

# TRAVEL GRANT REPORT

## The New Microbiology 2025

Spetses (GR) 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2025

Microbiology

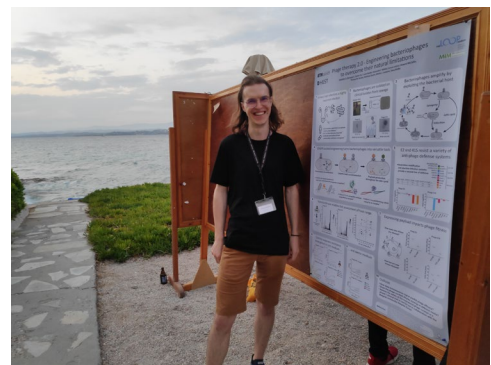
Author of report

Sebastian Bernauer

Affiliation of author

ETH Zürich

Thanks to the financial support of the SSM I was able to attend the Summer School: The New Microbiology on the island of Spetses. This Summer School brings together leading figures in the field of microbiology. An interesting line up of lectures and talks engaged us in discussions about methodology and new ways of thinking about microbiology in general and our own experiments. “Context matters” was the reoccurring theme and stimulated thinking on how changing the view on your research topic can lead to new discoveries.



Poster session at the seaside.

One highlight was the poster session at the beach. There I presented my work titled “Phage therapy 2.0 – Engineering bacteriophages to overcome their natural limitations”. I had fruitful discussion about phage therapy and its applications. My favorite activity was the excursion to the ancient theater of Epidaurus. We visited the temple of Asclepius in Epidaurus with the adjacent theater. The acoustics created more than 2000 years ago were impressive.



Excursion to an ancient Greek theater

Throughout the conference I cherished the opportunity to interact closely with the speakers through several dinners and lunches. I had stimulating conversations about science but also beyond. For example, the importance of communicating science to family and peers which are not scientists. The traditional way of eating Greek food involves sharing dishes with the entire table. This offered a great opportunity to get to know peers and form lasting friendships. Leaving the conference, I felt inspired for the next steps in my scientific career.