutting-edge research and insights in microbiology. These sessions will highlight important advances, emerging trends and breakthrough discoveries, providing attendees with a comprehensive overview of the field and an opportunity for inspiration and discussion. Two Keynote Sessions will be organised, opening and closing, each with a keynote speaker (45 min + 15 min Q&A).

 Duration **1h**

01



Integrated Plenary Sessions

Integrated Plenary Sessions highlight interdisciplinary topics of broad interest and emerging trends in microbiology. Each session features three plenary lecturers (30 min each + 5 min Q&A), followed by a discussion or audience Q&A.

 Duration **1h 45min**

02



In-Depth Symposia Sessions

This type of session addresses key issues and research on a specific microbiological topic, presenting different knowledge and viewpoints from leading experts. The format lasts 2 hours and includes two invited lecturers (20 min each + 5 min Q&A) and three talks (10 min each + 3 min Q&A) based on reviewed abstracts. The invited lecturers as part of the Programme committee will select our 4 speakers for the particular symposium.

SETCoMS 2026 invites the wider scientific community to submit proposals for symposia.

 Duration **1h 30min**

03



Panel Discussion Sessions

This type of session leads to spontaneous interaction between the panellists, and between the panellists and the audience in response to questions from the moderator, who moderates the session. The format is 1 hour long and involves 3-4 panellists.

 Duration **1h**

04



Session structure at a glance.



Workshop Sessions

The workshops consist of a series of lecturers covering a selection of related topics, usually presented in a lecture format - interaction is centred on small group discussions and question/answer periods. Workshops are interactive, and attendees participate in a training session that focuses on a specific topic, software or equipment. During a SETCoMS 2026, a maximum of two workshops are organised.

SETCoMS 2026 invites the wider scientific community to submit proposals for workshops.

 Duration **2h/2h 30min**

05



Offered Flash Talks and Idea Pitch Sessions

The Flash Talks will be selected from the accepted abstracts. Speakers will be asked to give a concise and meaningful pitch presentation within 5 minutes, in which they present their idea, research, technology, methods and skills. These presentations should provide a comprehensive overview of a topic, emphasising the key findings and generate interest without going into too much detail. This session format consists of up to six to ten short oral presentations, followed by a moderated Q&A session or discussion at the end of the each session (10 min Q&A).

 Duration **45min / 1h**

06



Poster Viewing Sessions

Accepted abstracts will be scheduled into poster sessions in the exhibition area. Participants can visit anytime, with dedicated time slots highlighting the poster presenters.

 Duration

07



Industry Partner Sessions

Companies showcase their latest research and innovations in microbiology (20 min + 5 min Q&A).

 Duration **50min**

08



**SOUTH-EAST
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Programme **pillars** and topics



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Pillar 1 FRONTIERS HEALTH & CLINICAL INNOVATIONS

PROGRAMME PILLARS
AND TOPICS OF THE



1.1 Clinical Infections & Vaccines



Clinical studies and infection biology of diseases, including Epidemiology and Clinical Trials

1.1A



Vaccines and Immunization Science

1.1B



Infection Prevention and Control including Healthcare – Global Health

1.1C



Clinical Virology

1.1D



Phage Therapy and Biomarkers

1.1E



Bacterial Toxins and Effectors

1.1F

1.2 Antimicrobials & Resistance



Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance: Molecular Typing and Epidemiology

1.2A



Antimicrobial Agents: Mechanisms of Action and Resistance

1.2B



Fighting Drug Resistance: Novel Diagnostics and Therapies

1.2C



New Antimicrobial Agents and Natural Products: *in vitro* and *in vivo* Studies

1.2D



Impact of Environmental and Agricultural Practices on AMR

1.2E



Biofilms and Wound Healing

1.2F

1.3 Clinical & Public Health Microbiology



Managing Clinical and Public Health Microbiology Laboratories

1.3A



Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

1.3B



Diagnostics: Bacteriology, Public Health Microbiology, Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology

