

Visit to the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) as Part of the Bilateral Project HRV-NORWAY 1158



WORKSHOP

Advancing Research and Innovation and Promoting Cooperation in Circular Economy Solutions Using Algal Biotechnology

February 10th – 11th, 2025, Zagreb, Croatia



As part of the bilateral project funded through the Croatia Innovation Norway Grants (HRV-NORWAY 1158), Assoc. Prof. Dajana Kučić Grgić, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Vesna Ocelić Bulatović, PhD, and Mr. Marinko Markić from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology (UniZG FCET) visited the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) from January 27 to 31, 2025. The visit was also attended by Prof. Tomislav Bolanča, PhD, Vice-Rector for Business and Digitalization at the University of Zagreb. The program was coordinated by Luka Šupraha, PhD, project leader from NIVA.

During the five-day visit, the Croatian research team toured NIVA's laboratories, including:

- Algaelab and NORCCA
- Urban Environments and Infrastructure
- Water Chemistry Analysis
- Ecotoxicology and Risk Assessment
- Microplastics

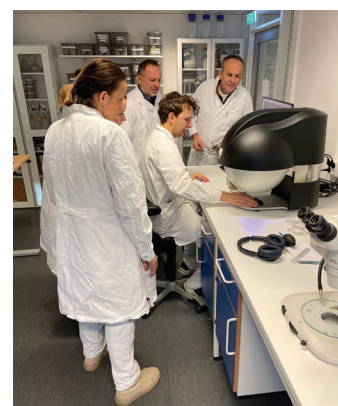
In addition to the laboratory visits, the partners also toured the Solbergstrand research station. The participants gained detailed insight into the research activities of each laboratory, available analytical equipment, as well as the types of samples and analytical methods used in ongoing studies.

As part of the visit, bilateral meetings were held with laboratory heads and researchers. The Croatian team presented their fields of expertise through short presentations, with the aim of establishing new research collaborations and preparing joint applications for EU-funded projects.

Additionally, four FCET researchers joined the meetings remotely to present the research capacities of the Faculty: Prof. Nenad Bolf, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Željka Ujević, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Fabio Faraguna, PhD, and Asst. Prof. Matija Cvetnić, PhD. As part of the online session, Dubravko Škare from Madox d.o.o. joined the discussion, presenting the company's algae cultivation capacities in pools in Croatia, with a particular focus on the Zaprešić location.

During the visit, an operational meeting was also held regarding the international workshop that took place in Zagreb at FCET from February 10 to 11, 2025.

The visit was deemed highly successful, as FCET and NIVA identified numerous shared research interests and potential opportunities for future collaborations on international projects. This visit represents an important step in strengthening bilateral scientific cooperation and opens avenues for the further development and implementation of innovative solutions in algal biotechnology and sustainable water resource management.



Bilateral Cooperation in the blue and green sector, "Business Development and Innovation Croatia" Programme Croatia innovation Norway grants (HRV-NORWAY 1158)