1.3C



Molecular Diagnostic Microbiology and Laboratory Informatics

1.3D



One Health Practices and its Impact: Microbial Innovations in Public Health Crises

1.3E

1.4 Microbiome Breakthrough



Gut Microbiota and Human Diseases

1.4A



Microbiota–Gut–Brain Axis and Microbiome Profiling

1.4B



Host-Pathogen Interactions and Microbial Pathogenesis in Human and Animal Systems

1.4C



Basic Research of Pathogens in Humans

1.4D

Pillar 2 ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATIONS & SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

PROGRAMME PILLARS
AND TOPICS OF THE



2.1

Applied & Environmental Science



Shifts in Microbial Diversity and Activity Driven by Climate Change, Urbanization and Pollution



2.1A



Agricultural Systems Microbiology and Phytobiome Management



2.1B



Freshwater, Terrestrial & Extreme Environments Microbiology



2.1A



Wastewater & Non-Clinical Microbiology: AMR Detection and Monitoring



2.1C



Toward understanding plant - pathogen - microbiome interactions & Next generation pathogen detection



2.1D



From Ancient to Innovative: Microbial Solutions for Sustainability of Cultural Heritage



2.1A



Plastics and Microbes: Emerging Challenges and Solutions



2.1E



Aeromicrobiology and Built Environments



2.1F

2.2

Ecology & Evolution of Host-Associated Microorganisms



Microbial Evolution and Comparative Genomics



2.2A



Microbial Biodiversity and Taxonomy – How Can Microbiomes Be Fun?



2.2B



Microbial Ecology



2.2C



Evolution of Host-Microbe Interactions and Symbioses



2.2D



Biodiversity and Systematics: Phages and Viruses



2.2E



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Pillar 3 INNOVATIVE BIOTECH & INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

PROGRAMME PILLARS
AND TOPICS OF THE



3.1 Industrial & Environmental Biotechnology



**Food Microbiology:
Products, Preservation,
and Security**



3.1A



**Advanced Industrial Microbiology:
Biproductions, Bioconversions
and Fermentations**



3.1B



**Biotransformations:
Bioremediation, Biodegradation,
Biofouling & Biocorrosion**



3.1C



**Biotechnological innovations
in sustainable disease
management**



3.1D



**Biocontrol Agents & Biofertilizers:
From Lab to Market**



3.1E



**Colloid Biology
of Microbial Systems**



3.1F

3.2 Synthetic Biology, Molecular Microbiology & Bioinformatics



**Bioengineering: Synthetic Biology,
Metabolic Engineering,
Bioproducts and Biofuels**



3.2A



**Gene Expression, Regulation
& Cell-Cell Signaling**



3.2B



**Synthetic Microbial Communities
(SynComs): Prospects
and Constraints**



3.2C



**Biofilms and Collective
Microbial Strategies**



3.2D



New Microbiological Techniques



3.2E



**Computational Genomics, Omics,
Databases, Bioinformatics, Artificial
Intelligence and Modeling**



3.2F

Pillar 4 MICROBES IN SOCIETY & THE MICROBIOLOGY PROFESSION

PROGRAMME PILLARS
AND TOPICS OF THE



4.1 Society & Profession



**Cross-Sector Careers:
Academia, Industry,
and Government**



4.1A



**Microbiology Communication
and Outreach: Microbiology
Citizen Science**



4.1B



**Microbiology Education, Career
and Professional Development**



4.1C



**Bridging Microbiology and Society
Through Community -
Engaged Environmental
Microbiome Research**



4.1D



**Advancing Microbiology Education by Aligning
Service-Learning with Societal Needs**



4.1E

4.2 Regulatory Aspects



**Microbiology Policy Science
& Regulatory Compliance**



4.2A



**A Stable Regulatory Foundation
for the Circular Bioeconomy:
Let's Make It Happen**



4.2B



**From Data to Action: Opportunities
for European Collaboration**



4.2C